



The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Colquitt County, Georgia

Prepared for
Colquitt County Cooperative Extension
May, 2008

by:

The Center for Agribusiness
and Economic Development

College of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences

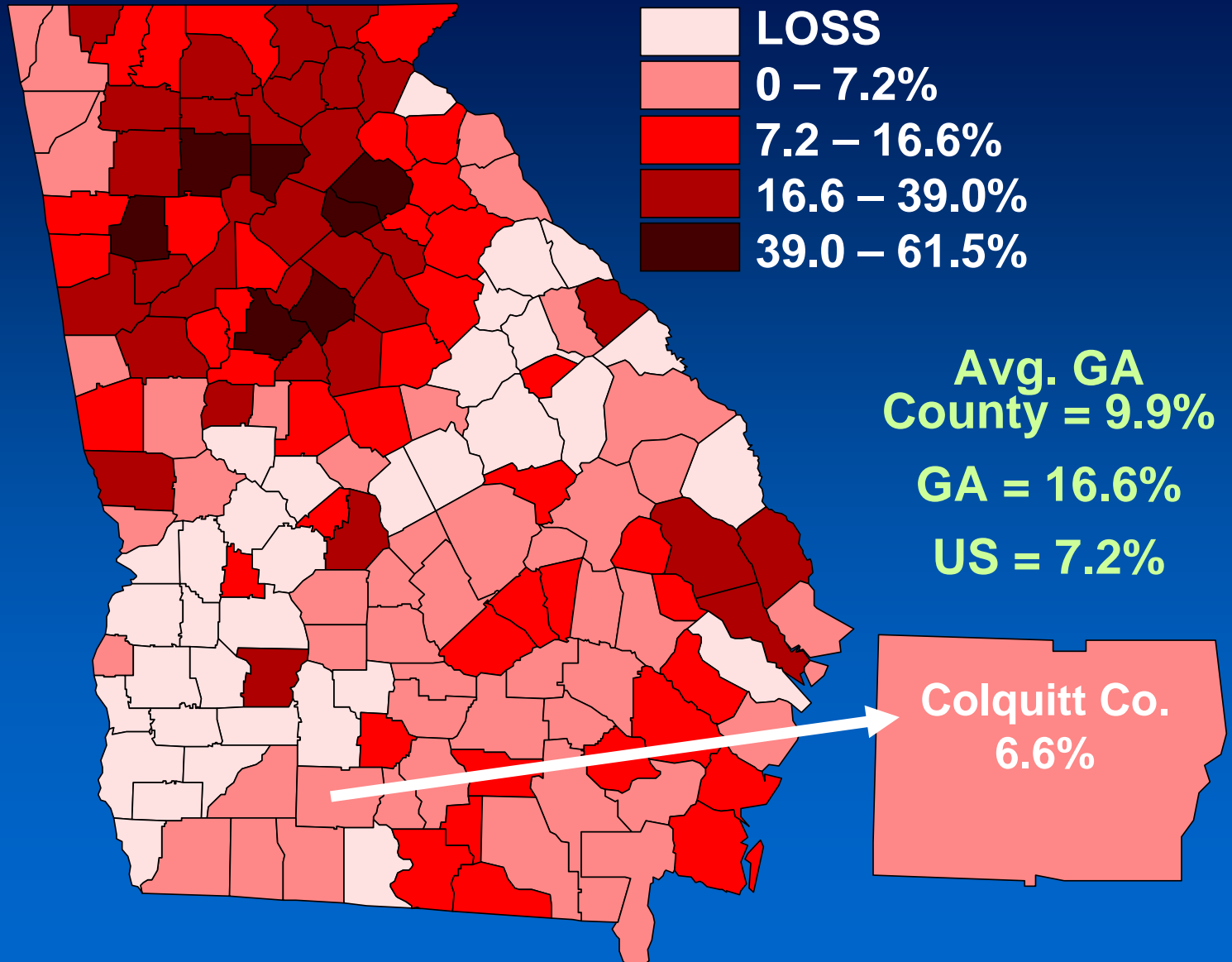
The University of Georgia

Total Population Colquitt County



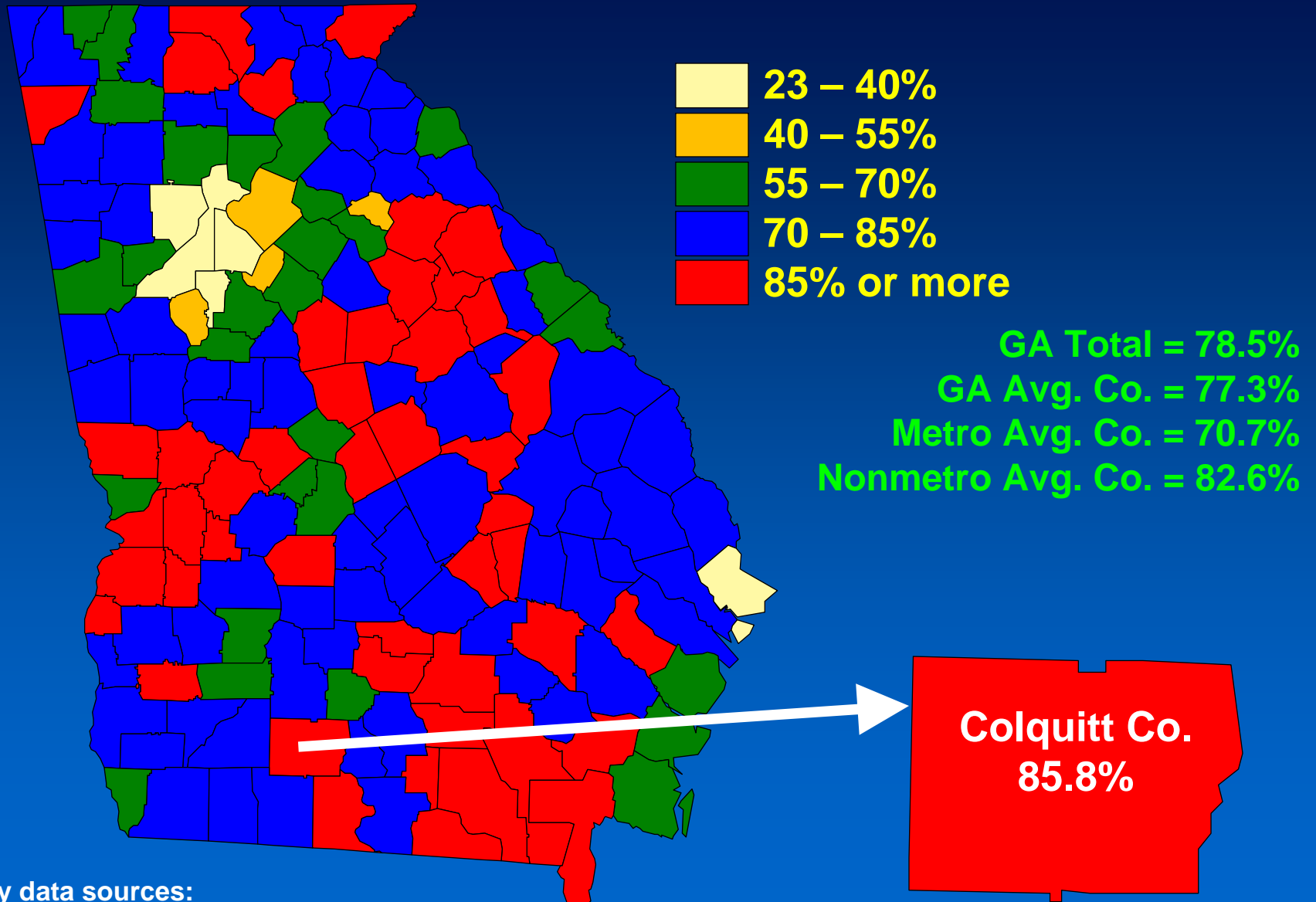
Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; OPB (State Office of Planning & Budget); CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

