

AGRICULTURE...WORKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Residents of the Suwannee River Basin have enjoyed a long relationship with the agricultural industry for many years. Agriculture and natural resource industries have substantially contributed and maintained the green space that have preserved this area's way of life for many generations. Agriculture in the basin not only provides a rewarding lifestyle; it generates a total economic impact worth over **\$5 billion**.

Suwannee Basin Agriculture Facts

Total economic impact\$5 billion
 Farms 7,094
 Farm production acreage196,093

Employment Impacts

Direct employment.....17,961 jobs
 Total employment impacts.....31,702 jobs

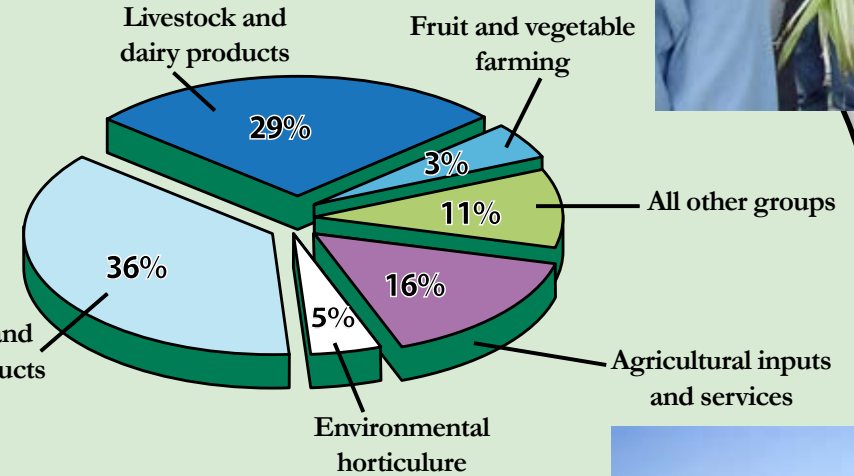
Leading (revenue) Industries of Agricultural and Natural Resources

Forestry and wood products\$1.316 billion
 Livestock and dairy products.....\$1.072 billion
 Agriculture inputs and services (fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary, equipment) \$600 million
 Fruit and vegetables\$126 million
 Environmental horticulture\$164 million

*Source - UF/IFAS, Food & Resource Economics Department, www.economicimpact.ifas.ufl.edu/

Major Commodities

- Poultry and eggs
- Milk and dairy products
- Beef cattle
- Sod, trees and other horticulture
- Vegetables, melons, potatoes and peanuts
- Timber and wood products
- Hay and forage



Total revenue (%) by industry group in the Suwannee River Basin of Florida



SUWANNEE BASIN AGRICULTURE ...PROMOTING GREENSPACE, CLEAN WATER AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

"Agriculture and natural resource industries have a huge economic impact on the counties within the Suwannee River Basin region. Not only does the agriculture industry work hard and contribute substantially to the local economy, members do it responsibly through participation with the **Suwannee River Partnership** because the health of springs and rivers is important to the way of life enjoyed along the Suwannee River." – Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

- The **Suwannee River Partnership** (SRP) formed in 1999.
- Focuses on using Best Management Practices to protect the environment.
- Over 60 local, state, federal and private partners committed to work together to find scientific and environmentally sound solutions.
- Better managed fertilizer, animal waste and irrigation = cleaner water.
- Over 1 billion gallons of water were saved last year per crop because of irrigation upgrades.
- 90% of dairy farmers, 98% of poultry farmers and 65% of crop farmers are participating in SRP programs.



Suwannee Basin Agriculture A \$5 BILLION INDUSTRY



SUWANNEE
RIVER PARTNERSHIP

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