

Strategic Economic Development Plan Draft 1

11/02/15

Vision Statement: To effectively incorporate the abilities of our Economic Development Agencies, natural resources, educational opportunities, existing industrial base, and the community spirit of Fitzgerald/Ben Hill County to produce a healthier economy and greater quality of life for the residents of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County.

Section 1: Fitzgerald/ Ben Hill County Economic Development Historical Narrative

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County, by virtue of our unique founding as a Union veteran's colony in the deep South have always had an innate sense of citizen investment in the economic well-being of the community. The 2700 families that moved here from throughout all existing states were investors in the Colony Company, which secured 100,000 acres for the new city. The original settlers realized the **value of education, infrastructure, and jobs** as the building blocks of a successful community. To this day, the principle of **citizens actively investing in the community** remains a hallmark of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill. Lacking unique natural resources and a four-lane highway, Fitzgerald must find in its people the creativity and leadership to thrive while so many rural communities are floundering.

Section 2: Community Economic Development Goals

1. To increase economic opportunity and upward mobility for the citizens of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County;
2. To continue to develop and enhance our existing assets, resources, and strengths to create economic opportunity and a healthier economy;
3. To integrate disparate local economic development organizations into a common mission and capitalize upon their existing strengths, expertise, and individuality;
4. To foster a quality of life for all citizens conducive to attracting and increasing economic opportunity;
5. To leverage our efforts community-wide by coordinating and collaborating across agency lines;
6. To foster continuous improvement in the educational preparation of our workforce through creative and cooperative efforts;
7. To commit sufficient local resources to ensure the physical infrastructure exists to foster job growth;

8. To create and maintain open communications between existing business, local government, and education to enable swift response to changes in the economic climate;
9. To position our community for notice by outside economic development organizations through professional marketing, deal handling, and follow-thru;
10. To continuously train and educate our agencies and local government officials in best practices and creativity in pursuit of economic opportunity.

Section 3: Community Economic Development Issues and Opportunities

A. Education and Workforce Development

Issues

- a. Only 77% of population holds high School Diploma
- b. Graduation rate exceeds region and state rates at 74.2%.
- c. Ben Hill County CCRPI is 74.6 which exceeds region and state rates; high school CCRPI is 59.4%
- d. Employability soft skills lacking in workforce (attendance, attitude, timeliness, dress)
- e. Programmable logic control maintenance skills lacking
- f. Communication of needs from job creators, economic development authority, and educators as well as communication of training provided by educators

Opportunities

- a) Strengthen communication between education and job creators through educator/job creator luncheons, advisory councils, annual education summit, and other Economic Development professional facilitation
- b) Recognize societal issues impacting workforce and partner with programs seeking to address them, i.e. Communities In Schools, Monitor Enrichment, Head Start, Youth Build, volunteer programs, etc.
- c) Develop a strategy to open communications with drop outs in the 21-36 year age range and incentivize them to return for a GED
- d) Emphasize community literacy with the goal of becoming a Certified Literate Community
- e) Work with employers to incentivize educational achievement both at hiring and thereafter
- f) Develop strategies to get non-completers and unemployed citizens to school to receive training for the workforce of this community

- g) Help by Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) in promoting existing training, mentoring, job shadow, and other such opportunities.

B. Quality of Life

Issues

- a. Stability of local healthcare
- b. Sense of public safety and security
- c. Arts and entertainment opportunities
- d. Available youth activities
- e. Retail opportunities
- f. Community cleanliness and beautification
- g. Available senior activities
- h. Choices in lodging and dining

Opportunities

- a) Partner with local healthcare to promote local as “First Choice.”
- b) Partner with local law enforcement to promote citizen education, awareness, and participation in safety oriented programs
- c) Partner with the Arts Council, Tourism Bureau, DLS, and others to develop a one stop activity guide/web site for locals and prospects to learn what there is to do
- d) Develop a citizens committee to assess the available activities for adolescents and propose ways to promote what exists and fill in the gaps
- e) Seek ways to build consumer confidence by removing symbols of derelict commercial property (buildings, signs, etc)
- f) Assess retail, dining, and lodging gaps in the local economy and work with state EDOs to develop contacts to approach them
- g) Work with the Chamber, Colony Business Association and others to promote support of local retail
- h) Critically review local ordinances that may inhibit desired retail
- i) Work with the Chamber, etc to expand community clean- up efforts and educate the community on the importance of first impressions
- j) Develop a senior citizens committee to assess the available activities for seniors and propose ways to promote what exists and fill in the gaps

