



Georgia's  
**State Water Plan**

**Non-Permitted Agricultural Water Demand**

[www.georgiawaterplanning.org](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org)

# Background

- Issue: Some livestock, dairy, poultry, and nursery agricultural water-uses are not captured in the current Agricultural Water Demand Forecast (AWDF)
- Members of these sub-threshold water-use sectors (<100,000 GPD) feel they are not represented in Georgia's water planning efforts and believe their exclusion diminishes their economic importance to Georgia
- Solution: Investigate options for including these smaller water uses in regional planning council efforts

# Challenges

- EPD does not permit (regulate) majority of sub-threshold agricultural water-uses (< 100,000 GPD)
- Sub-threshold users seek inclusion in Georgia's water planning efforts without becoming regulated
- Some Councils have formed sub-committees to investigate sub-threshold agricultural water-use
- Methodology and results of research may be inconsistent if sub-committees are not provided with a structure

# Current Efforts

- Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) has facilitated representation of sub-threshold agricultural water users on water planning councils
- Two meetings held to discuss issues relevant to these water users: September 30 and October 16
- EPD partners and agricultural experts include:
  - Albany State University
  - Georgia Agribusiness Council
  - Georgia Cattlemen
  - Georgia Department of Agriculture
  - Georgia Farm Bureau
  - Georgia Green Industry Association
  - Georgia Milk Producers
  - Georgia Poultry Federation
  - Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
  - University of Georgia
  - Water Council / Subcommittee Member(s)

# Status and Goals

- Effort established a state-sponsored effort that will eliminate data collection inconsistencies among subcommittees of WPRs, but includes them in the effort
- Mike Giles, President of the Georgia Poultry Federation, will be sharing information on water-use in the poultry industry (outside of processing)
- GFB arranged to incorporate leaders of dairy sector, Cattleman's Association, GA Milk Producers Association, and Sherry Loudermilk and Chris Butts from Georgia Green Industry Association, regarding nursery information
- Data shared by these representatives will be presented to councils by EPD and other partners

# Status and Goals

- Data collections will be a “snap-shot” of current data in the agricultural water-use sectors, as opposed to projections of growth
- Data will be presented to Councils at Council Meeting 5
- Councils will decide whether sub-threshold agricultural water-use will be included in their plan