USDA INVESTS IN GEORGIA

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we work with thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural communities every day and we know that there is no limit to the economic potential of rural America. Over the past seven years, USDA has invested more than $45 billion (fiscal year 2009-2015) in Georgia. In 2016, we will continue to build on that investment to support the farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, carry out record conservation efforts, facilitate groundbreaking research, promote new markets for rural products, and provide a safe, affordable and nutritious food supply for Georgia families.

INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FY09-15

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
USDA invested nearly $4.6 billion to support affordable housing, create jobs and promote economic opportunity for those who live, work and raise their families in rural Georgia.

**FARMING AND RANCHING**
Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of America’s vibrant agricultural economy. USDA has helped support the ongoing success of Georgia farmers and ranchers by investing more than $6.5 billion in programs that provide access to credit, support a strong farm safety net, and promote new markets for farm and ranch products.

**CONSERVATION**
Conservation helps farmers and ranchers keep land in production while improving the condition of natural resources. USDA invested more than $739 million in efforts to conserve and protect Georgia’s land, water and air resources.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
Robust infrastructure development, including electricity, broadband and telecommunications, water and wastewater, and construction of community facilities like fire stations and libraries, is the foundation for rural America’s viability. In Georgia, USDA has invested nearly $4.3 billion in infrastructure development.

**RESEARCH**
From adapting to the effects of climate change to ensuring global food security, the challenges facing American agriculture are immense. USDA has invested more than $609 million in Georgia to support research that will secure and improve our food, agricultural and natural resources systems.

**TRADE**
In 2014, exports of farm and ranch products contributed more than $3.1 BILLION to the Georgia economy. USDA continues to pursue strong new trade deals that will expand exports and help Georgia’s farm and ranch businesses grow and create jobs.

ABOUT RURAL GEORGIA

USDA works each day to strengthen Georgia’s agriculture. Rural Georgia is home to 42,257 farms across 9.6 million acres. Georgia’s top agricultural products include chickens, cotton, peanuts, eggs and cattle. All told, sales of farm and ranch products contributed nearly $10 billion to Georgia’s economy in 2014.

Georgia agriculture contributes to a sector that nationwide supports one in 11 jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.