

CLIMATE RISKS GROW FOR GEORGIA FARMS

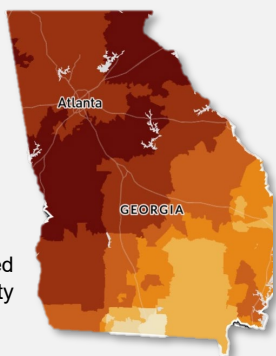
Georgia's farmers play a critical role in feeding families in the U.S. and around the world. But hotter temperatures and less predictable weather patterns caused by climate change are drying up fertile farmland and threatening the health and livelihood of farmers and ranchers. Congress can't turn its back on hard-working Georgians – and the farm bill is the best opportunity to seed a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

WHY THE U.S. NEEDS GEORGIA

Farming is a significant part of Georgia's economic growth. Georgia is among the top producers of peanuts, broilers (chickens), pecans, blueberries and spring onions. However, these important commodities face climate threats according to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), a screening tool developed in partnership between EDF, Texas A&M University and community-based stakeholders. The CVI provides us with a better understanding of the growing climate risks facing farmers and ranchers by visualizing how drivers of cumulative vulnerability harm communities across the United States.

GEORGIA RANKS #4 NATIONWIDE FOR VULNERABILITY TO DROUGHT

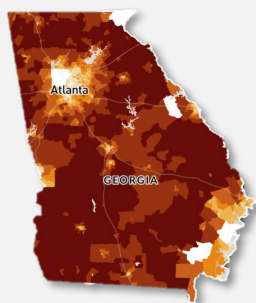
Georgia is ranked
#4 in vulnerability
to drought.



DROUGHT

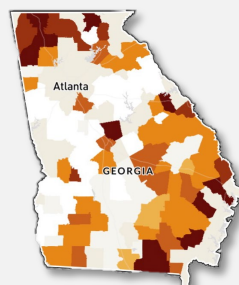
Data from the CVI indicates that census tracts across the state are vulnerable to increases in extreme droughts. During extreme droughts, many crops will struggle to maintain their regular growing cycles, potentially increasing crop failures and raising concerns about the health and safety of farm workers.

AG LAND VALUE



Annual loss of
farmland value due
to climate change in
the U.S.
Ranks 22 out of 50
states and DC.

CROP YIELDS



Decline in the
amount of stable
crops produced
by the year 2100
Ranks 20 out
of 50 states
and DC.

These climate vulnerabilities will disrupt agricultural production systems across the state and will have major consequences to the state's economy as well as the national food supply.

GEORGIA FARMERS NEED CONGRESS TO HELP THEM STAY PRODUCTIVE

Georgia's farmers and ranchers need more technical and financial support to best respond to a changing climate. Many are already implementing cover crops, no-till, split nutrient application and other conservation practices on their farms. Farmers and ranchers know their land better than anyone. They know what they need to do to stay competitive and productive.

Programs administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, are available to help improve the resilience of farms and ranches. These programs are incredibly popular, but the \$6 billion allocated for them in the 2018 Farm Bill doesn't go far enough. That's why up to two-thirds of applications for these voluntary programs are rejected each year.



THE SOLUTION

For this farm bill, Georgia farmers need Congress to help them stay productive in a changing climate while also reducing environmental impacts.

Otherwise, we risk the food on our tables.