



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

HURRICANE HELENE | IMPACT REPORT |

Executive summary

We estimate that Hurricane Helene's damages to Georgia agriculture and forestry will cost the state economy **at least \$5.5 billion** in 2024 present value. This figure represents the sum of direct crop losses, losses to firms that support agriculture and forestry, losses to workers in those and related industries, and the recovery and restoration costs that firms in these industries will face. As the true scale of the damage is not yet fully known, these numbers should be interpreted as preliminary.

Estimating the impact of the storm on state agriculture

Hurricane Helene made landfall on Sept. 26, 2024, before cutting across the state of Georgia's agriculture- and forestry-rich production areas. According to the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the storm affected every crop that Georgia farmers produce. Table 1 includes our preliminary assessment of the economic effects the storm will have on the state due to its damage to agricultural products and facilities. Estimates contained in this document are based on projections by University of Georgia commodity analysts, Georgia Forestry Commission foresters and a model of Georgia's state economy.

Prepared by the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and the Georgia Forestry Commission

Nov. 22, 2024



*View the latest data
at extension.uga.edu*



HURRICANE HELENE IMPACT REPORT



Preliminary Estimate of 2024 Economic Losses on Statewide Agriculture and Forestry (in millions of dollars)

	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Lost Output	Replanting, Building and Equipment	Economic Losses
Agricultural Crops						
Cotton	351	96	113	560	-	560
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	4	4
Pecans	62	9	26	97	194	291
Peanuts	40	16	15	71	-	71
Vegetables	122	40	47	209	-	209
Citrus	12	1	5	18	-	18
Blueberries	-	-	-	-	44	44
Soybeans	4	0	1	5	-	5
Nursery Crops	315	112	99	526	51	577
Poultry	194	148	35	377	306	683
Beef Cattle	1	0	0	1	275	275
Dairy	100	63	25	188	-	188
Forestry						
Pine Timber	729	202	574	1,505	-	1,505
Hardwood Timber	556	154	438	1,148	-	1,148
Total	2,484	843	1,379	4,706	874	5,579

Sources: UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Georgia Forestry Commission estimates; IMPLAN



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA