



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity **GEORGIA**

<http://www.usda.gov/strikeforce>

Georgia Quick Facts

StrikeForce state since2010
 Number of SF counties60
 Total outreach events FY13..... 105
 Number of event participants32,989



Contacts

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Some of Our Partners

Arthur M. Blank Family
Foundation

Digging Roots Educational Farm

Federation of Southern
Cooperatives

Fort Valley State University &
Cooperative Extension

Georgia Association of Conserva-
tion District Supervisors

Georgia Department of
Agriculture & Center of
Innovation Agribusiness

Georgia Resource Conservation &
Development Councils

Second Harvest Food Bank

Southeast Agricultural Coalition

Southeast United Dairy Industry
Association

University of Georgia &
Cooperative Extension

Rural Americans face many unique challenges every day and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides assistance to help rural communities prosper. Unfortunately, 85% of America’s persistent poverty counties are in rural America – and we can’t allow these areas to be left behind.

That is why in 2010, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack launched the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity (StrikeForce) - a coordinated effort to increase economic opportunities and address the needs of rural communities suffering from persistent poverty. In collaboration with over 400 partners, including other federal agencies, community based organizations, state based agencies and local partners, USDA is providing targeted technical assistance and other support to leverage results.

Since then, StrikeForce has spread to over 700 counties across twenty states and is showing significant results. Since the inception of StrikeForce, USDA has invested more than \$9.7 billion in target areas to support 80,300 projects.

Highlights

Fort Valley State University (an 1890 institution) continues to be an important partner. The University serves as an intermediary with small-scale producers and continues to connect them with USDA programs. They have hosted numerous events and are helping with small business outreach.

Second Harvest Food Bank of South Georgia is utilizing a USDA provided community facilities loan to expand its storage and distribution capabilities. As a result, they are able to better serve more than 300 non-profit organizations that assist hungry youth, displaced, battered, and the elderly in 10 economically challenged counties in southern Georgia.

Through an ongoing and successful “One USDA” outreach campaign, almost 33,000 Georgians attended more than 100 educational and demonstration outreach events during FY13. During that same period, 30% more of Georgia’s farmers’ markets became “SNAP” authorized recipients to accept food stamps. That means more locally grown and fresh foods are available to the Georgians who have a higher risk of obesity due to fewer healthy food options. Additionally, that means more USDA investments are staying in local economies while sustaining local jobs.