Population Change: 2000-2007



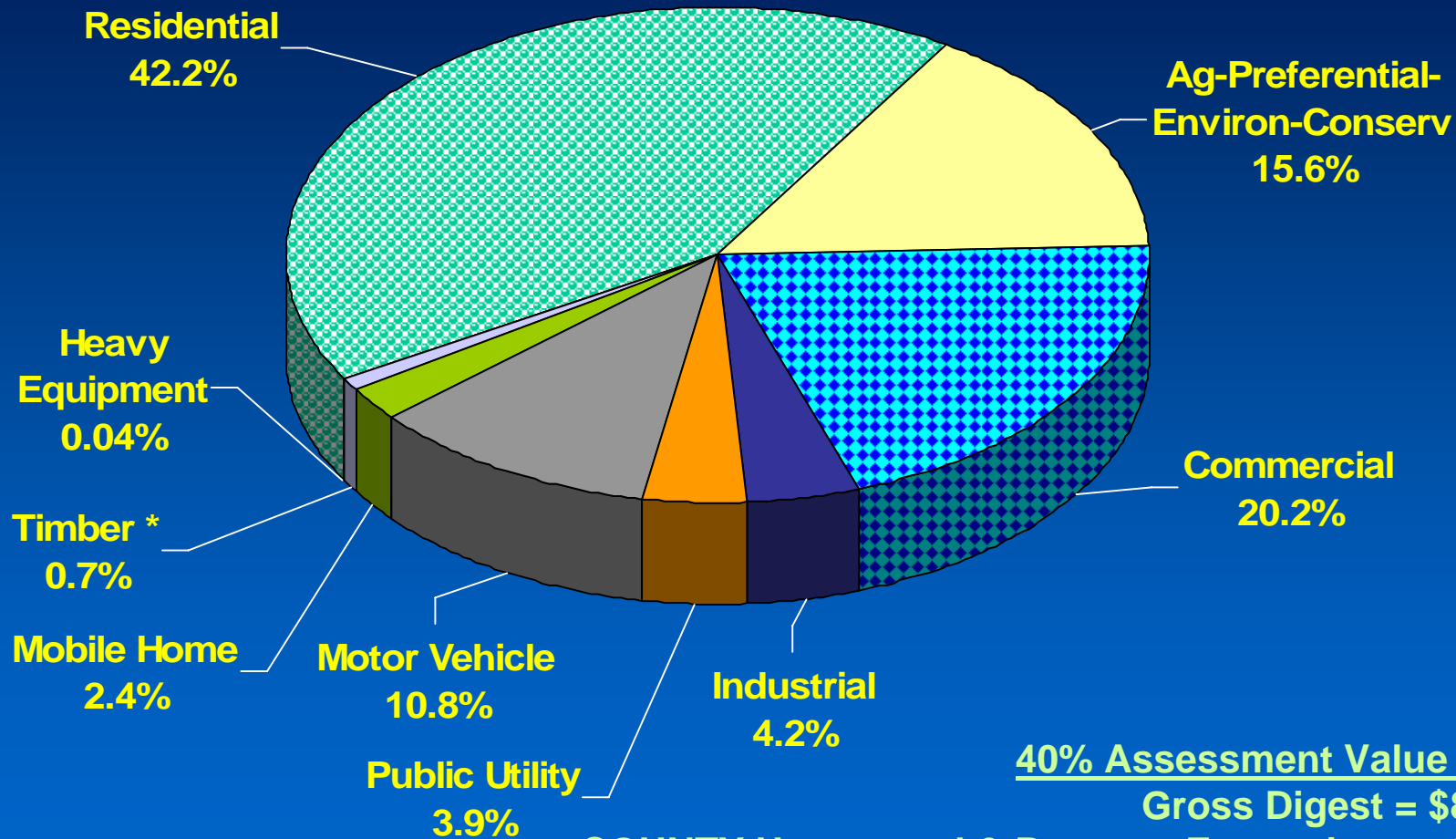
Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/08)

Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002



Primary data sources:
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002
Forest Statistics for Georgia, 1997

Components of 2007 Property Tax Gross Digest Colquitt County



40% Assessment Value of Property

Gross Digest = \$819,963,223

COUNTY Homestead & Property Exemptions = \$67,396,358

Net M&O Digest = \$752,566,865

Value of exempt property = \$95,559,382

* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

Primary data source:
GA Dept. of Revenue

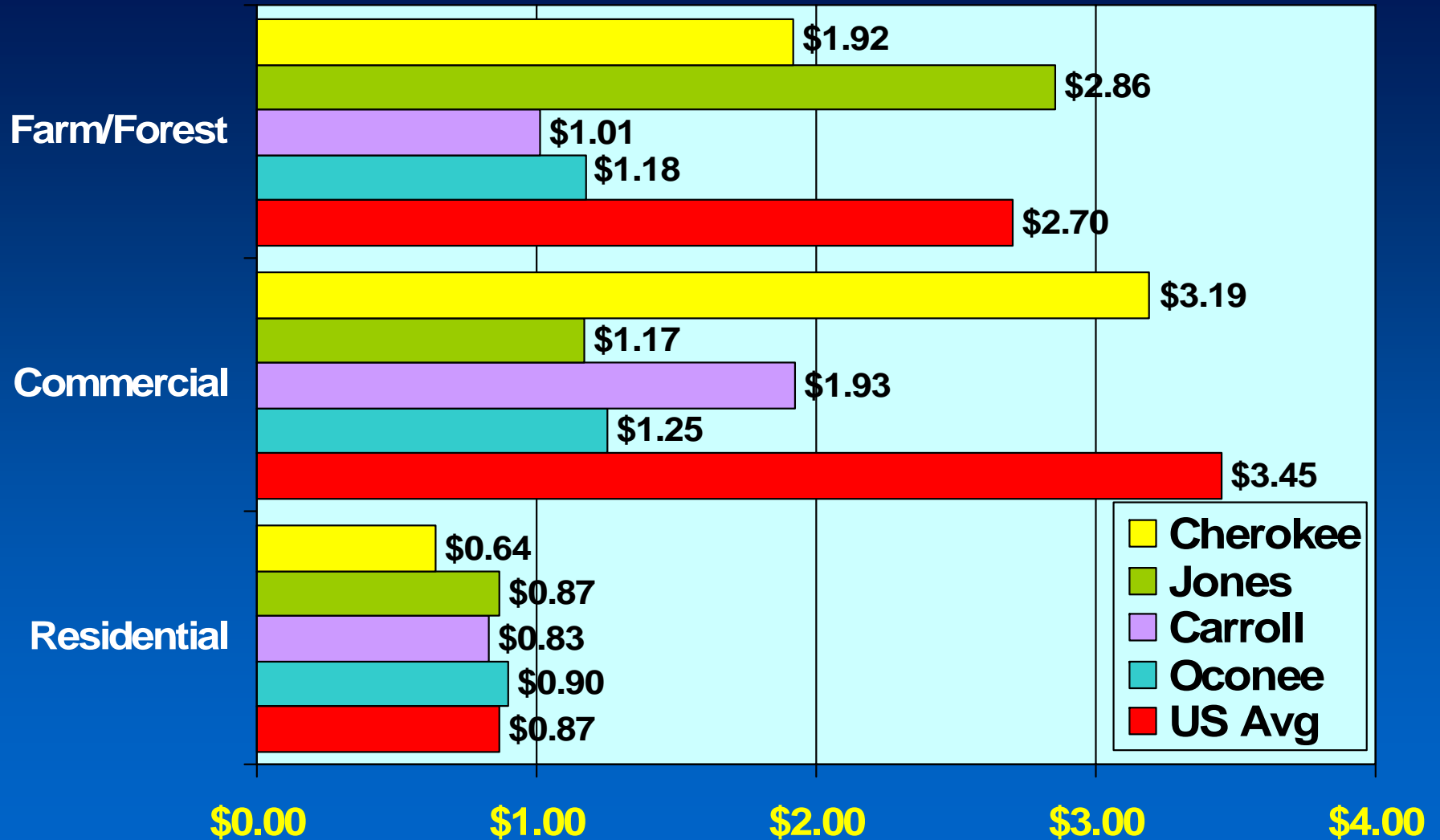
County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2007

