

# The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

## A Spotlight on Lamar County, Georgia

Prepared for  
Lamar County Cooperative Extension  
July, 2007

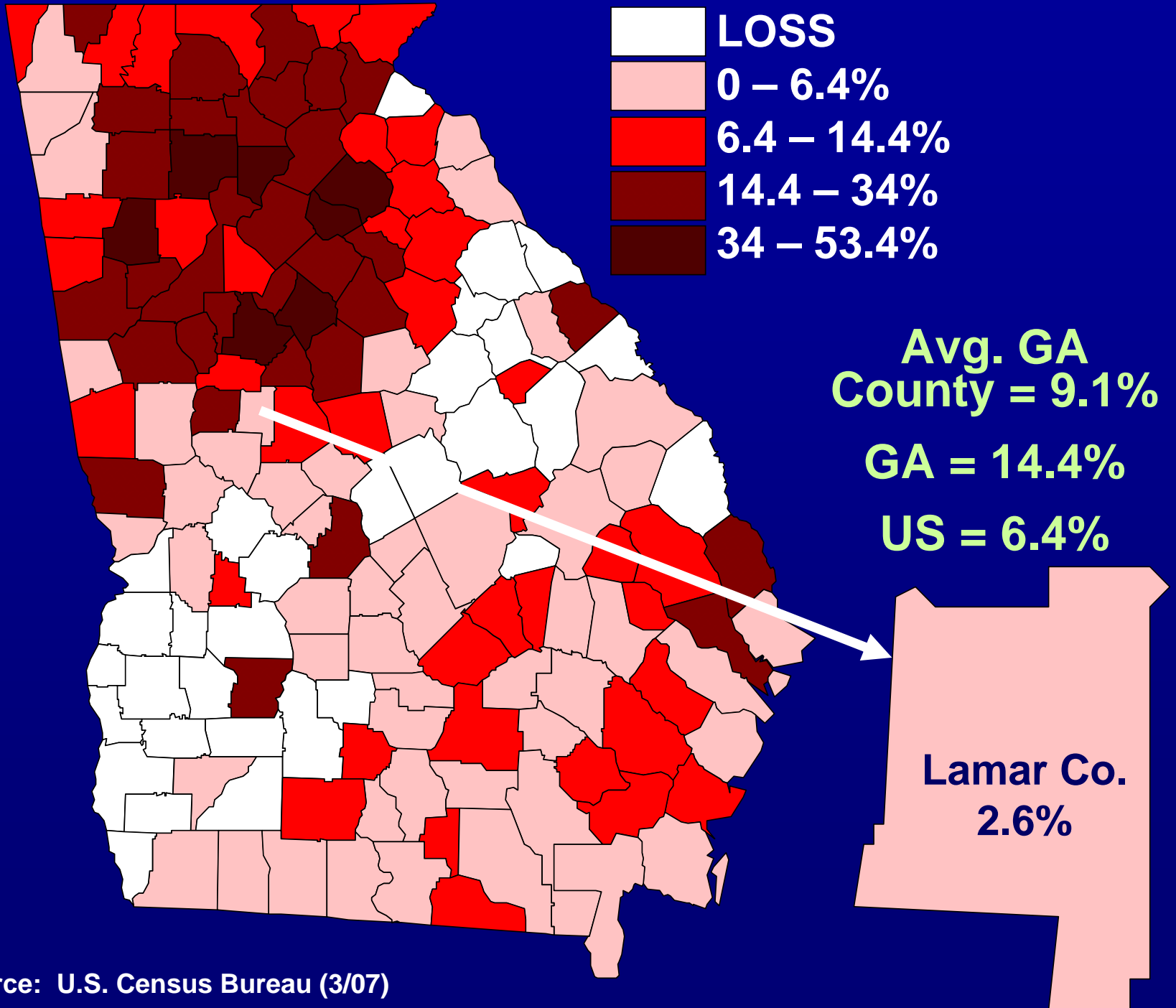
by  
The Center for Agribusiness  
and Economic Development  
College of Agricultural  
and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Georgia

# Total Population Lamar County



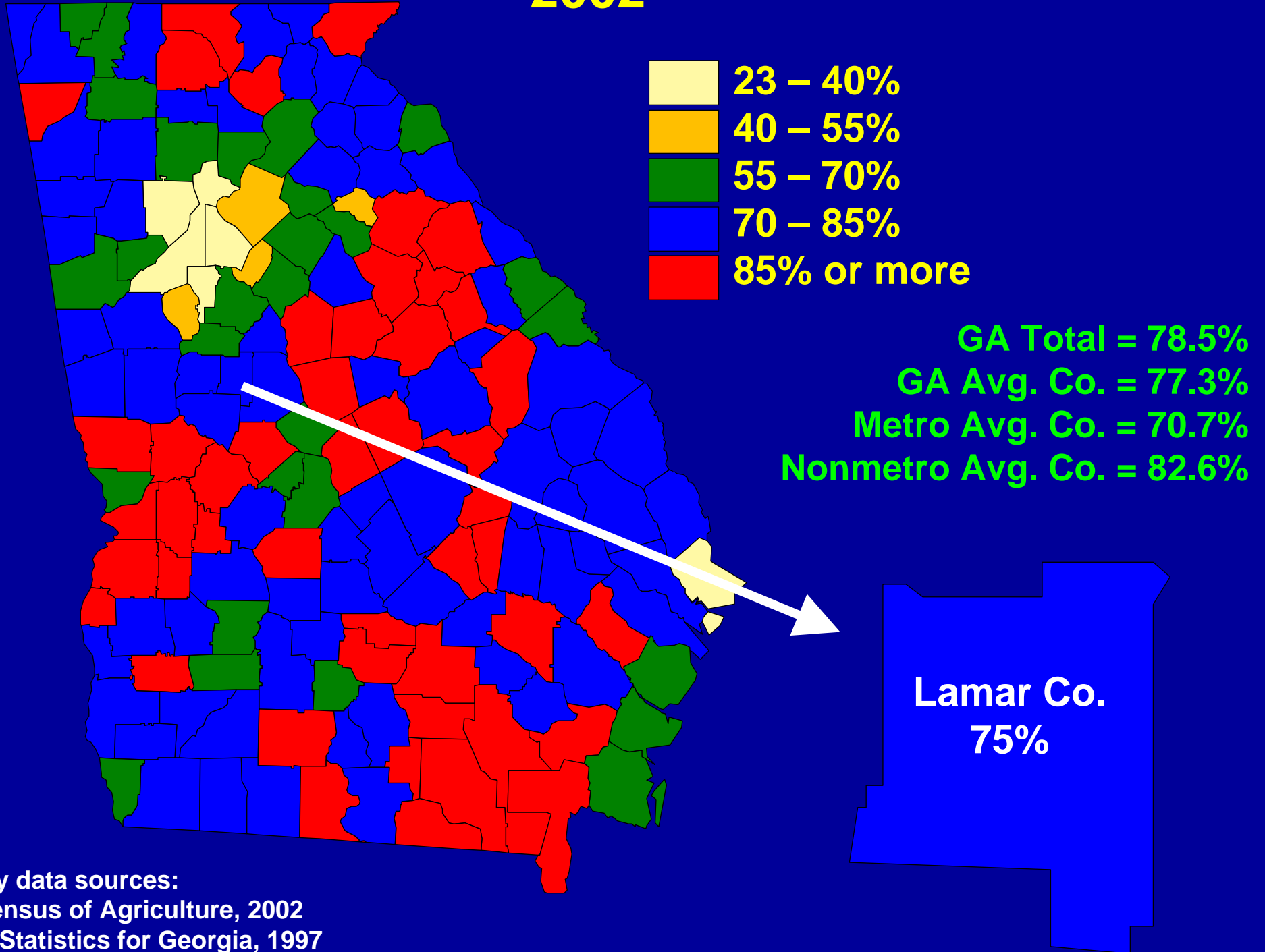
Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).