- k) Examine our job creation efforts to insure we are focused on “living wage” jobs that do not perpetuate the cycle of persistent poverty
- l) Create a comprehensive resource directory available to locals and prospects to educate them as to what exists
- m) Refine and implement program to combine operation of Grand Theatre, Carnegie building, and Federal Building into a single campus

C. Economic Development Focus

Issues

- a. Coordination between all existing EDOs
- b. Lack of input from industrial stakeholders
- c. Disparity in funding of EDOs relative to roles they can fulfill
- d. Lack of focus in targeting growth
- e. Lack of infrastructure plan to support economic growth
- f. Lack of transportation plan to support economic growth
- g. Utility coordination with existing customers
- h. Coordinated small business and entrepreneurial support
- i. Lack of a strategic tourism plan
- j. Lack of a retiree marketing strategy
- k. Need for local industry support facilities (food grade warehouse)
- l. Lack of plan to accommodate, compliment, and capitalize on Port of Savannah expansion

Opportunities

- a) Appoint the Fitzgerald & Ben Hill Development Authority (FBHDA) Director as Economic Development Coordinator for Ben Hill County tasked with fostering communication, collaboration, and leveraging of resources among all local EDOs
- b) Develop an Industrial Advisory spokesman or committee of industrial stakeholders to consult with local EDOs during discussions affecting their community
- c) Identify potential and crucial roles of each EDO and apportion funding relative to the needs of a coordinated economic development strategy
- d) Identify infrastructure needs for economic development that can only be performed by local government and insure funds are allocated to these needs as a priority

- e) Develop a strategy to focus on expansion of local industry, developing agricultural and timber value added products, expanding and supporting existing industry clusters, & tourism
- f) Focus our efforts on industries of up to 50 jobs at start up and seek to grow them
- g) Develop an infrastructure and amenity plan to make available sites more marketable
- h) Seek marketing rights to available buildings
- i) Create an economic development transportation plan as a subset of the community mobility plan
- j) Work with Fitzgerald Utilities to create a response team to address industry and job creator issues as well as a sustainability plan for our local utility in the face of the growing options for private power generation
- k) Support the tourism bureau in developing a strategic tourism marketing plan
- l) Determine who best to lead the formation of a retiree marketing strategy and support them in it
- m) Assess the needs and support potential for support facilities and if it exists aggressively pitch it to the greater development community and local financiers
- n) Determine if our community can capitalize (and not suffer) from the Port of Savannah expansion and move aggressively on the conclusions

Section 4: Community Economic Development Policies

1. The Fitzgerald & Ben Hill Development Authority will be jointly funded by the City of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County
2. The FBHDA will establish a three (3) person industrial advisory council. The council will have no voting rights but will meet with the Authority as needed to provide expertise about industrial development. Members of the council will be elected from local entrepreneurs, by nomination and majority vote of the Authority's Board of Directors
3. The FBHDA will have a director that is coordinator of all economic development activities in Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County which will include those of:
 - a. Fitzgerald & Ben Hill Development Authority
 - b. Ben Hill County Development Authority
 - c. Ben Hill & Irwin Joint Development Authority
 - d. Tourism Department

- e. Fitzgerald – Ben Hill Arts Council
 - f. Fitzgerald Ben Hill Chamber of Commerce
 - g. Other activities conducted by the City of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County
4. The director of the FBHDA will coordinate with each of these arms of economic development through the appropriate agency head for each agency
 5. Each arm of economic development will maintain their own autonomy and boards. However, the director will be aware and understand all of their activities and projects. The director will coordinate these activities through the most appropriate body or bodies.
 6. The Economic Development (EDD) Director of FBHDA will be aware of various funding sources of each agency and work to leverage these funds
 7. ED Director will work with private sector investment vehicles to leverage their capacity with public monies
 8. ED Director will coordinate Economic Development SPLOST efforts to insure funding is available
 9. Business Retention and Expansion
 - a. Work with existing business and industry to assist in expansions
 - b. Work in conjunction with existing business and industry to develop a recruitment target list of supporting vendors to help competitive edge of existing business and industry
 - c. Insure that existing business and industry are treated as well or better than prospects (industry appreciation and acknowledgment)
 10. Small Business and Entrepreneurial Development plan to be developed that will serve as a road map for small business expansions and start-ups. As part of the plan, a network of advisors will be maintained to assist in decision making
 11. EDD of FBHDA will coordinate with business, industry, school system, and community volunteers to establish a workforce development programs ranging from elementary school age to adulthood.