County	% Residential	% Agricultural	% Commercial	% Industrial	% Motor Vehicle	% Other
COLQUITT	42.2	15.6	20.2	4.2	10.8	7.0
BROOKS	27.4	44.5	6.3	7.8	7.6	6.5
COOK	32.1	27.4	20.1	6.2	8.2	5.9
MITCHELL	28.4	35.7	14.2	8.6	6.9	6.2
THOMAS	37.1	24.9	20.5	5.2	8.2	4.1
TIFT	37.1	11.8	24.0	13.0	9.6	4.6
WORTH	33.2	37.6	9.5	2.7	9.7	7.4
Avg. GA Co.	41.9	22.5	12.8	7.6	7.4	7.7

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue

Revenue : Expenditure Ratios

\$ of Revenue for Each \$ of Expenditure

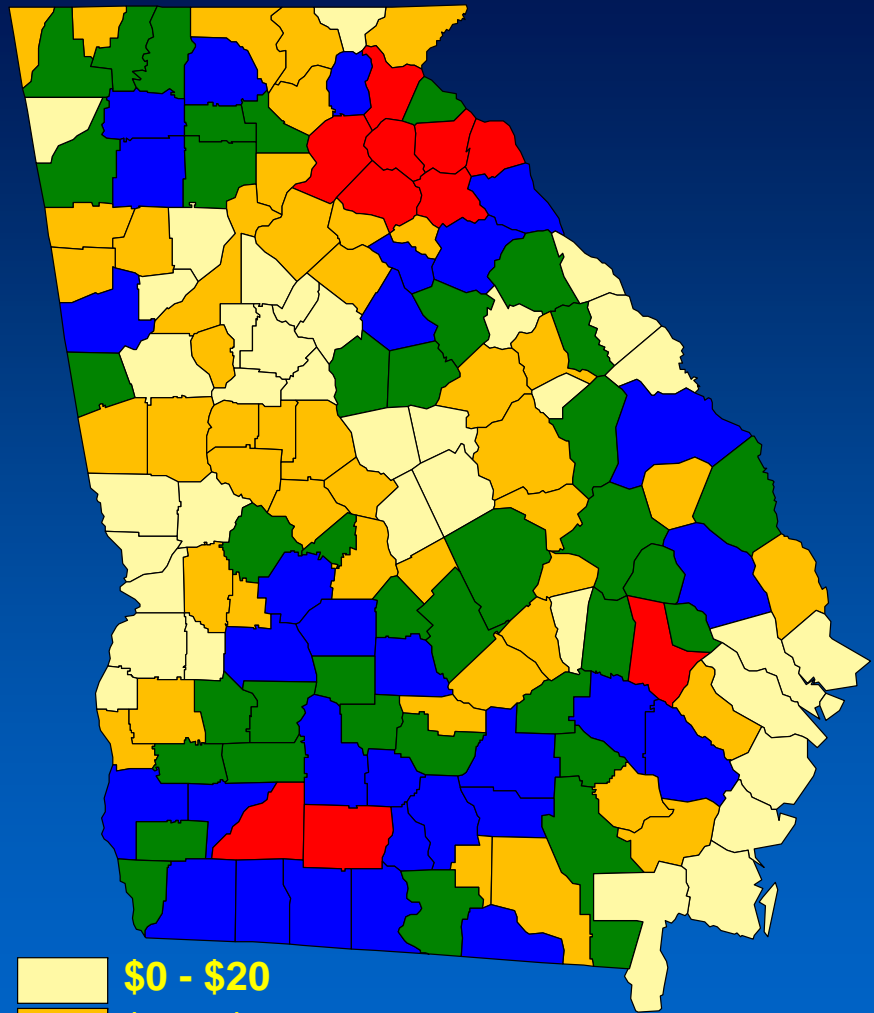
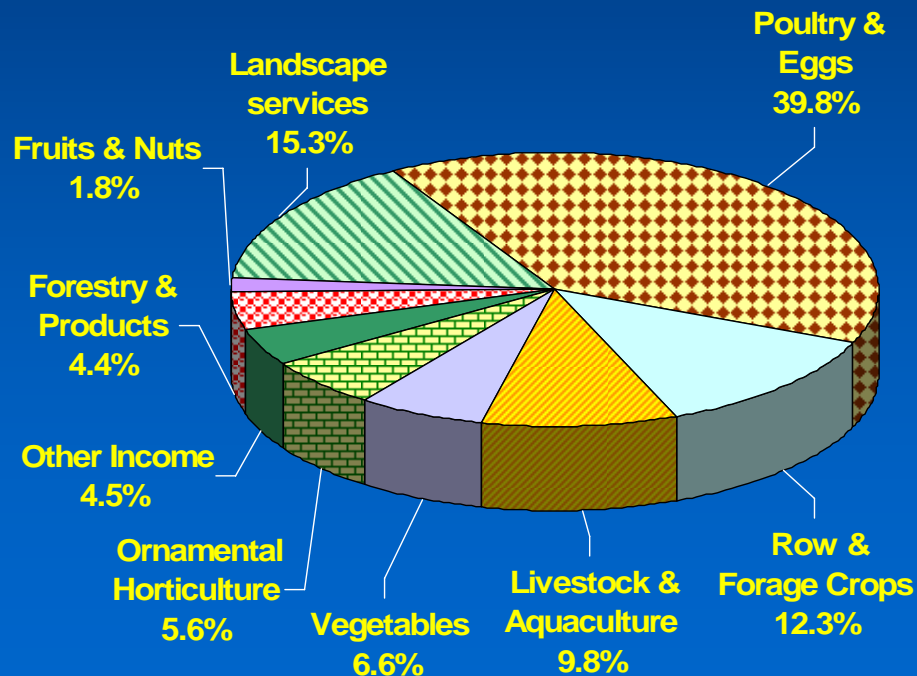


Agriculture in Georgia

- Georgia's 2007 Farm Gate Value was \$11.6 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$13.6 billion.
- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a \$59 billion *output impact* on Georgia's \$735 billion economy.