# Population Change: 2000-2006



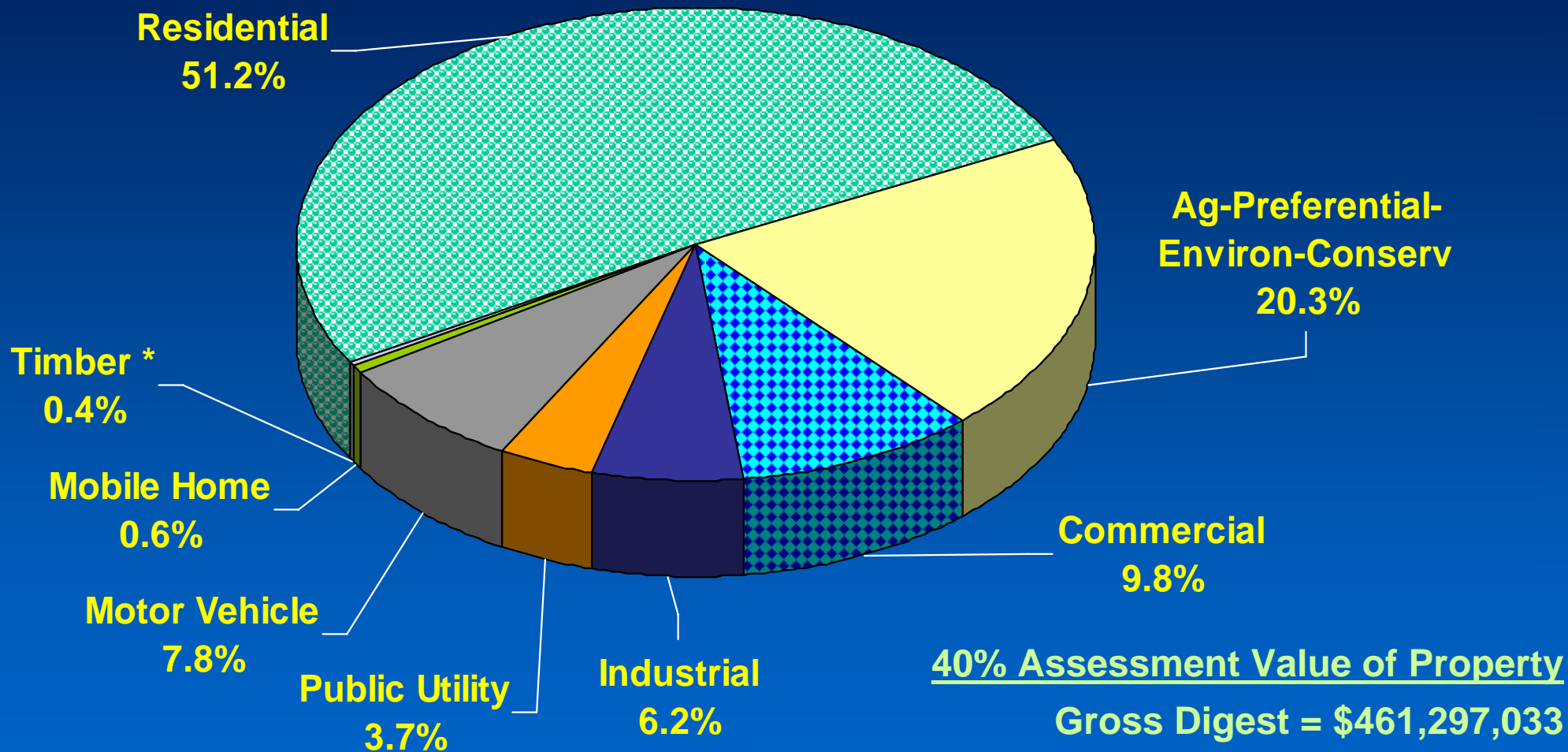
Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/07)

# Percent of Land in Cropland & Forestland: 2002



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

# Components of 2006 Property Tax Gross Digest Lamar County



40% Assessment Value of Property

Gross Digest = \$461,297,033

STATE Homestead & Property Exemptions = \$52,689,635

Net M&O Digest = \$408,607,398

Value of exempt property = \$29,632,402

Primary data source:  
GA Dept. of Revenue

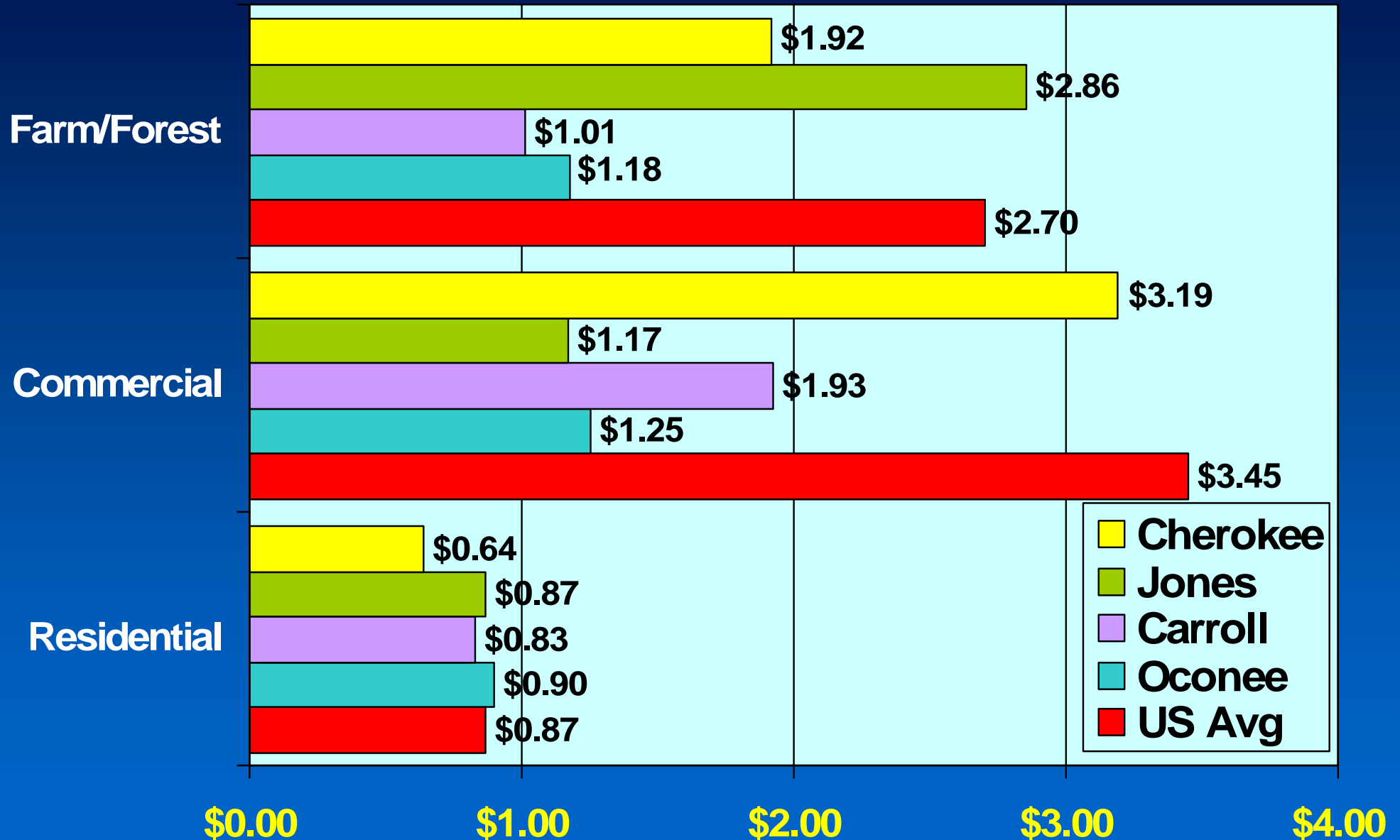
\* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

# County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2006

County	% Residential	% Agricultural	% Commercial	% Industrial	% Motor Vehicle	% Other
LAMAR	51.2	20.3	9.8	6.2	7.8	4.7
BUTTS	46.4	26.0	11.1	2.9	7.8	5.7
HENRY	63.9	2.4	14.5	11.2	6.3	1.6
MONROE	21.9	6.8	4.3	0.1	3.1	63.8
PIKE	54.7	27.1	5.2	1.6	8.7	2.5
SPALDING	43.7	14.3	17.9	14.6	7.4	2.1
UPSON	38.1	19.0	14.4	16.3	7.5	4.8
Avg. GA Co.	<b>41.9</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>

# Revenue : Expenditure Ratios

## \$ of Revenue for Each \$ of Expenditure



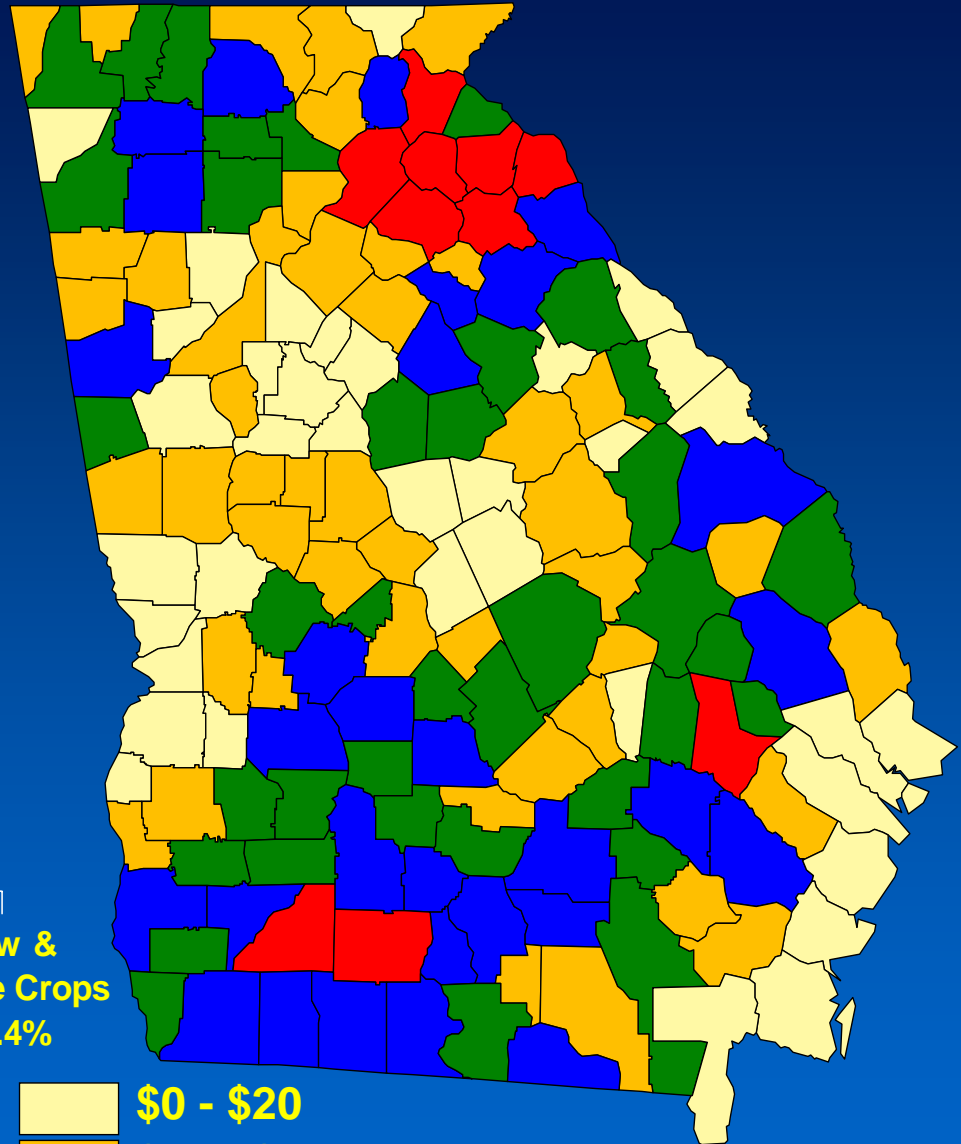
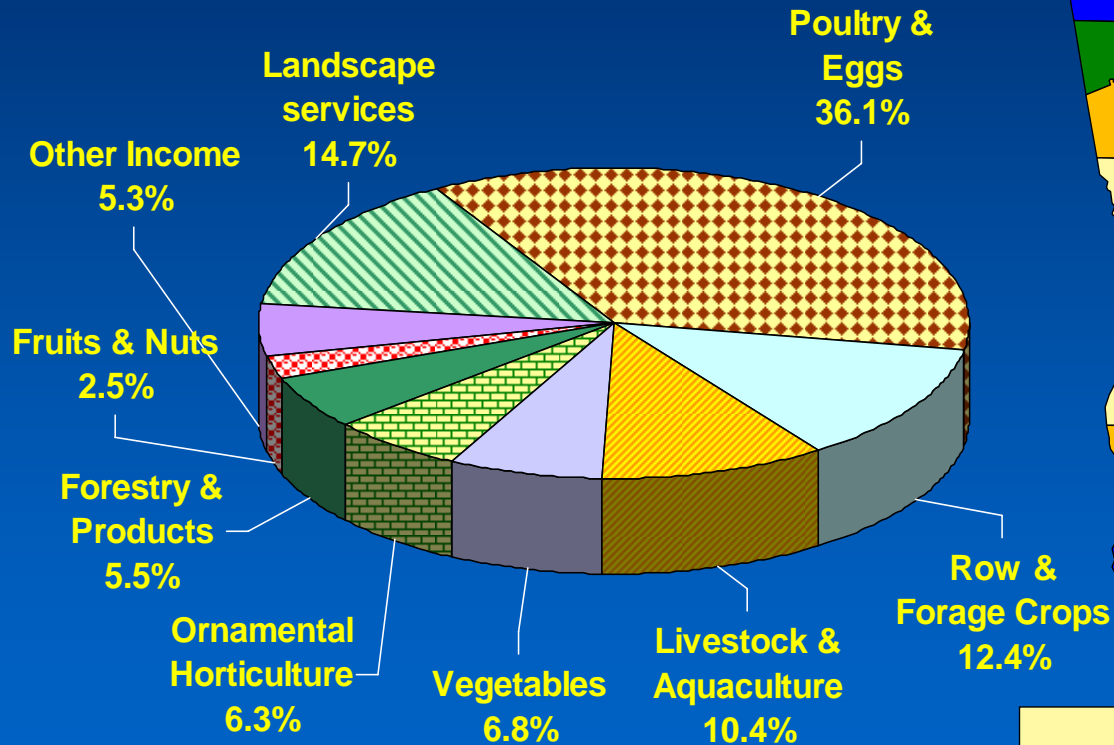
# Agriculture in Georgia