**Section 5: Community Economic
Development 5-Year Work Program**

Fitzgerald & Ben Hill County 5-Year Economic Development Work Program

PROJECTS	EST. COST	RESP. PARTY	FUND SOURCE	GOAL	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
SUB-PLAN DEVELOPMENT									
Workforce Development	Staff time	FBHDA BHCS Wiregrass	Individual entity funds	2,6	*	*			
Business Retention & Expansion (Target)	Staff time			2,8	*	*			
Small Business & Entrepreneurial	Staff time			1,2	*	*	*		
Mobility	\$40,000	County, City,	General fund	7	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate Development & Re-use	Staff time			2,7	*				
Marketing & Attraction					*	*			
Tourism Master	Staff time	Convention & Visitors Bureau	General fund	2,3	*	*	*	*	*
Downtown Master	Staff time	City, DDA	General fund	2,3	*	*	*	*	*
Tiered Incentive Guidelines	Staff time			8,9,10	*	*			
MTP Reassessment	\$20,000	JDA, GA Tech	JDA Members	2,9	*	*			
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT									

PROJECTS	EST. COST	RESP. PARTY	FUND SOURCE	GOAL	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Peachtree Industrial Corridor	\$8 million	County, City	General funds, grants, SPLOST (pending SPLOST approval), loans, contributions	2,7	*	*	*	*	*
Airport Improvements 5-year CIP for 2016-2020	\$4.66 million	Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Airport Commission	Federal, State, and Local	2,7	*	*	*	*	*
Anderson Church Industrial Sites		FBHDA		2,7			*	*	*
BUILDINGS									
Food Grade Warehouse	\$3-5,000,000	FBHDA, Private	Private	2,7,8	*	*			
ORGANIZATIONAL									
Create Economic Development Staff Committee	Staff time	All EDOs		3,10	*				
Create Industrial Advisory Group	Staff time	FBHDA		8,10	*				
Benchmark Reporting Tool	Staff time	FBHDA		10	*				
EDUCATIONAL									
Combine Headstart and Pre-K	\$6 million	BHCSS	Elost	Increase early learning initiatives			*		
Extended to a 3-year Headstart	Staff	BHCSS	Early learning Grant funding	Further increase early learning opportunities				*	

PROJECTS	EST. COST	RESP. PARTY	FUND SOURCE	GOAL	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Seek transportation grant to increase MOWR students	Staff time	BHCSS, Wiregrass	Grant	Transport student s from FHS to Wiregrass		*	*	*	*
Work force development initiatives to continue (as listed as Appendix G)	Staff time	BHCSS, Wiregrass	Individual entity funding		*	*	*	*	*

Appendix A: MAPS

1. Industrial Parks and Existing Industries
2. Historic Districts
3. Tourism Resources (*to be determined under tourism plan*)
4. Agricultural and Timber Lands