Production Agriculture: 2007

Georgia Total
Agricultural
Production Value
\$13.6 Billion



2007 Farm Gate
Value by County
in Millions of Dollars

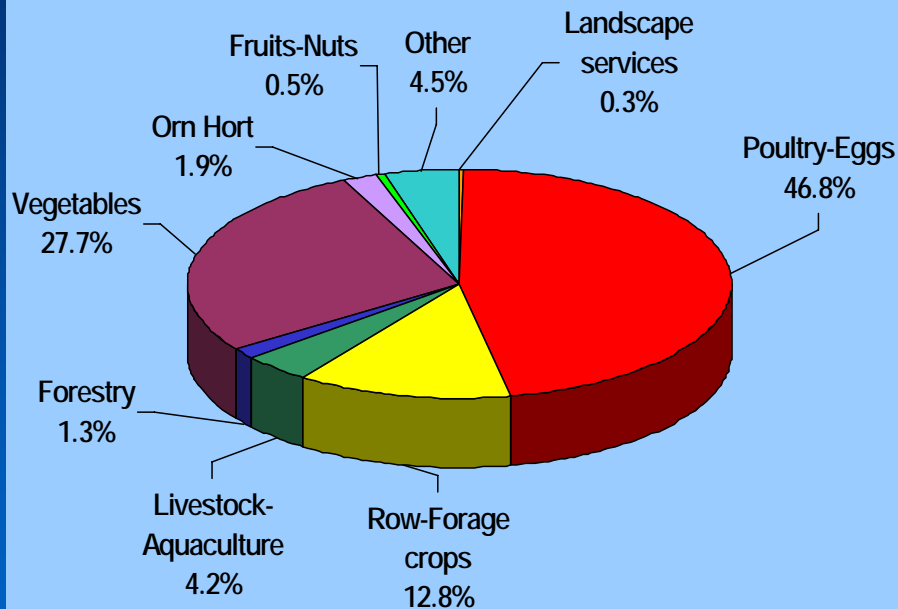
What We Know about Colquitt County

- 2007 Farm Gate Value in Colquitt Co. was \$389.2 million. Adding \$984 thousand of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$390.2 million.
- The highest value commodity group was poultry/eggs, representing 46.8% of the total agricultural production value.

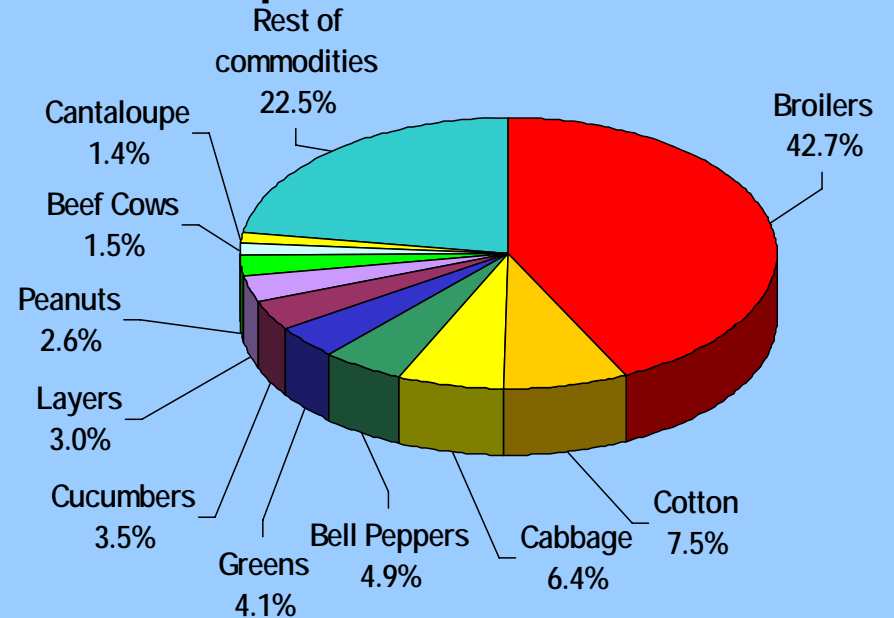
Colquitt County

2007 Agricultural Production Value

2007 Agricultural Production



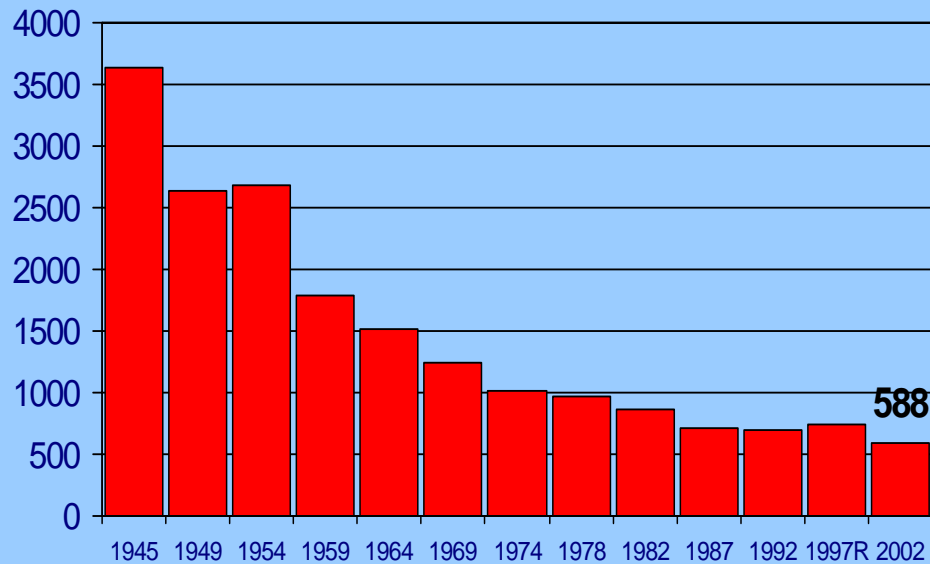
2007 Top Farm Gate Commodities



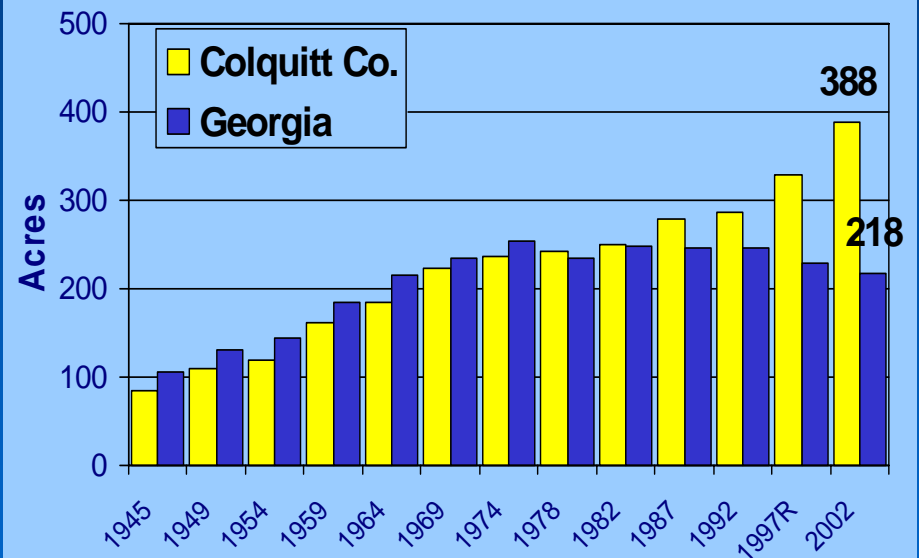
Total AG Value = \$390.2 million

Trends in Colquitt County: Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Colquitt County