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- Georgia's 2006 Farm Gate Value was \$10.4 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$12.2 billion.
- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a \$34.5 billion *output impact* on Georgia's \$55 billion economy.

# Production Agriculture: 2006

Georgia Total  
Agricultural  
Production Value  
\$12.2 Billion



2006 Farm Gate  
Value by County  
in Millions of  
Dollars

# What We Know about Lamar County

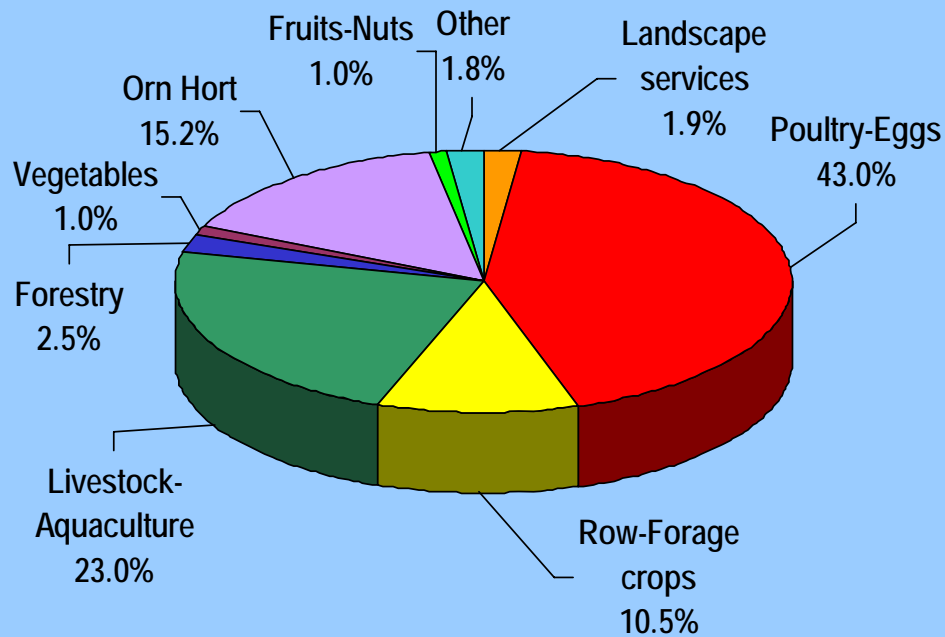
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- 2006 Farm Gate Value in Lamar Co. was \$36.2 million. Adding \$713 thousand of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to \$36.9 million.
- The highest value commodity group was poultry/eggs, representing 43% of the total agricultural production value.