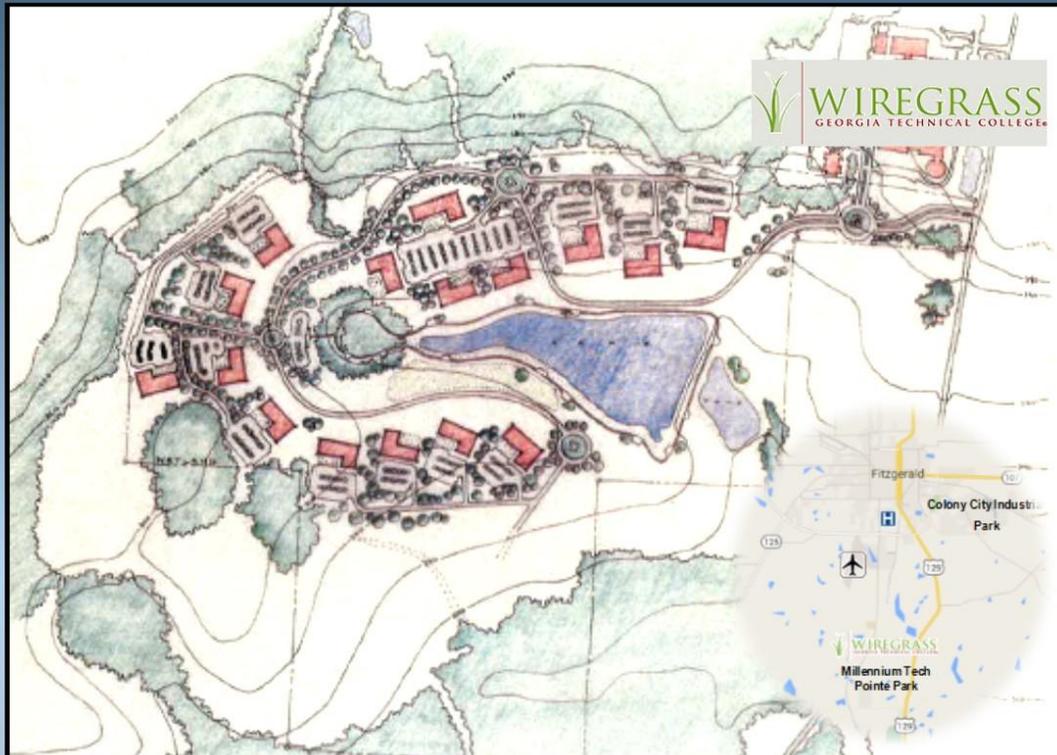
Colony City Industrial Park



Home to most of Fitzgerald's leading industries, Colony City Industrial Park encompasses approximately 1425 acres and is the nucleus for Fitzgerald's industry growth and expansion. The park contains a balanced mixture of users that support the forest, peanut, metal fabrication, cargo trailer, and transportation industry. Complete with all needed infrastructure, direct access to several state highways, and rail service from CSX, the park offers users tracts ranging from 1 to 165 acres, or simply put, we can cater to the users' goals and priorities.



