

# Support Georgia's Agriculture Industry

**Agriculture is Georgia's largest industry, contributing \$76 billion to the state's economy and employing 399,200 people. To ensure this industry grows and thrives it must have the workforce it needs.**



## VEGETABLES

\$2.6 Billion  
13,900 jobs



## POULTRY & EGGS

\$24.6 Billion  
91,400 jobs



## ROW CROPS

\$11.4 Billion  
81,800 jobs



## LIVESTOCK & AQUACULTURE

\$9.3 Billion  
37,000 jobs



## FORESTRY & PRODUCTS

\$19 Billion  
81,800 jobs



## FRUIT & NUTS

\$1.9 Billion  
13,000 jobs

### Workforce Facts:

- Average age of primary agriculture producer: 59.8 years old
- In 2019, 11,000 H-2B skilled guest workers supporting forestry and conservation work in the U.S.
- In 2019, Georgia had 29,480 H-2A guest workers, making our state the 2nd highest user of the program.
  - H-2A visas allow skilled guest workers to come to the U.S. to ensure crops are picked and produced, feeding Americans and the globe.
  - This trend is not unique to Georgia. Nationwide, the number of H-2A guest workers has increased five-fold in the past 14 years.

### Current Challenges for Farmers:

- Dairy and Poultry producers are facing similar labor challenges to vegetable growers, but are not able to utilize the H-2A visa due to time restrictions.
- Suspension of H2-B visas has jeopardized the re-planting of our forests. This has significant implications for the timber industry as well as fire prevention and environmental protection.

Modernizing visa programs will provide predictability to Georgia's agriculture producers that will allow this industry to thrive and evolve for the future.

**ACTION: Support Federal reform for H-2A and H-2B visas to ensure Georgia's economy grows.**