The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Elbert County, Georgia

Prepared for
Elbert County Cooperative Extension
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by:
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College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia
Total Population
Elbert County

Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development).
Population Change: 2000-2008

Elbert Co. = -0.1%

Avg. GA Co. = 11.2%

GA = 18.3%

US = 8.0%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/09)
% of Land in Cropland & Timberland

Elbert Co. = 65%
GA Avg. Co. = 76%
GA Total = 78%
GA Metro = 68%
GA Nonmetro = 83%

Primary data sources:
U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2007
USDA Forest Service, 2007

Graphic by Center for Agribusiness
& Economic Development, UGA
Components of 2008 Property Tax Gross Digest
Elbert County

- Residential: 38.9%
- Ag-Pref-Environ-Conserv: 29.0%
- Commercial: 13.7%
- Industrial: 5.6%
- Public Utility: 3.6%
- Motor Vehicle: 7.7%
- Mobile Home: 1.1%
- Heavy Equipment: 0.002%
- Timber*: 0.4%

40% Assessment Value of Property
Gross Digest = $639,833,568
Homestead & Property Exemptions = $98,680,662
Net M&O Digest = $541,152,906
Value of exempt property = $65,472,198

* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

Primary data source:
GA Dept. of Revenue
## County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% Residential</th>
<th>% Agricultural</th>
<th>% Commercial</th>
<th>% Industrial</th>
<th>% Utility</th>
<th>% Motor Veh</th>
<th>% Mobile Home</th>
<th>% Timber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELBERT</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HART</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINCOLN</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILKES</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGLETHORPE</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. GA Co.</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue (preliminary 5/15/09—Fulton Co. digest not verified)
Revenue : Expenditure Ratios
$ of Revenue for Each $ of Expenditure

Agriculture in Georgia

- Georgia's 2008 Farm Gate Value was $11.9 billion. Adding the value of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $14 billion.

- Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a $63 billion output impact on Georgia's $771 billion economy.
Production Agriculture: 2008

Georgia Total Agricultural Production Value
$11.9 Billion

2008 Farm Gate Value by County in Millions of Dollars
What We Know about Elbert County

- 2008 Farm Gate Value in Elbert Co. was $113.1 million. Adding $76 thousand of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $113.2 million.

- The highest value commodity group was poultry & eggs, representing 86% of the total agricultural production value.
Elbert County
2008 Agricultural Production Value

2008 Agricultural Production
- Forestry: 1.3%
- Aquaculture: 5.6%
- Livestock: 5.6%
- Row-Forage crops: 2.7%
- Fruits-Nuts-Vegetables: 3.1%
- Orn Hort (Other): 1.1%
- Landscape services: 0.1%
- Poultry-Eggs: 86.1%

Total AG Value = $113.2 million
Trends in Elbert County: Number of Farms & Average Farm Size

Number of Farms, Elbert County

Average Farm Size

Source: 1945-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Trends in Elbert County:
Land in Farms, Harvested Cropland & Farms by Size

Source: 1945-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
How Do We Compare?

Georgia, Elbert and Surrounding Counties

Farm Gate Value

Sources: 2007 Census of Agriculture and 2008 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?
## Elbert County Economy

### Agriculture OUTPUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Output $</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>113,184,147</td>
<td>10.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>57,922,246</td>
<td>5.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>44,455,846</td>
<td>4.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>435,823,149</td>
<td>39.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>40,085,109</td>
<td>3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>115,644,548</td>
<td>10.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-RE</td>
<td>93,698,859</td>
<td>8.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>106,006,312</td>
<td>9.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>98,494,204</td>
<td>8.91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output = $1.1 billion**
# Elbert County Economy

## Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>211,668,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>57,922,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>44,455,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>337,338,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>40,085,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>115,644,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Est</td>
<td>93,698,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>106,006,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>98,494,204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total County Economic Output = $1.1 billion**
Elbert County Employment
Total Jobs = 8,971

- State & Federal Government: 769 (8.6%)
- Mining: 144 (1.6%)
- Construction: 415 (4.6%)
- Manufacturing: 1,883 (21.0%)
- Trans-Utilities-Info: 272 (3.0%)
- Trade: 1,415 (15.8%)
- Finance-Ins-Real Est: 251 (2.8%)
- Public Education: 792 (8.8%)
- Other Services: 1,199 (13.4%)
- Professional Services: 740 (8.2%)
- AG + Directly Related: 1,093 (12.2%)

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA
How much of Elbert County’s total economic output comes from food and fiber production?

AG value alone of $113.2 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 10.2% of the county’s economy.

AG plus directly related businesses (ex. Poultry processing, sawmills, etc.) comprise 19.2% of the county’s economy.
Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing as % of Total Output

- 0 - 10%
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 50%
- 50 – 77%

Elbert Co. 19.2%
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.
## Elbert County

### Agriculture IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Direct $</th>
<th>Indirect $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>113,184,147</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200,342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,568,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,487,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Est</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,875,125</td>
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<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,154,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,307,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>113,184,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,657,234</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Impact of Production AG = $126.8 million**

**11.5% of total economy**
## Elbert County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses **IMPACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Direct $</th>
<th>Indirect $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>211,668,435</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>364,821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
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<td>3,588,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,502,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Est</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,308,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,999,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,759,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>211,668,435</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,644,147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = $241.3 million

21.8% of total economy
## Elbert County

Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries

### Employment Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>1,093</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance-Ins-Real Est</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 1,372 Jobs**

**15.3% of total employment**
What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- **Direct** impact is $211.7 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.

- **Indirect** impact from the Trade sector is $10.5 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.
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.
Elbert County Food and Fiber
Impact Conclusions

- The total *impact* of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is $241.3 million.

- The total county *output* is $1.1 billion.

- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 21.8% of the total county output.
Food and Fiber Production and Directly Related Manufacturing *IMPACT* as % of Total Output

[Map showing various counties shaded in different colors to represent % impact.]

Elbert Co. 21.8%
Contact Information

Prepared by:
Sue Boatright and Sharon Kane
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
#10-04A
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