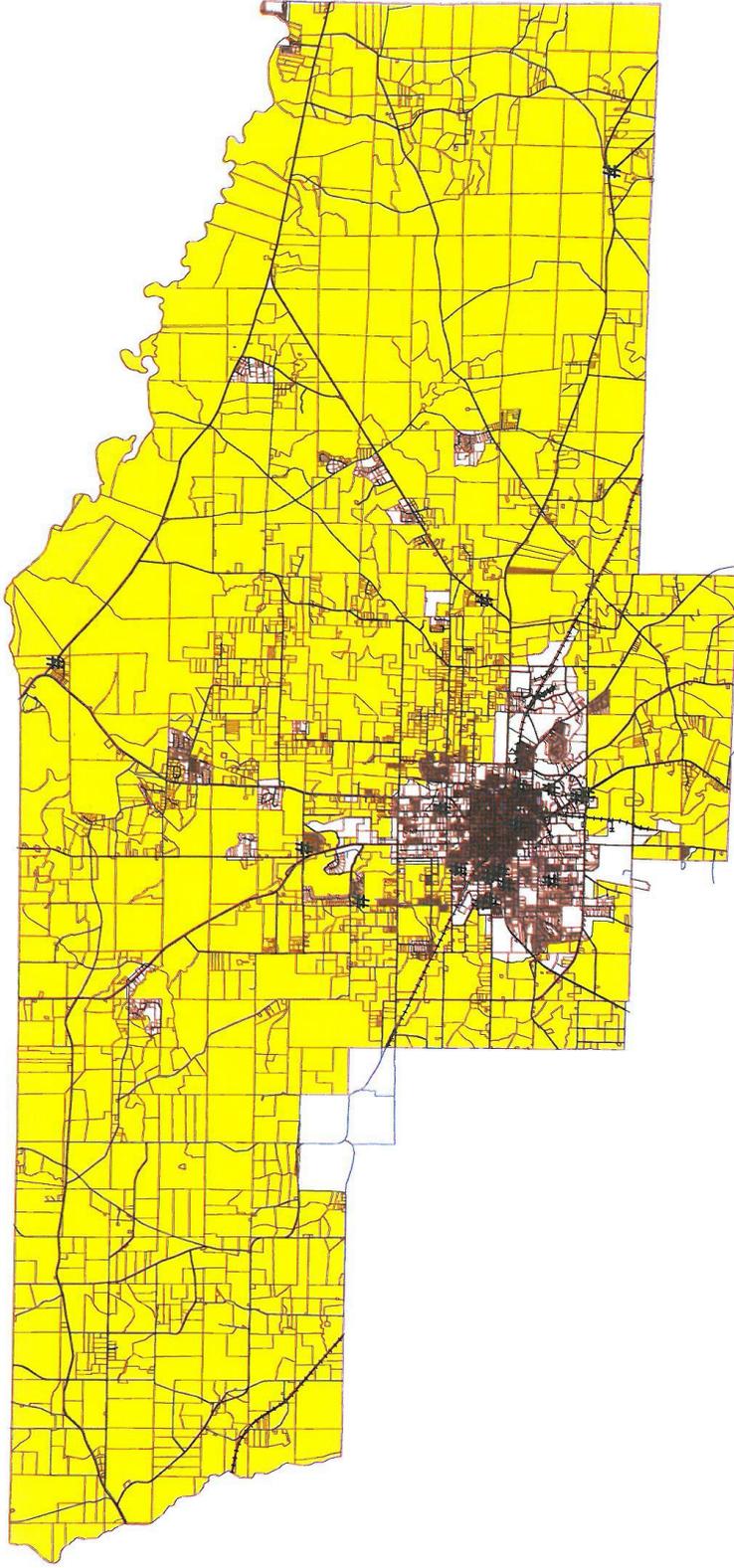
Millennium Technology Pointe



- 214 acre technology park adjoining Wiregrass Technical College
- Conceptual design allows for 17 sites designed specifically for office/light industrial use, yet offers flexibility to meet the users goals and priorities
- Utilities in place (fiber, electric, water, & waste management), wetlands delineated
- Direct access to multiple state routes
- Location provides convenient travel for regional workforce



General Farming shown in Yellow



Appendix B Labor Force Demographics Baseline 2015

Labor Force and Wage Information	Totals
Ben Hill County Labor Force	6,039
Nine County Labor Draw Area	71,547
Unemployment Sept 2015	8.6%
Community Data	
Ben Hill County Population	17,780
Ben Hill County 2014 Graduation Rate	83.5%
Median Annual Household Income	\$28,547
Average Weekly Manufacturing Wage for Ben Hill County	\$729.00
Wood Product Avg Weekly Wage	\$798.00
Fabricated Metal Product Average Weekly Wage	\$811.00

(Source: Georgia Department of Labor)

Appendix C Site Inventory and Infrastructure Baseline 2015

Colony City Industrial Park

Available Parcels



Masee Tract

- 148 ac portion of Colony City Industrial Park (divisible)
- Utilities in place (12" water line, 10" sewer line, electric, natural gas)
- 5000' Hwy 107 frontage



Ross Tract

- 163 ac interior portion of Colony City Industrial Park (divisible)
- Utilities in place (12" water line, 10" sewer line, electric, natural gas)
- 5000' Hwy 107 frontage



Oriole Tract

- 23 ac fronting County Rd. 117 (1,650 ft long x 500' deep)
- Utilities in place (12" water line, 10" sewer line, electric, natural gas)
- Very convenient to By-Pass and Hwy 129



Prescott Tract

- 48 ac adjacent to Polar Beverages with interior access
- Utilities in place (12" water line, 10" sewer line, electric, natural gas)
-



Delphi Tract - 160 acres +/-



144 Benjamin Hill Dr.



Building Specifications

- 49,500 SF manufacturing facility
- 6,000 SF shop
- 4,000 SF office
- 10.5 acres with security fencing
- 16' eave height
- Located on Fitzgerald By-pass just off Hwy 129



139 Benjamin Hill Dr.



Building Specifications

- 83,100 SF manufacturing/distribution
- 16.6 acres
- 18 to 23' ceiling height
- 8 dock high doors
- Compressed air, fire protection
- Simple access to Hwy 129 and Fitzgerald By-pass



130 Colony Drive



Building Specifications

- 40,000 SF + manufacturing (multiple bldgs)
- 47.81 acres
- 20' ceiling height
- Rail spur
- Weigh station
- Security fenced with updated security system
- Simple access to Hwy 129 and Fitzgerald By-pass



