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The Georgia Agribusiness Council was created in 1966 and has over 700 member companies comprised of all sectors of Georgia's diverse agricultural production, processing and distribution sectors. These include farmers, foresters and ranchers, cotton ginner, farm equipment dealers, fertilizer and crop protection chemical manufacturers/distributors, and many others. The following comments were provided at the "Fact Finding Session of the Council on Tax Reform and Fairness" in Atlanta on August 26, 2010. Much of this data can be found in the two documents listed at the bottom of the page.

- Agriculture was Georgia's first industry and continues to be the largest economic engine in the state.
- Food and fiber production (and directly related processing) are key components of Georgia's economy. Agriculture shaped Georgia's history and will continue to be a driving force in local economies statewide.
- Food and fiber production and related processing (directly and indirectly) generated a total economic impact of \$65 billion for the state and created more than 351 thousand jobs in 2008. The economic impact was \$54.5 billion in 2005.
- In two thirds of Georgia's counties, food and fiber production and directly related businesses represent the largest or second largest segment of all goods and services produced.
- Food and fiber composes the largest industrial sector in 52 of Georgia's 159 counties.
- Economic impacts of food and fiber production and directly related manufacturing account for 25% or more of the total economy in 57 Georgia counties, and 40% or more in 25 counties.
- Agriculture production is a price taker, thus any new expense, including taxes, have a direct impact on the profitability of the producer. These costs cannot be passed down to the consumer.
- Job production is important in all areas of the state, but jobs in rural Georgia are especially difficult to generate. Agricultural production and agribusiness services provide jobs to these areas of our state.

Data provided by the University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development publications:

2009 Ag Snapshots:

<http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/pdf/AG%20SNAPSHOTS%2009.pdf>

2007 County Output and Economic Importance of the Georgia Food and Fiber Industry

<http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/2007/pdf/CR-07-05.pdf>