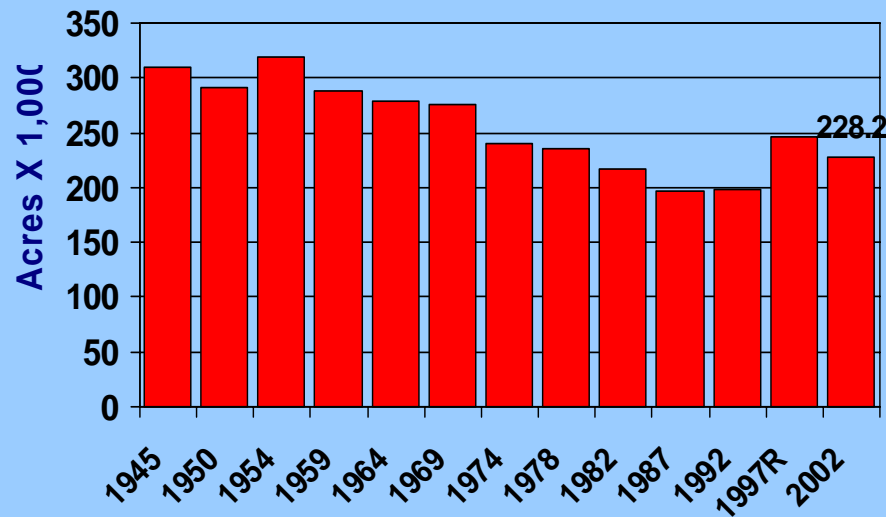
Average Farm Size



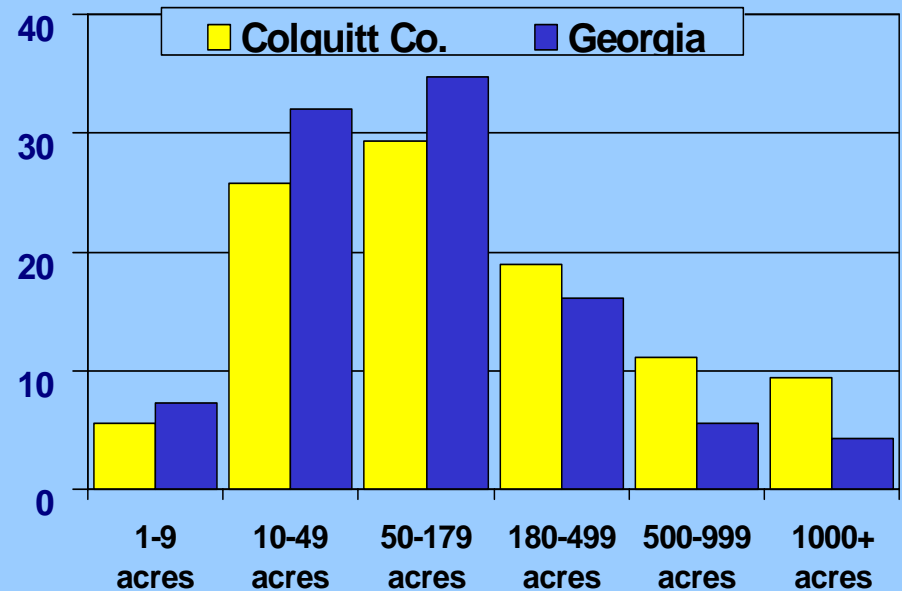
Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

