

**AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCE  
ECONOMICS PROGRAM**

# ***Sweet Corn Production and Price Trends***

**Tara Wade, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
Southwest FL Research and Education Center  
Immokalee, FL

**Sweet Corn Management  
Workshop**  
Belle Glade, FL  
December 7, 2023

# Introduction

**From 2014 to 2023, sweet corn was one of the top three crops in terms of production in the U.S.**

- The second most popular vegetable in America
- Grown in all fifty states
- Approximately 230,000 acres
- Top fresh market sweet corn producing states: Florida, California, Georgia, and New York
- Top processed sweet corn producing states: Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin
- In 2022, sweet corn value totaled \$809 million,
  - 22% more than in 2021 (USDA-NASS, 2023).



# Introduction

We are focused on fresh market sweet corn.

We only discuss California, Florida, Georgia, and New York:

**Acres Harvested**

**Price Received**

**Value of Production**

Data are from USDA-NASS

- Excludes organic production
- Excludes imports



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Harvested Acres

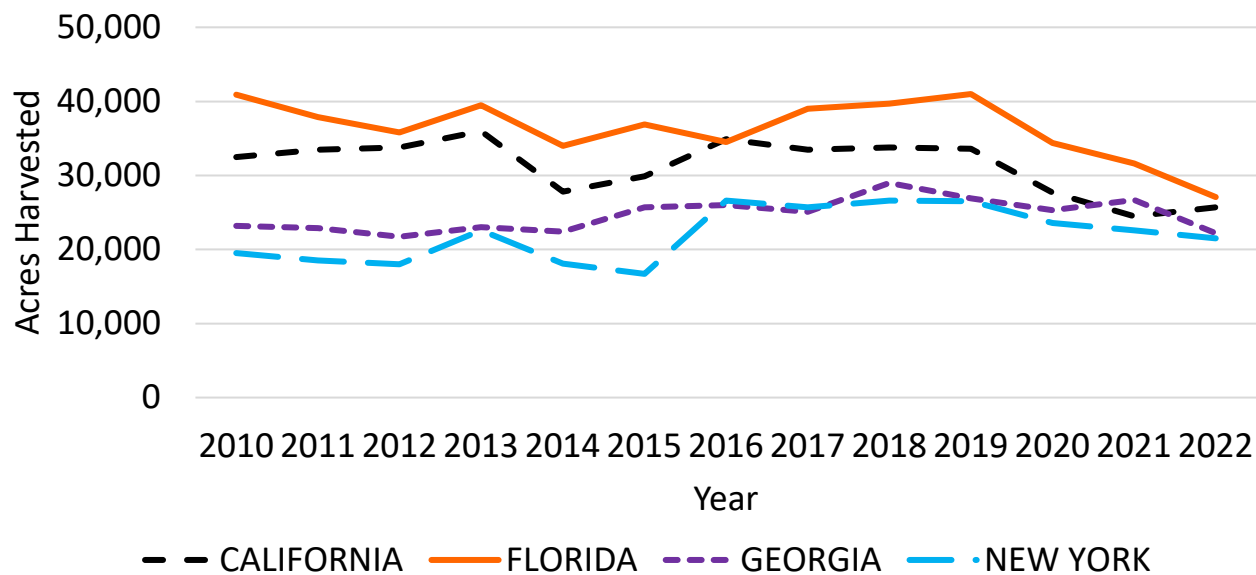
## Florida leads in sweet corn harvested acres.

🌽 Between 2017 to 2022, Florida growers harvested an average of 35,467 acres annually.

- 19% more than California
- 37% more than Georgia
- 45% more than New York

🌽 Between 2020 to 2022, Florida harvested acres declined to average 31,033 acres.

- Response to a decline in consumer demand.
- Increased supply of imports from other countries, like Mexico.