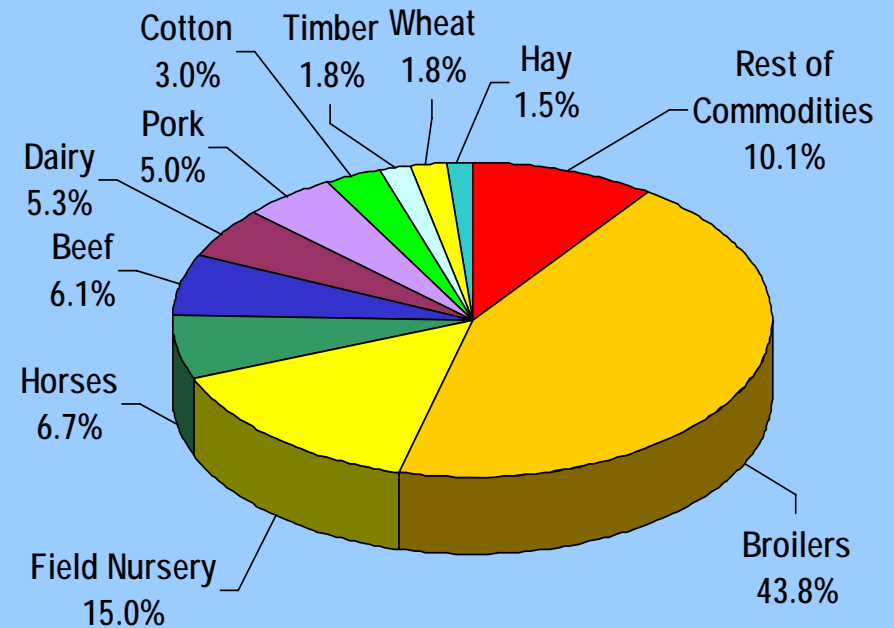
# Lamar County

## 2006 Agricultural Production Value

### 2006 Agricultural Production



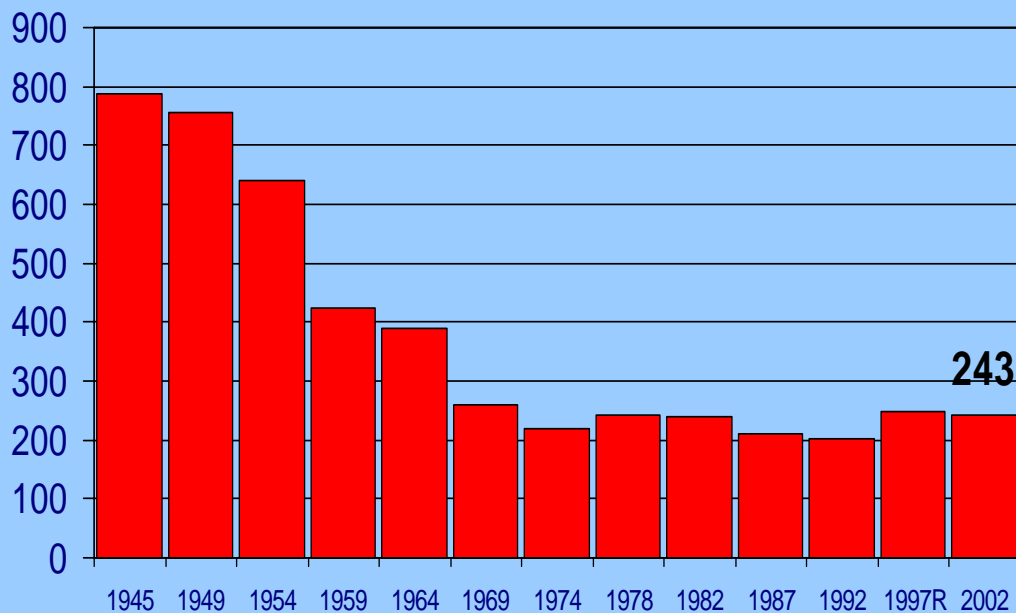
### 2006 Top Farm Gate Commodities



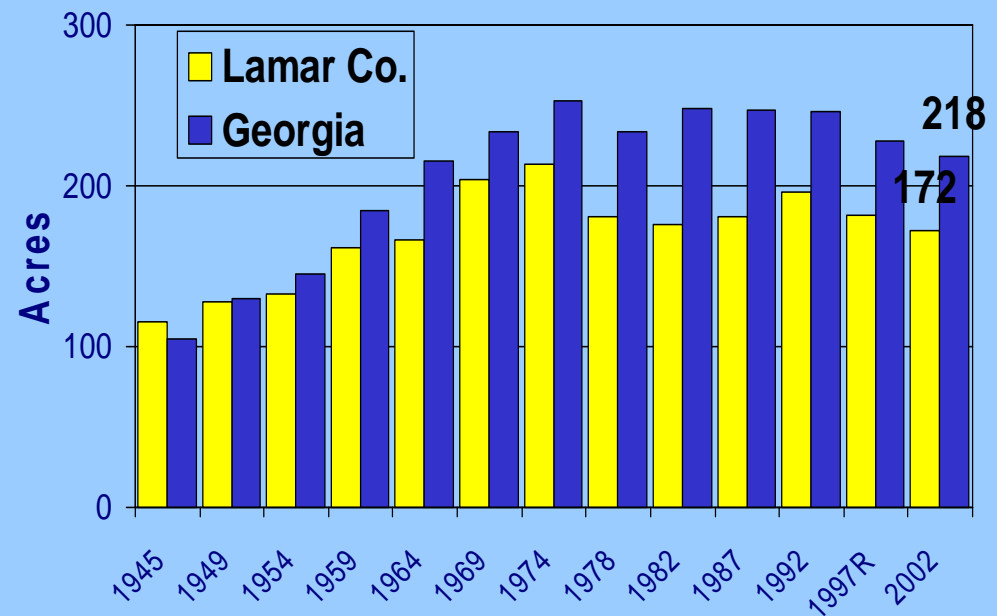
**Total AG Value = \$36.9 million**

# Trends in Lamar County: Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Lamar County

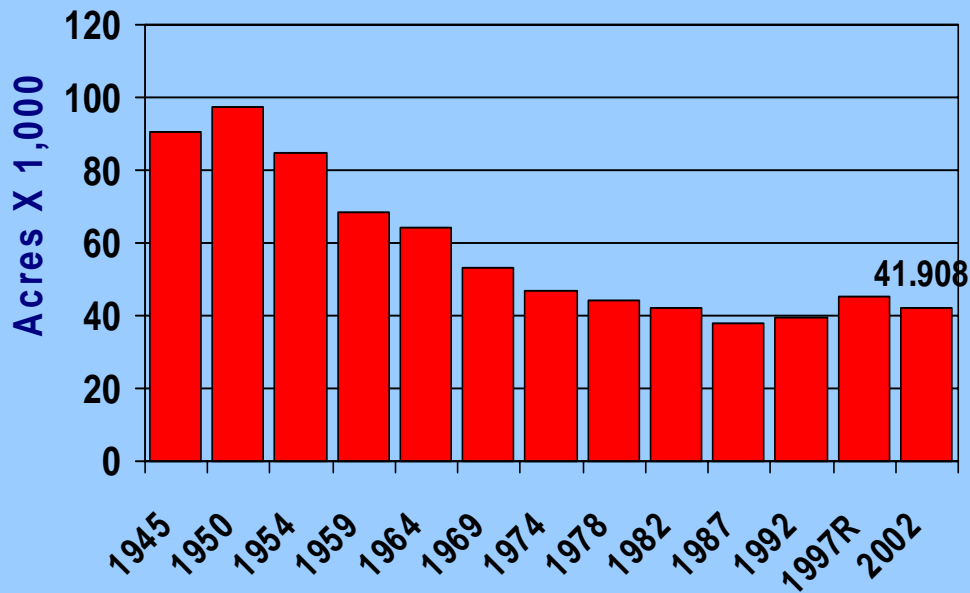


Average Farm Size

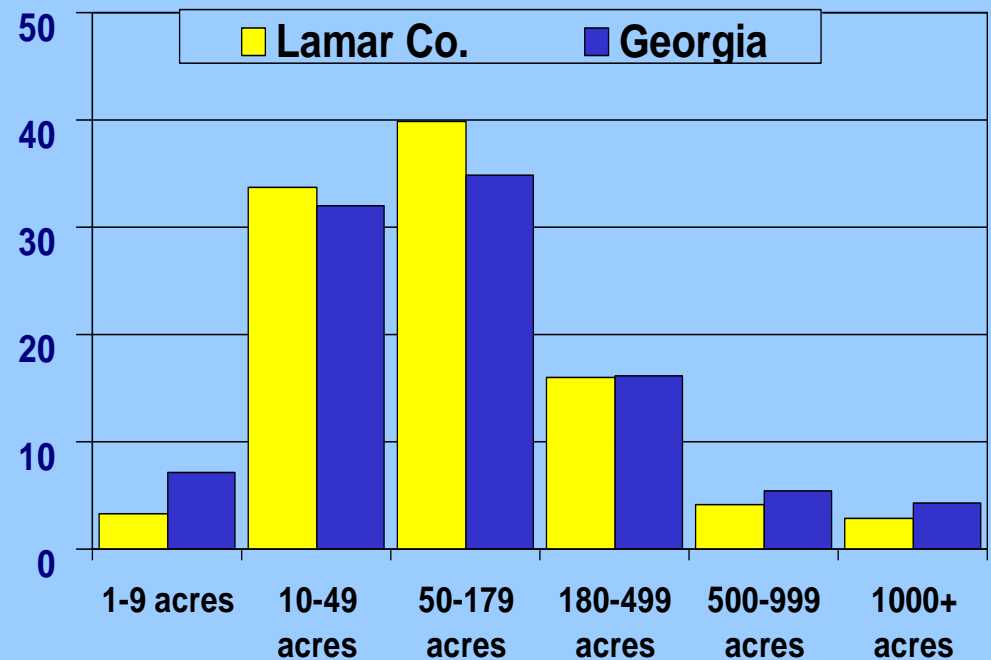


# Trends in Lamar County: Land in Farms & Farms by Size

Land in Farms  
Lamar County

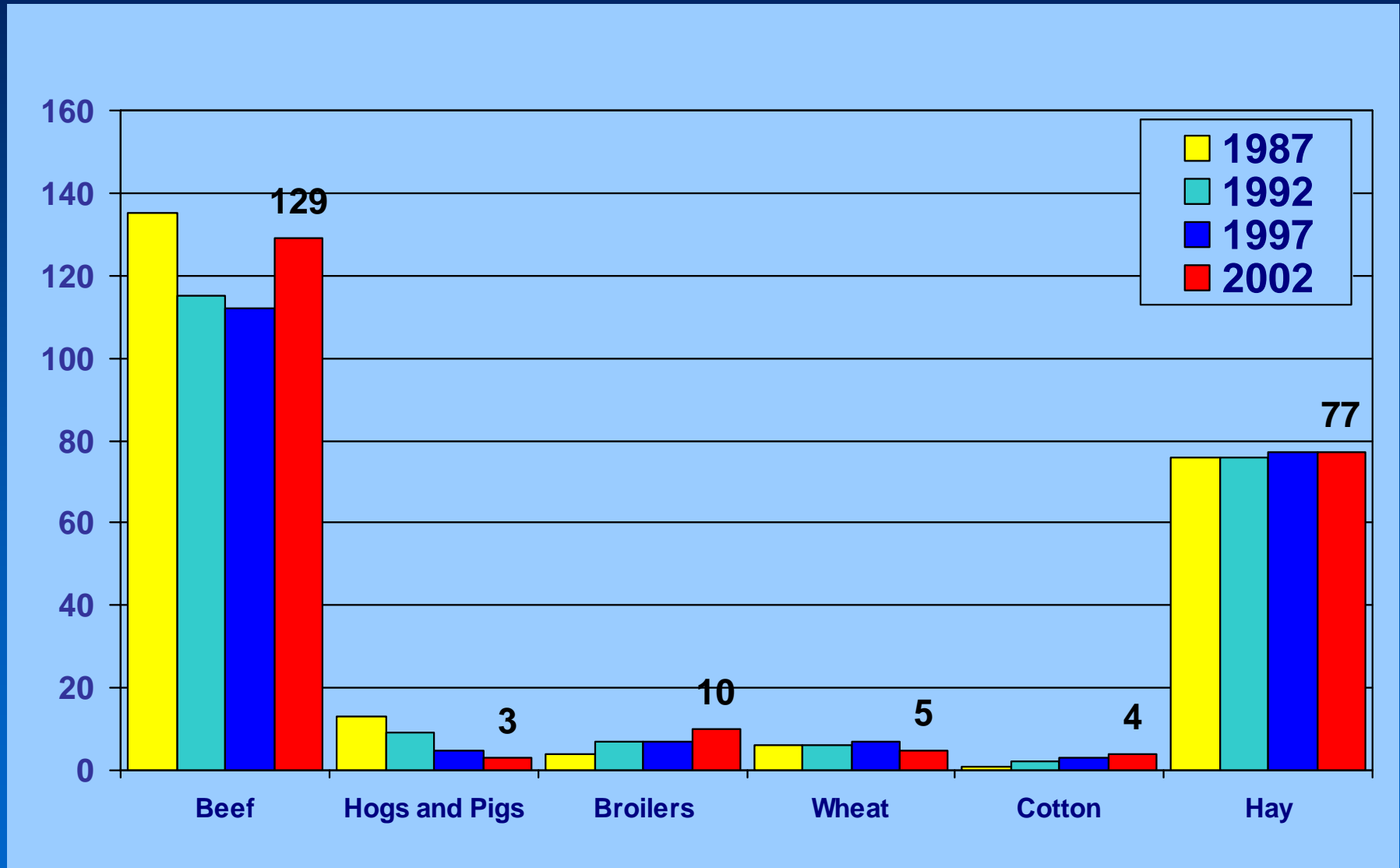


Percent of Farms by Size, 2002



# Trends in Lamar County

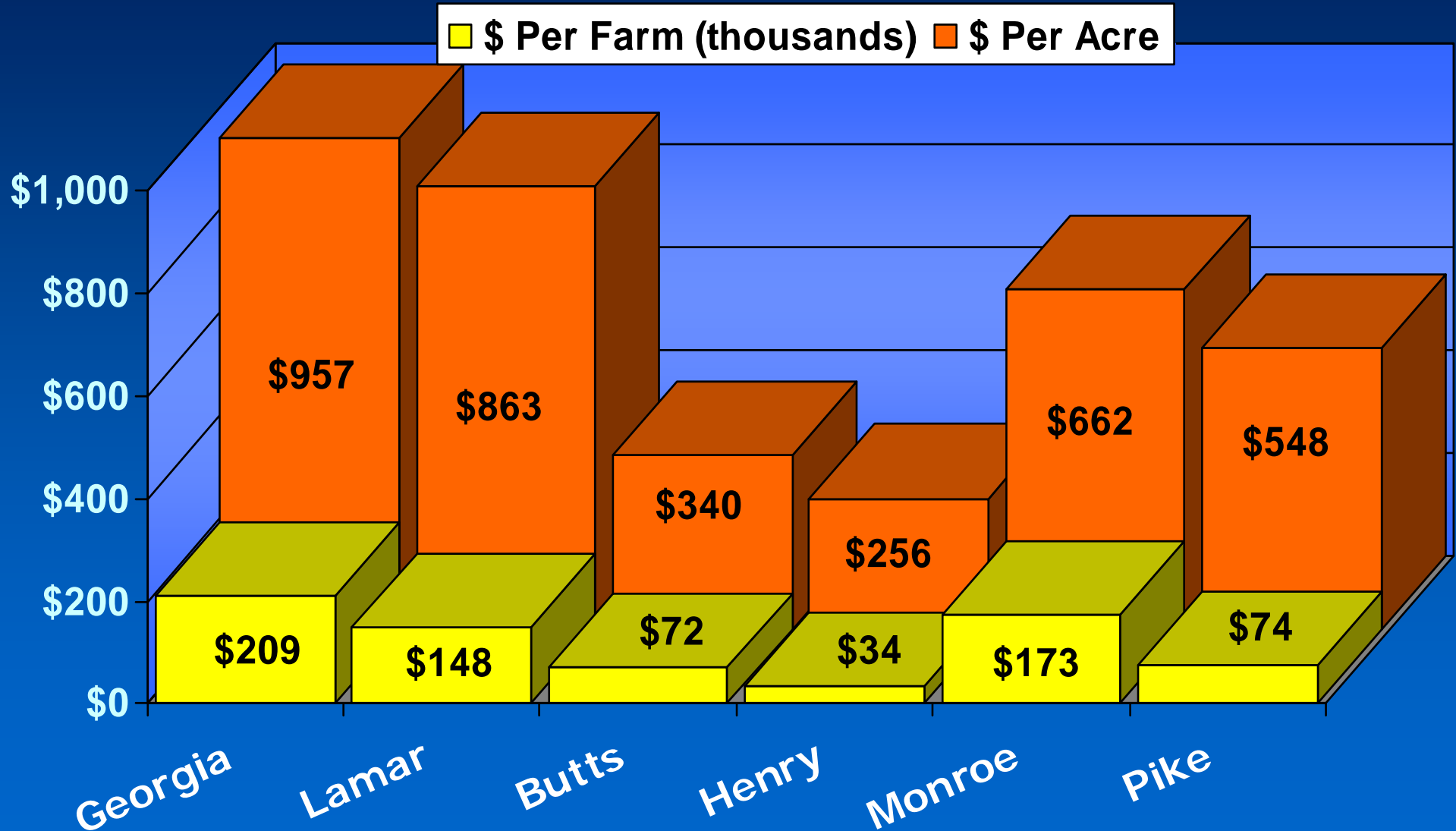
## Number of Farms by Commodity



Source: 1987-2002 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture

# How Do We Compare ?

## Georgia, Lamar and Surrounding Counties Farm Gate Value



# What We Did

## County Economy Modeled

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- 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?

# Lamar County Economy

## Agriculture *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
Agriculture	36.869	6.4
Mining	.910	.2
Construction	29.494	5.1
Manufacturing	276.726	48.0
Trans-Utilities-Info	34.802	6.0
Trade	31.501	5.5
Finance-Ins-RE	21.781	3.8
Services	60.739	10.5
Govt & Other	83.700	14.5

Total County Economic Output = \$576.5 million

# Lamar County Economy

## Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *OUTPUT*

	Output in \$ Millions	Percent
<i>Agriculture + Direct</i>	<b>109.085</b>	<b>18.9</b>
Mining	<b>.910</b>	<b>.2</b>
Construction	<b>29.494</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Manufacturing	<b>204.510</b>	<b>35.5</b>
Trans-Utilities-Info	<b>34.802</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Trade	<b>31.501</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Finance-Ins-RE	<b>21.781</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Services	<b>60.739</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Government	<b>83.700</b>	<b>14.5</b>

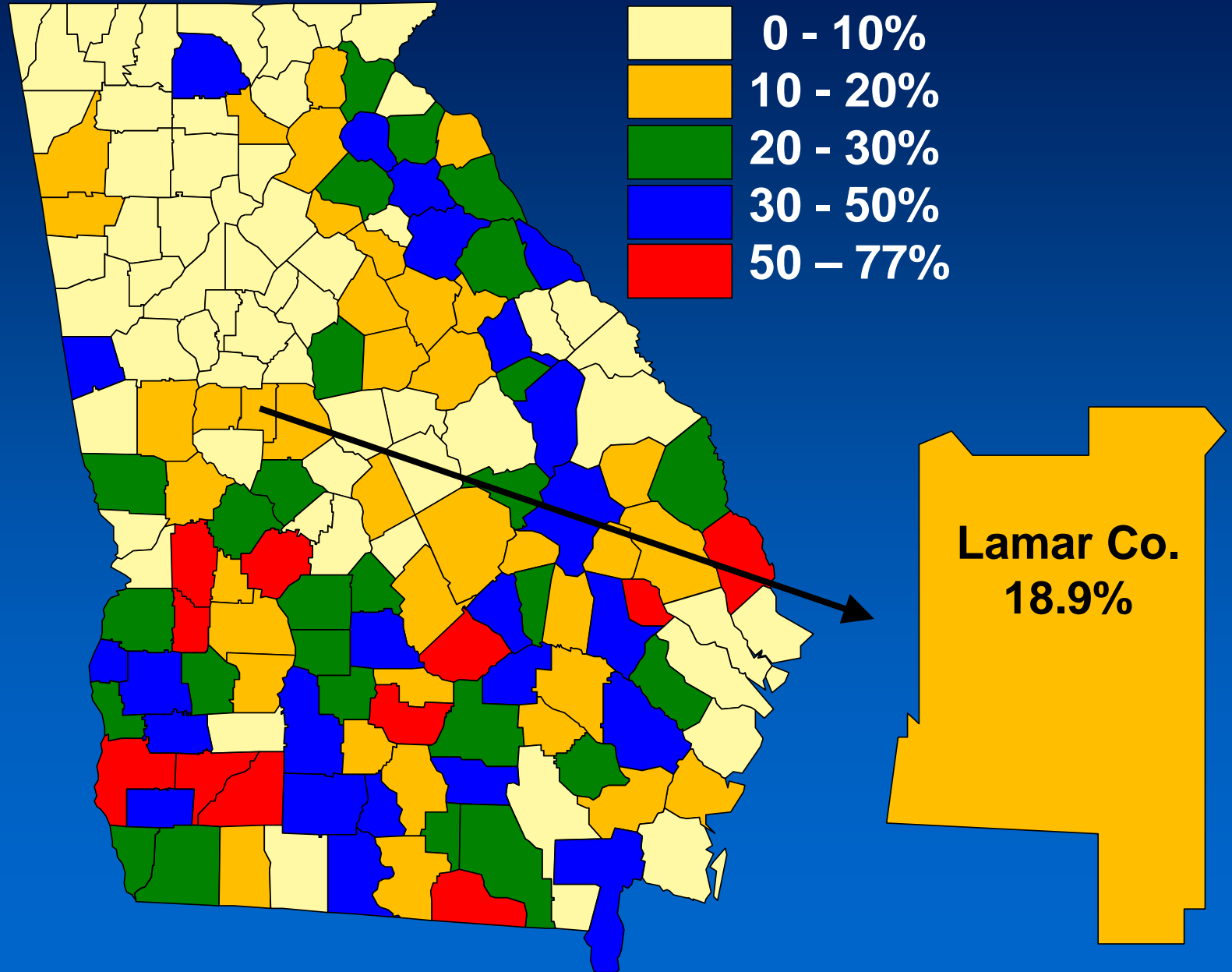
Total County Economic Output = \$576.5 million

# An Economic Snapshot of Lamar County

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- How much of Lamar County's total economic output comes from food and fiber production?
- AG value alone of \$36.9 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 6.4% of the county's economy.
- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. flour milling, sawmills, etc.) comprise 18.9% of the county's economy.