218 Seaboard Rd.



Building Specifications

- 40,300 SF light manufacturing
- 7.95 acres
- 16' ceiling height
- 2 dock high doors; drive in door
- Rail siding
- Heavy power
- Located in Colony City Industrial Park



116 Stuart Way



Building Specifications

- 16,500 SF light manufacturing (to be fully renovated in 2015)
- 4.75 acres
- 1 dock high door
- Simple access to Hwy 129 and Fitzgerald By-pass



Appendix D Industrial Jobs by Employer Baseline 2015

**Manufacturing, Construction & Related Industries/Employers
Provided by the - Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Co. Chamber of Commerce
(229) 423-9357 800-225-7899 www.fitzgeraldchamber.org**

Agri-Products, Inc.
Hardy Maloch
182 Peachtree RD.
423-2367 FAX: 423-2371
Premium pine equine animal
bedding shavings
Employees: 30
www.suncoastbedding.com

Alvin Wynn Electric Co.
David/Ed Wynn
P.O. Box 1002
138 Colony Drive
423-5495 FAX: 423-4268
Electric Motor & Engines
Employees: 12

American Blanching
Jack Warden
P.O. Box 1028
155 Rip Wiley RD.
423-4098 FAX: 423-3842
Peanut Butter Paste
Employees: 450
www.americanblanching.com

Astro Products
Duane Mobley
P.O. Box 964
340 Benjamin H. Hill DR.
423-5409 FAX: 423-6058
Cleaning Chemicals/Equipment
Employees: 7
www.astroproductsinc.com

Arising Industries Johnnie Batten
200 Ed Ward RD.
409-0872
Cargo Trailers
Employees: 70
www.arisingindustries.com

Ben Hill Co. School System
Nancy Whidden
509 W. Palm ST
409-5500 FAX: 409-5513
Education
Employees: 450
www.ben-hill.k12.ga.us

The Cabinet Warehouse
John William Mooney
229 Benjamin Hill Drive 426-7514 FAX:
229-426-7642
Employees: 9
cabinets, countertops, hardware, and
led lighting

Choice Wood, Inc.
Allen Conger, Jr.
209 Glenn Bass RD.
424-0091
Mixed Hardwood Slithers & Kick Outs
Employees: 30

Cleghorn & Sons Home Builders
Matt Cleghorn
708 S. Sherman ST.
423-9573 FAX: 424-0993
Employees: 5

Colonial Iron Works
Tad Schirack
2363 Ironwood RD.
Abbeville, GA 31001
Welding, real estate signs, grills
Employees: 2

Covered Wagon Trailers
142 Benjamin Hill Drive
423-4044 FAX: 423-4052
Cargo Trailers
Employees: 75
www.coveredwagontrailers.com

Custom Profiles Incorporated
Henry Sheffield-Founder
C. Scott Sheffield - President
P.O. Box 279
256 Benjamin H. Hill DR.
423-2929 FAX: 423-3724
Plastic Extrusions
Employees: 28
www.customprofiles.com

CSX Transportation
196 Shop RD.
423-2054
Industrial transportation
Employees: 232

Dalan Trucking Inc.
David & Lanora Conger
200 Ocilla Hwy.
423-4546 FAX: 424-9097
Employees: 19

Dorminy Medical Center
Stacy Mims
200 Perry House RD.
424-7100 FAX: 424-7281
Health Care
Employees: 289

Eaton Corporation
Aeroquip Industrial Plastic
Tommy Ellington-Plant Manager
381 Benjamin H. Hill DR.
423-9376 FAX: 423-7245
Plastic Extrusions
Employees: 17
Parent Company: Cleveland,
Ohio
www.eaton.com

E & F Electric, Inc
Allen Etheridge – Owner
115 Etheridge RD
423-9373
Employees: 2
Electric/Wiring

Elixir Industries
Meredith Carver-Div. Mgr.
243 Washington Ave.
423-4311 FAX: 423-6722
Custom Fabrication
Employees: 45
Parent Company: Gardena,
California
www.elixirind.com

EnviroLog
Ross McRoy-President
200 Ocilla Hwy
P.O. Box 190
423-7233 FAX: 423-7232
866-34-ENVIRO
Firelog Products
Employees: 35
www.enviro-log.net

