

Agriculture in Bartow County, Georgia

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Think about the food that was on your plate this morning or this afternoon. That food is a part of agriculture. Agriculture is an important part of our daily lives. Agriculture is the science of practicing farming. Now think back to the food on the plate. Is there a sandwich, maybe it has a nice slice of tomato? What about having nice fruit salad with blueberries? Maybe you planned to have chicken for dinner or you were going to take your kids to McDonalds for some Chicken McNuggets. All that is agriculture.

Blueberries are an important part of agriculture in Bartow County, Georgia. Rabbit-eye blueberries are native to Georgia, which means they are mainly grown here. A standard rabbit-eye blueberry bush can grow up to six feet. The best pH level for the soil to grow blueberries is 4.0 to 5.3. The pH level is the amount of the hydrogen ion in the soil. Success depends on if the soil has the right condition to grow blueberries. During summer it is very important to water the blueberries two times a week. (Grow Your Own Organic Small Fruits, 1977) Blueberries are a contributing part of agriculture in Georgia.

Tomatoes are in many foods we eat every day and are the most widely grown vegetable in the United States. Tomatoes mostly grow in sandy soils with a pH level of 6.2 to 6.8. As stated before the pH level is the amount of hydrogen ion in the soil. Tomatoes are a part of the Nightshade family. For many years it was considered poisonous like the other food in the Nightshade family. The level of toxins in tomatoes exist in large amounts but are converted to a nontoxic form when it's a fruit (Commercial Tomato Production Handbook, 2010). Even though this is how tomatoes grow, people still produce a significant amount of fresh market tomatoes. In Georgia, tomatoes are grown and used in food that we eat daily.

Chicken (poultry) is yet another part of agriculture. Poultry is the largest segment of Georgia agriculture. Georgia now has 102 counties producing one million dollars worth of poultry on the farm level. Georgia produces a lot of chicken that reaches past many countries. In fact if Georgia were a country it would be the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in broiler production. Over 7 million people enjoy a delicious chicken meal every day (University Of Georgia, 2015). This may be because many fast food restaurants serve chicken and which is easy to buy when you are low on money. Poultry is one of the most important parts of Georgia agriculture.

Now you can see that blueberries, tomatoes, and even chicken are apart of agriculture. You can not just sit in`side all day and not interact with agriculture. So the next time you eat food, think about agriculture because a majority of the food is apart of agriculture. Agriculture is an important part of the daily lives in Bartow County, Georgia.

References

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