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



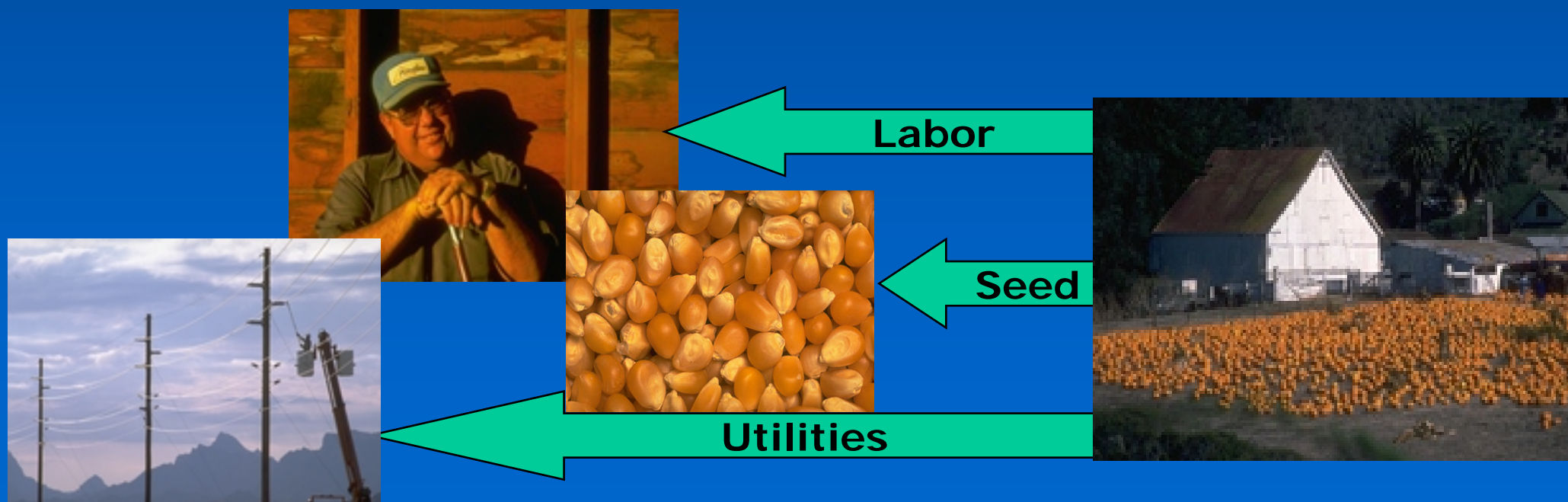
# What is the Impact?

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- 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.



# Lamar County

## Agriculture *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture	36.869	0
Construction	0	.083
Manufacturing	0	.254
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	1.132
Trade	0	.923
Finance-Ins-RE	0	.721
Services	0	1.348
Government	0	1.233
Total	36.869	5.695

Total Impact of Production AG = \$42.6 million—7.4% of total economy

# Lamar County

## Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses *IMPACT*

	Direct \$ Millions	Indirect \$ Millions
Agriculture + Direct	41.601	0
Construction	0	.190
Manufacturing	67.484	1.793
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	5.009
Trade	0	3.561
Finance-Ins-RE	0	1.866
Services	0	3.212
Government	0	2.362
Total	109.085	17.993

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = \$127.1 million--22% of total economy

# Lamar County

## Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries Employment *IMPACT*

	Direct	Indirect
Agriculture + Direct	622	0
Construction	0	2
Manufacturing	0	7
Trans-Utilities-Info	0	39
Trade	0	45
Finance-Ins-RE	0	13
Services	0	64
Government	0	1

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 793 jobs**

# What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

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- *Direct* impact is \$41.6 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.
- *Indirect* impact from the Trade sector is \$3.6 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)

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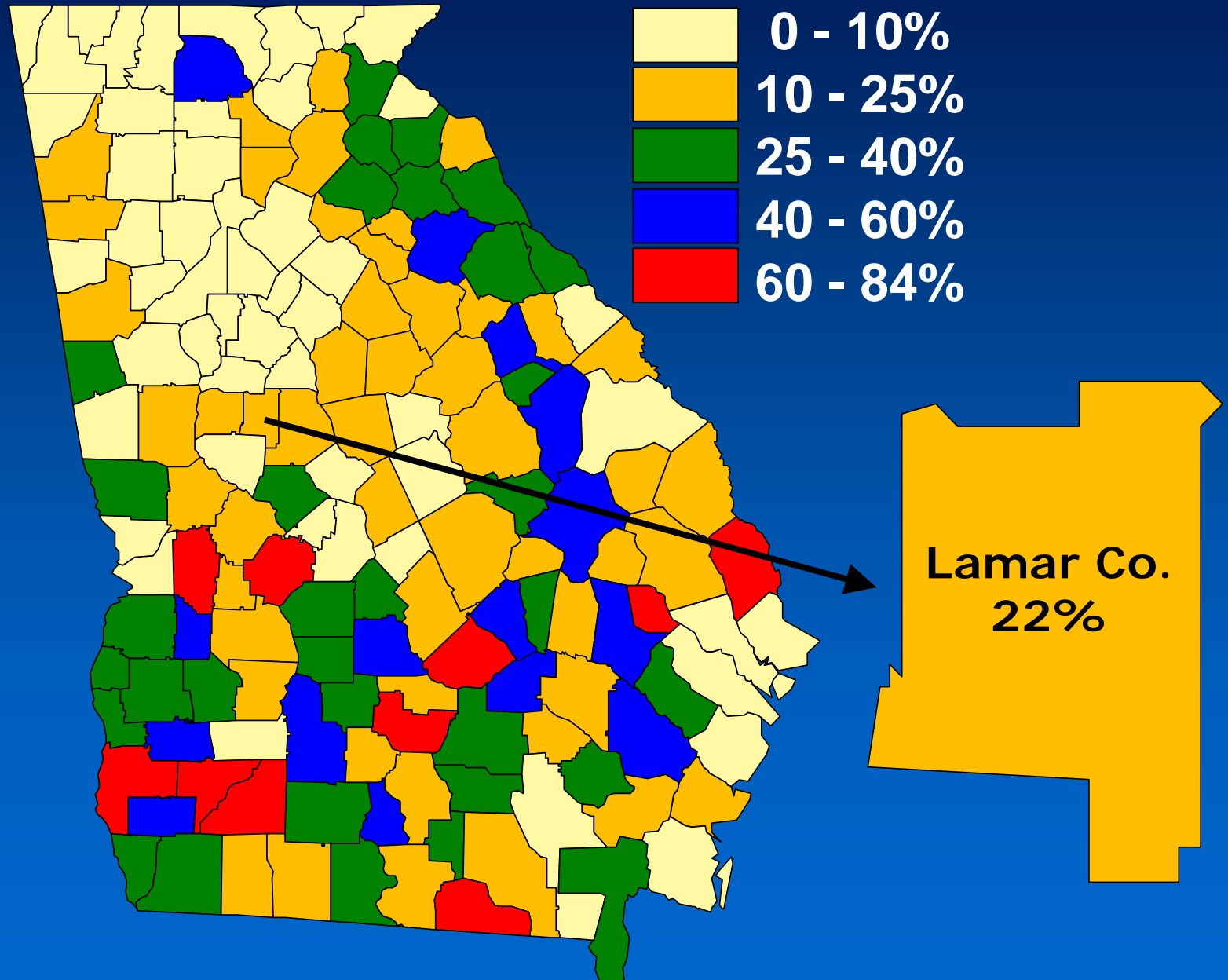
- As local stores increase their output, they may demand more stock from local wholesalers (also in the Trade sector). Local wholesalers demand more from local manufacturers, thus increasing activity in the Manufacturing sector.
- Local stores also hire employees to assist farmers. They take home wages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

# Lamar County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

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- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is \$127.1 million.
- The total *output* is \$576.5 million.
- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 22% of the total output.

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



# Contact Information

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Prepared by:

Sue Boatright and Archie Flanders

Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development

*“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**

**#0716A**

**July, 2007**