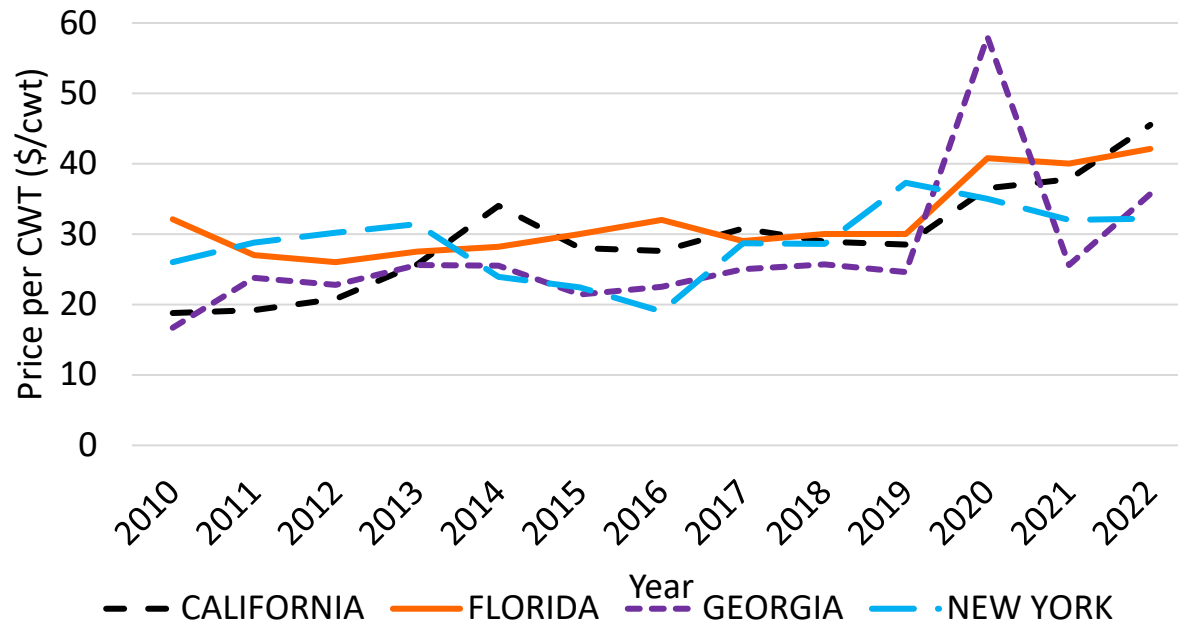


# Price Trends

COVID-19 related shutdowns affected 2020 prices.

- 🇺🇸 Florida 2020 prices are underestimated:
  - More people started eating at home.
  - Spot prices were \$40-\$50 per crate. So, value of production was much higher than average.

- 🇬🇪 In 2020, Georgia prices peaked at \$58 per cwt:
  - COVID-19 had a significant impact on the Georgia price in that year.
  - Georgia growers limited their planted acres after observing a decline in demand in Florida at the beginning of April 2020 because of shutdowns.



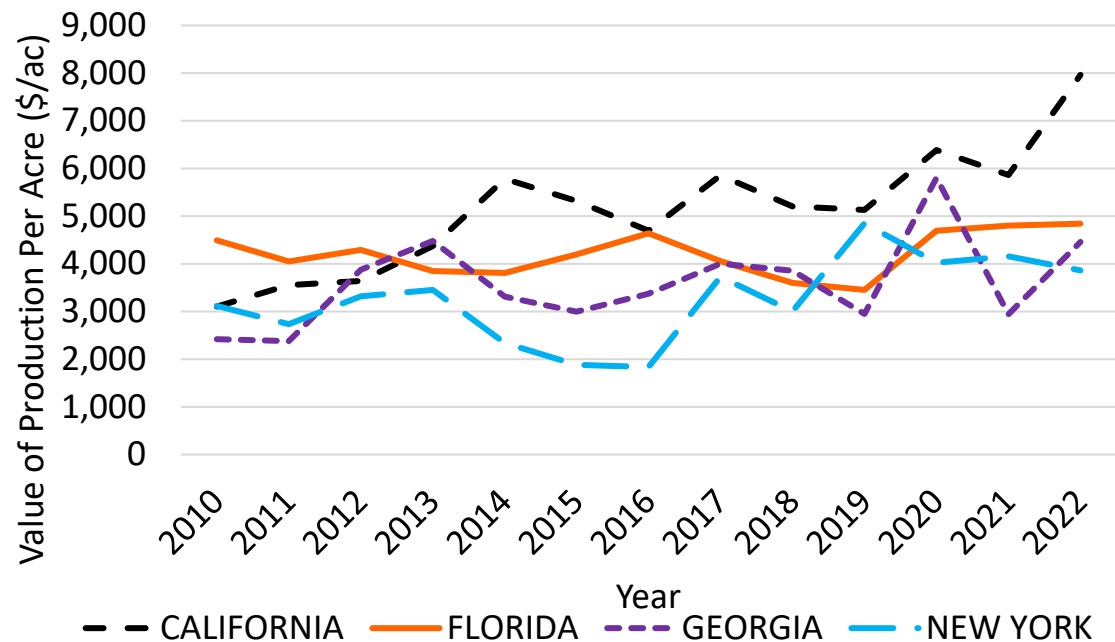
# Value of Production Per Acre

California leads the nation in terms of value of production per acre.

- Over the 13-year period earned on average \$5,142 annually.

Georgia's \$58 per cwt in 2020 increased the state's value per acre value in 2020 to \$5,800.

- 96% increase from 2019.



# 13-Year Averages

On average, from 2010-2022, Florida growers have:

- ✓ The highest prices: \$32/cwt
- ✓ The most harvested acre: over 36,000 acres
- ✓ The third highest yield per acre: 134 cwt/ac
- ✓ The second highest value of production per acre: \$4,213/ac

Variable	FL	CA	GA	NY
Price (\$/cwt)	32	29	27	29
Yield (cwt/ac)	134	175	137	111
Value (\$/ac)	4,213	5,142	3,604	3,255
Harvested Acres	36,331	31,323	24,623	22,038

# Comments

- From 1970-2021, overall consumption of sweet corn by Americans decreased by 43% (Mitchell and Knuteson, 2023).
- Florida is one of the top producers of fresh-market sweet corn.
  - 35,000 to 40,000 acres annually.
  - \$150 million to the country's sweet corn industry.
- Seasonality matters, though not discussed today.
  - From 2000-2020, Mexico's imports of sweet corn to the U.S. during Florida's marketing window increased by 76% (FDACS, 2021).
  - Harvest can overlap with Georgia increasing supply and reducing prices.
- This is one in a series of EDIS documents examining trends in acres, prices, and production value for Florida's high valued crops.



# Questions

**Tara Wade**

[tara.wade@ufl.edu](mailto:tara.wade@ufl.edu)

## **Coauthors:**

Kelvin Amon; UF-IFAS

Anna Mészáros; UF-IFAS

Tori Rumenik; FFVA