Fitzgerald Utilities
Jeff Lewis
P.O. Box 667
426-5400
Utilities
Employees: 85
www.fitzutilities.com

Gilman Building Products
Jerone Nails
173 Peachtree RD.
P.O. Box 310
423-8761 FAX: 423-3083
Southern Yellow Pine Lumber
Pine Wood Chips
Pine Bark/Sawdust & Shavings
Employees: 145
Parent Company: Yulee, Florida

Irwin EMC
Randy Crenshaw
915 West 4th ST.
P.O. Box 125
Ocilla, GA 31774
468-7415
Utilities
Employees: 49
www.irwinemc.com

Kampco Services of Georgia
Jamie Benson
257 Rip Wiley RD.
424-0298 FAX: 423-9063
Steel Fabrications/Trailer
Component Parts/Trailer Fenders
Employees: 11
www.kampco.com

L.E. Harper Construction
Louis Harper
315 Bethlehem CH. RD
423-5840 FAX: 423-5840
Construction/Rental
Employees: 10

Lippert Components
Jason Gray
160 Oriole Rd.
423-7884 FAX: 423-8490
Frames and fabricated parts for RV's
Mobile Homes/Cargo Trailers
Employees: 45
www.lippertcomponents.com

Look Trailers
Johnny Streat
122 Glenn Bass RD.
423-0056 FAX: 423-0039
Cargo Trailers
Employees: 106
www.looktrailers.com

Mana Nutrition
Loris Jarvis
189 Seaboard RD.
423-8700
Nutrition/Food
Employees: 30
www.mananutrition.org

Modern Dispersions South, Inc
Marton Kozma
302 Ed Ward RD.
P.O. Box 787
423-9141 FAX: 423-1015
Mfg. Plastic Pigment
Employees: 200
www.moderndispersions.com

Polar Beverages Southern Bottling
Christopher Maros - GM
P.O. Box 1448
255 Jacksonville Hwy
1-800-872-5675 FAX: 424-9039
Carbonated/Still Beverages
Employees: 110
Parent Company: Worcester, Mass
www.polarbev.com

Protein Plus, LLC
Darrell Donald
129 Kings Borough RD.
P.O. Box 100
229-423-5528 FAX: 229-423-5530
Employees: 23
www.proteinplusflour.com

Rainbow Irrigation
Billy Mann-President
Terry Mann-VP & Sales
P.O. Box 70
One Rainbow DR.
423-4341 FAX: 423-4645
Irrigation Systems/Pumps/Valves-
Pipe Fittings/Aluminum Pipe
Employees: 30
www.rainbowirrigation.com

Scruggs Concrete Company
Eric Spells
131 Appomaddox RD.
423-9504 FAX: 424-0221
229-805-7333
Ready-Mix Concrete-Masonry
Employees: 1

Shapiro Metals
Denny Lewis
151 Glenn Bass RD.
426-0091 FAX: 426-0092
Metal Recycling
Employees: 16
www.shapirometals.com

Shaw Industries M1
Dwight Brown-Plant Mgr.
139 Benjamin H. Hill DR. E
409-5275 FAX: 423-2107
Textile: Yarn Manufacturing
Employees: 229
www.shawfloors.com

Southern Eagle Distributing LLC
Reggie Turner
243 Ocilla Hwy.
P.O. Box 876
423-4679
Fax: 423-8699
Employees: 30
Beer and Ale Merchant Wholesalers

Southern Timber Products
Dan Alexander
115 Dewey McGlamry RD.
P.O. Box 1385
423-3195 FAX: 423-4976
Timber Cutting
Employees: 14

Southern Veneer Products
Kendall Adams
278 Frank RD.
424-0294 FAX: 424-0424
Pine Veneer/Plywood
Employees: 165

T & T Machine Shop
Tony Lanier
444 Evergreen RD.
423-9665 FAX: 424-9719
General Industrial Machinery
Textile Machinery
Specialty Machinery
Employees: 9

VLS Recovery Service
Tim Yeakley – Plant Mgr.
188 Rip Wiley RD.
P.O. Box 540
229-796-0082 FAX: 423-1016
Railcar Cleaning Service
Employees: 31
www.vlsrs.com