Trends in Colquitt County: Land in Farms & Farms by Size

Land in Farms
Colquitt County



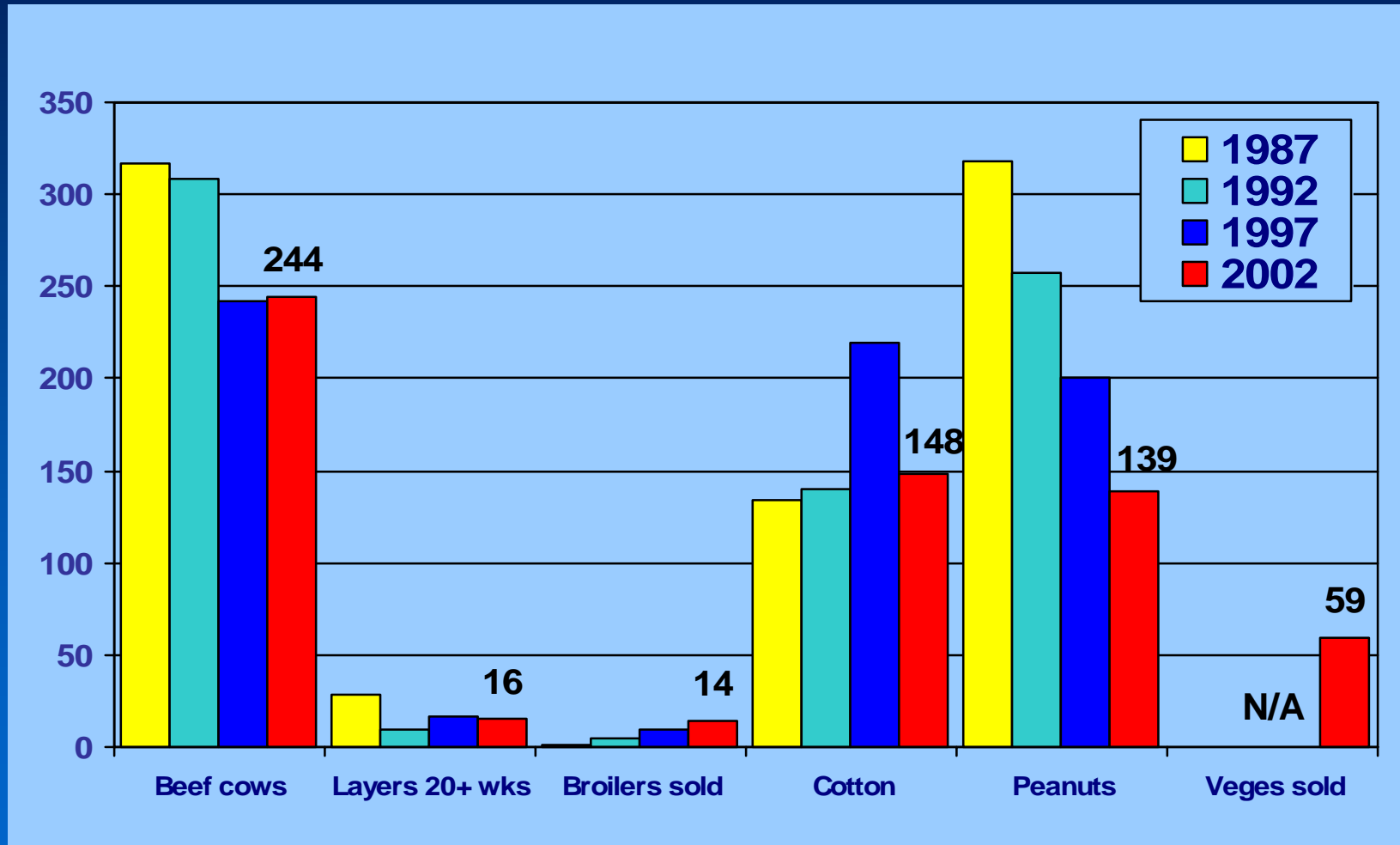
Percent of Farms by Size, 2002



Source: 1945-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

Trends in Colquitt County

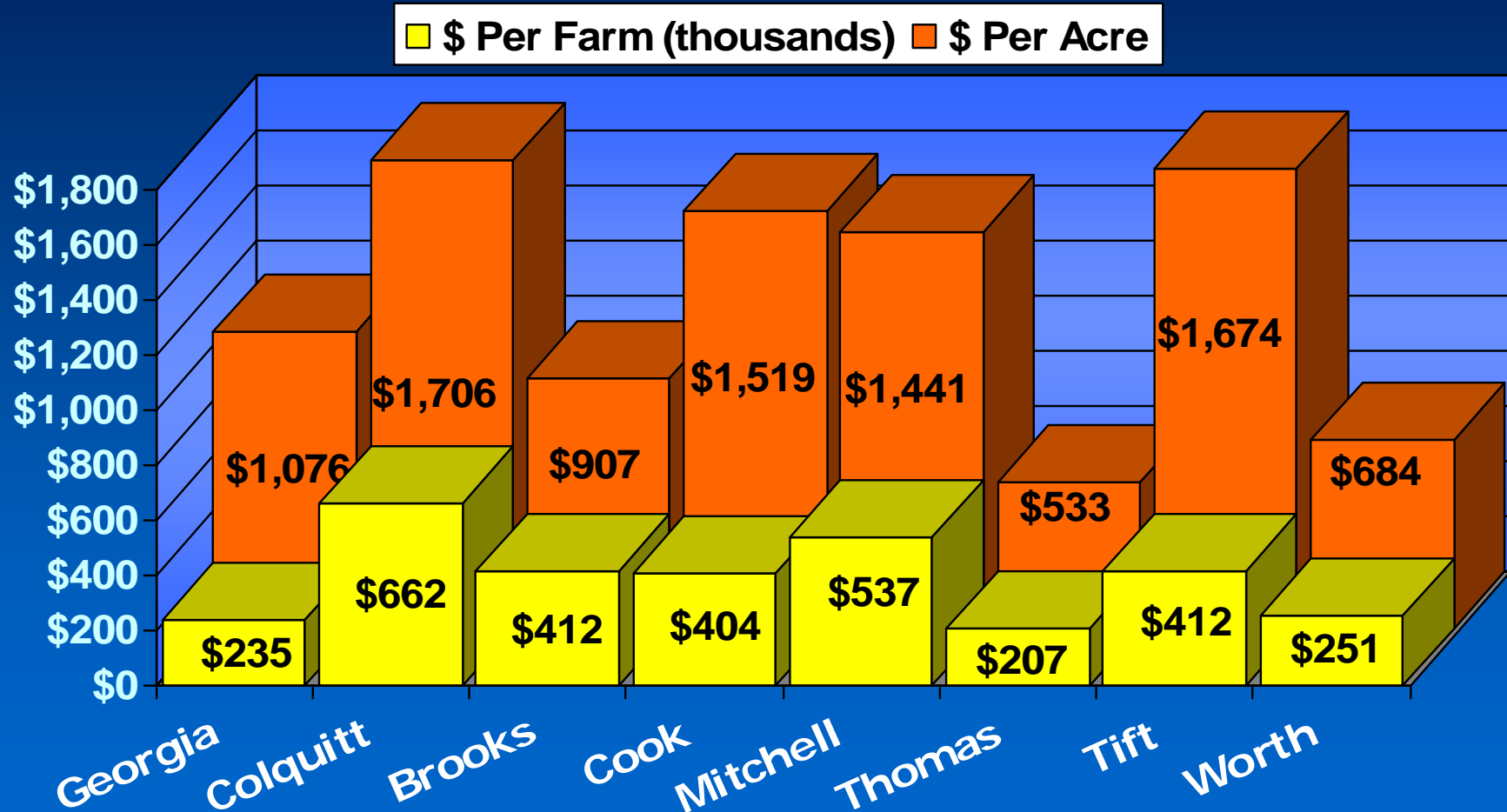
Number of Farms by Commodity



Source: 1987-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

How Do We Compare ?

Georgia, Colquitt and Surrounding Counties Farm Gate Value



Sources: [2002 Census of Agriculture](#) and [2007 Farm Gate Value Report](#)

What We Did

County Economy Modeled

- The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development performed an analysis of the county's economy, focusing on the role of food and fiber.
- How much of the county's total current economic output comes from food and fiber production and directly related processing? (A Snapshot of the Economy)
- What is the total (direct and indirect) *Impact* of food and fiber production and directly related industries?

Colquitt County Economy

Agriculture *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture	390.215	17.4
Construction	88.770	3.9
Manufacturing	785.113	34.9
Trans-Utilities-Info	99.435	4.4
Trade	216.311	9.6
Finance-Ins-RE	110.945	4.9
Services	260.478	11.6
Govt & Other	296.885	13.2

Total County Economic Output = \$2.248 billion

Colquitt County Economy

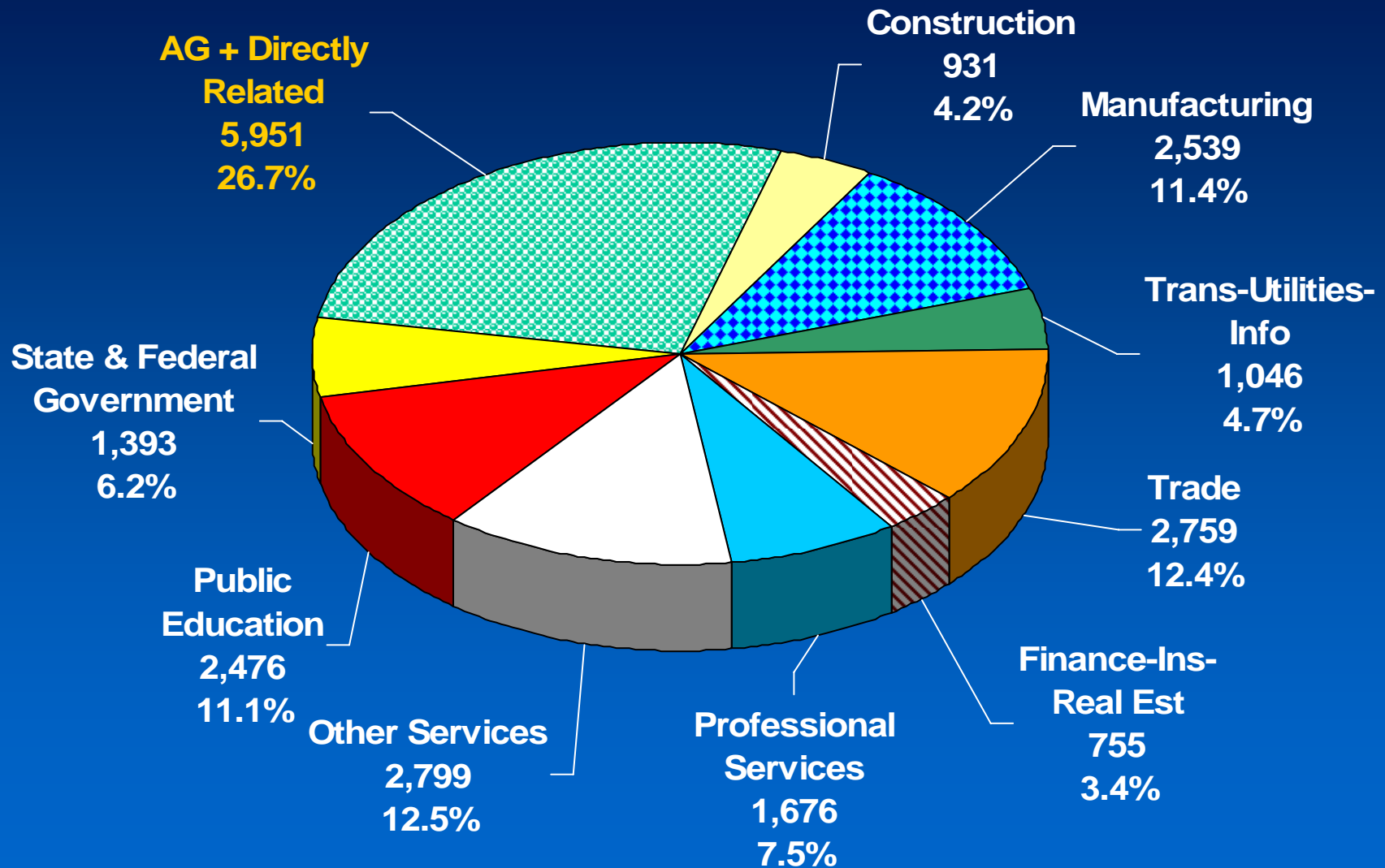
Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture + Direct	667.426	29.7
Construction	88.770	3.9
Manufacturing	507.903	22.6
Trans-Utilities-Info	99.435	4.4
Trade	216.311	9.6
Finance-Ins-Real Est	110.945	4.9
Services	260.478	11.6
Govt & Other	296.885	13.2

Total County Economic Output = \$2.248 billion

Colquitt County Employment

Total Jobs = 22,325

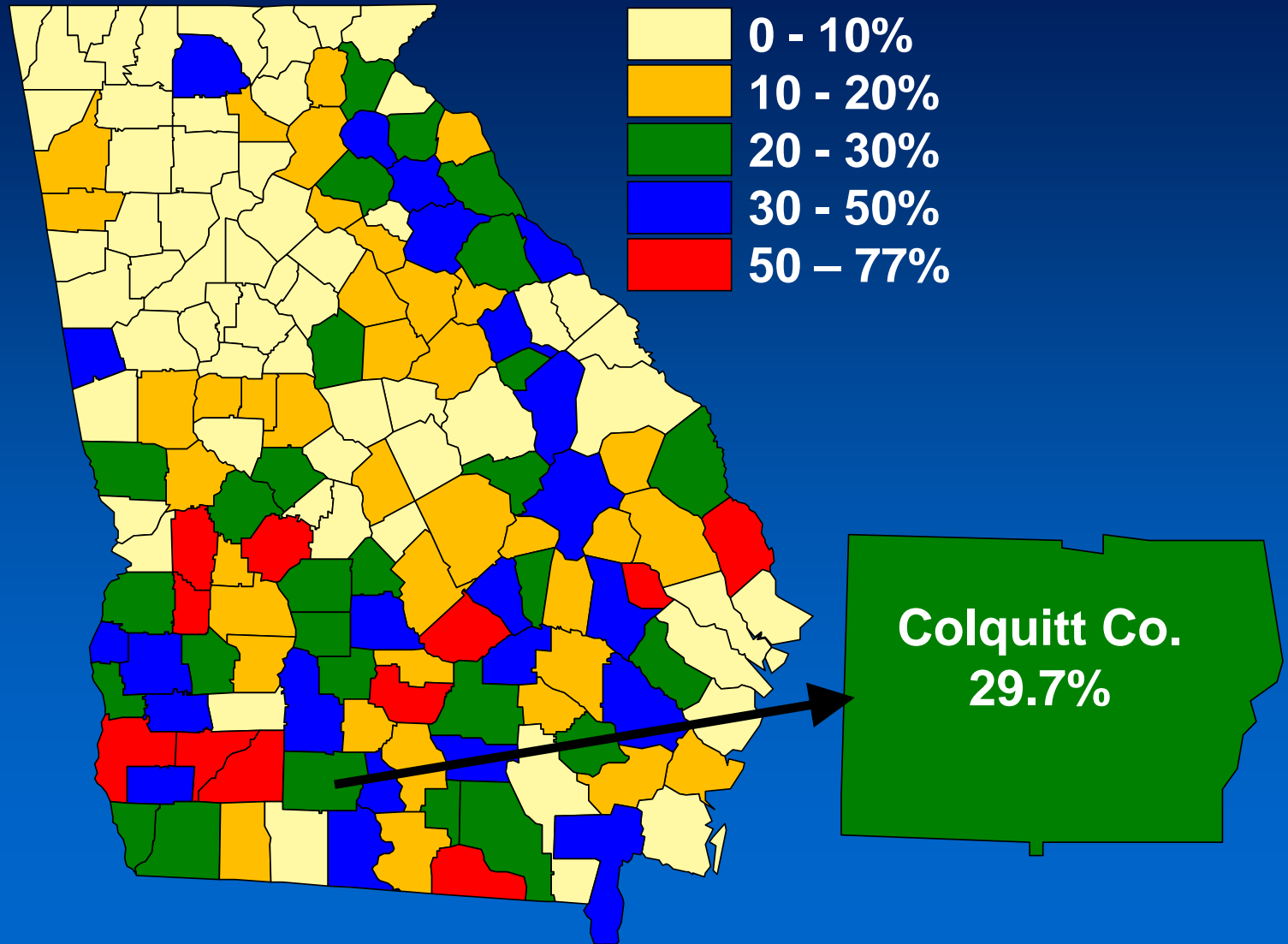


Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA

An Economic Snapshot of Colquitt County

- How much of Colquitt County's total economic output comes from food and fiber production?
- AG value alone of \$390.2 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 17.4% of the county's economy.
- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. poultry processing, sawmills, etc.) comprise 29.7% of the county's economy.

Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing as % of Total Output

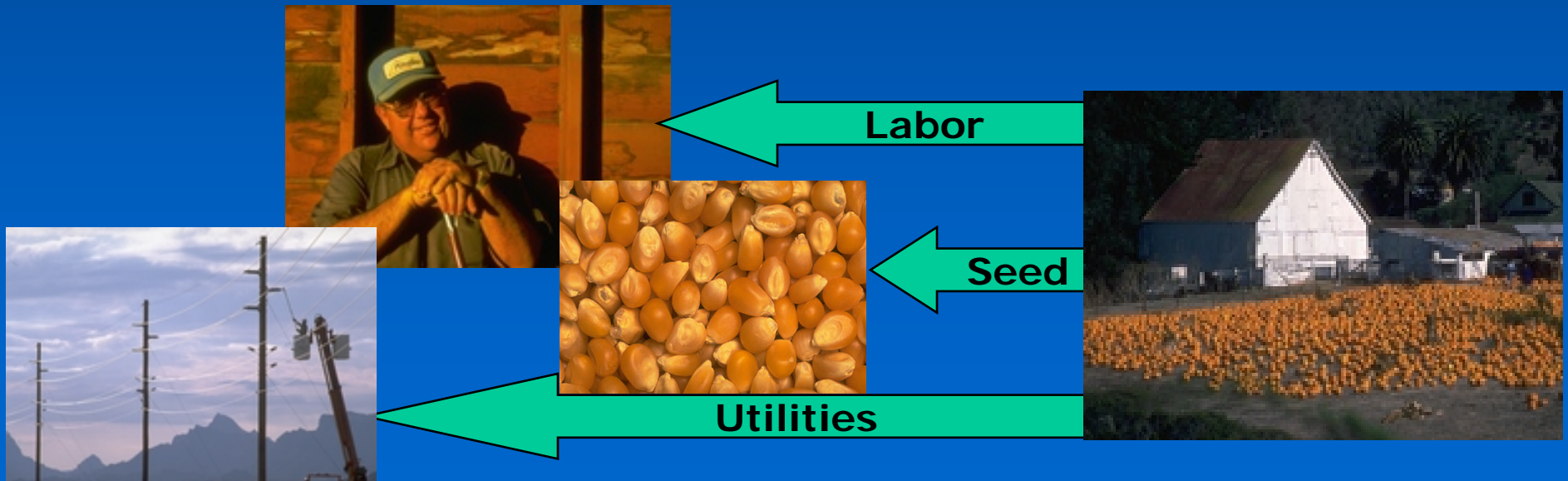


What is the Impact?

- What is the total (direct and indirect) *impact* of food and fiber production and directly related industries?
- This scenario illustrates how other industries are affected by the presence of food and fiber in the county. The indirect impacts measure output created due to food and fiber production and processing in the county.

What Impact Means: A Brief Explanation

- The *impact* numbers capture the ripple effects that food and fiber create in the county's economy. Many other sectors rely in part on the existence of food and fiber for sales.



Colquitt County

Agriculture *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture	390.215	0
Construction	0	0.776
Manufacturing	0	10.125
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	14.704
Trade	0	25.914
Finance-Ins-RE	0	11.457
Services	0	29.646
Government	0	19.554
Total	390.215	112.176

Total Impact of Production AG = \$502.4 million
22.4% of total economy

Colquitt County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture + Direct	667.426	0
Construction	0	1.390
Manufacturing	0	11.871
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	28.823
Trade	0	39.031
Finance-Ins-RE	0	17.539
Services	0	46.920
Government	0	26.069
Total	667.426	171.642

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = \$839.1 million

37.3% of total economy

Colquitt County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries Employment *IMPACT*

	Direct	Indirect
Agriculture + Direct	5,951	0
Construction	0	16
Manufacturing	0	62
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	346
Trade	0	467
Finance-Ins-Real Estate	0	105
Services	0	782
Government	0	27

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 7,757 Jobs
34.7% of total employment

What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- *Direct* impact is \$667.4 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.
- *Indirect* impact from the Trade sector is \$39 million. This captures the effects of farmers (direct source) buying supplies (seed, fertilizer, work boots) from local stores. These stores must increase their output to meet farmer demand.

What These Numbers Mean:

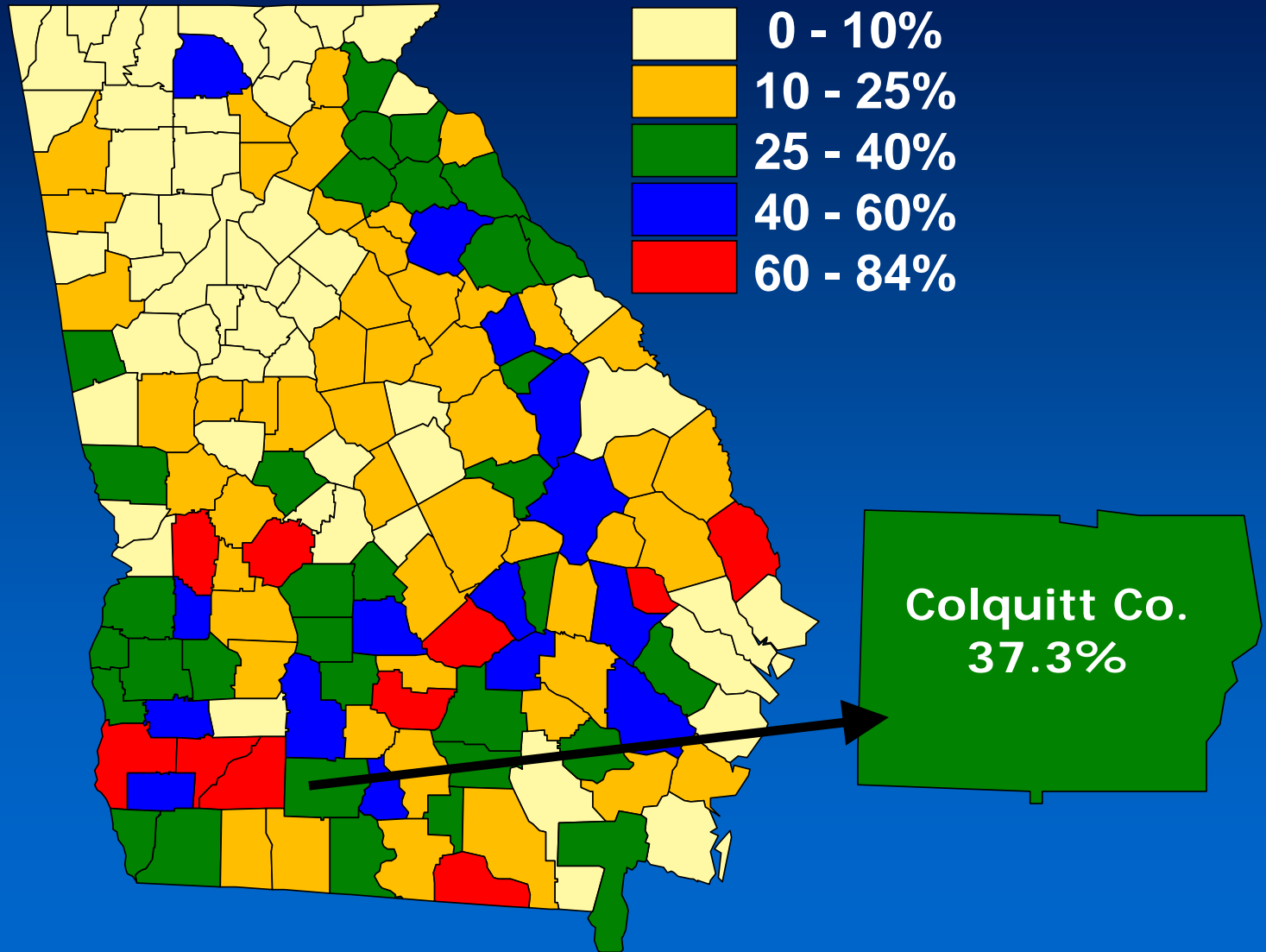
A Brief Explanation (continued)

- As local stores increase their output, they may demand more stock from local wholesalers (also in the Trade sector). Local wholesalers demand more from local manufacturers, thus increasing activity in the Manufacturing sector.
- Local stores also hire employees to assist farmers. They take home wages and buy groceries at the local store which increases demand there.

Colquitt County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is \$839 million.
- The total county *output* is \$2.2 billion.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 37.3% of the total county output.

Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output



Contact Information

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*“Adding Value to Georgia's Agricultural Economy
Through Research and Extension”*

*To learn more about your county, go to:
<http://www.caed.uga.edu/>
...click on “Georgia Statistics System”*

**Special County Area Report
#08-08A
May, 2008**