GBW Railcar Services
Eric Monahan
P.O. Box 598
222 Rip Wiley RD.
423-5651 FAX: 423-4591
Railcar Repair
Employees: 110
www.watcocompanies.com

Wiregrass Technical College
April McDuffie
667 Perry House RD
468-2000 FAX: 468-5550
Education
Employees: 75
www.wiregrass.edu

Windstream
Steve Pair
P.O. Box 969
152 Benjamin H. Hill Dr. Ext.
423-9321 FAX: 423-2936
Communications
Employees: 20

Walker Printing Company
David Chaney
203 East Pine Street
P.O.Box 720
423-4327 FAX: 423-1200
Printing
Employees: 8

Appendix E Tourism Inventory Baseline 2015

(see strategic tourism plan when complete)

Appendix F Economic Development Agencies

- The Development Authority of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County
- The Development Authority of Ben Hill County
- The Fitzgerald Downtown Development Authority
- The Ben Hill Irwin Joint Development Authority
- The Fitzgerald Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- The Fitzgerald Ben Hill Chamber of Commerce
- The Fitzgerald Ben Hill Arts Council

Appendix G Cooperative Workforce Educational Program Baseline 2015

Collaborative Programs between Ben Hill County Schools and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

- Move on When Ready (early college, dual-enrollment, joint enrollment, ACCEL courses, and so forth)
- Certified Manufacturing Specialist at FHS taught by Wiregrass
- Work ethics curriculum training at Wiregrass and CTAE courses at FHS
- Wiregrass hosts Get Wired! for middle and high school students to participate in hands-on activities in technical programs

Ben Hill County Schools offers the following career development opportunities:

- FHS implemented the CANES (Courteous, Accountable, Noble, Engage, Self-Motivated) program in all classes to strengthen soft skills
- BHCSS continues to implement strong career development initiatives from P-12. Ben Hill Middle School has career connections curriculum courses; FHS has career, technical, and AG education career pathways
- BHCSS offers job shadowing, field trips, guest speakers in all grades
- FHS offers work-based learning and youth apprenticeship
- BHCSS implements career awareness lessons in elementary with a career portfolio completed by 5th grade; career plans, assessments, and inventories are developed in middle school; 8th graders complete a graduation plan
- FHS has end of pathway assessments and recognized industry credentials/certifications
- All FHS students complete a career pathway
- Graduation rate exceeds region and state rates at 74.2%

- Ben Hill County CCRPI is 74.6 which exceeds region and state rates; high school CCRPI is 59.4%
- BHCSS has a strong, new initiative focusing on promoting early learning for more students prior to entering Kindergarten.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College offers:

- Associate degrees, diplomas, and/or technical certificate of credit programs including allied health, automotive, business administrative technology, business management, computer information systems, cosmetology, criminal justice, early childhood care and education, industrial systems technology, practical nursing, telecommunications, and welding
- Adult education including adult literacy and GED preparation and testing
- Continuing education and contract training courses for business and industries

Appendix H Ben Hill County Farm Gate Values

Cotton	12,333 acres	\$ 10,359,720
Broiler Chicken Integrator	24 houses/23,000 Birds	\$ 9,538,560
Peanuts	5,300 acres	\$ 6,625,000
Watermelon	358 acres	\$ 5,155,200
Timber		\$ 4,787,019
Corn	2,897 acres	\$ 3,624,147
Pecans	2,100 acres	\$ 2,856,000
Pine Straw	23,000 acres	\$ 2,300,000
Greenhouse	128,000 square feet	\$ 1,920,000
Horses Raised	750 horses	\$ 1,778,250
Beef Cows	3,100 head	\$ 1,447,313
Horses Board, Train, Breed	400 horses	\$ 1,400,000
Cucumber	36 acres	\$ 1,350,000
Broiler Chicken Grower	24 houses/23,000 Birds	\$ 1,144,627
Beef Stockers	2,400 head	\$ 1,116,000

USDA Emerging Markets

Goats	1 house/1600 Nanny Goats	\$ 240,000
Olives	None	
Miscanthus Grass	None	

Appendix I Tier 1 Indicators Baseline 2015

1. Highest Unemployment Rate;
2. Lowest Per Capita Income;
3. Highest Percentage of Residents Whose Incomes Are Below the Poverty Level.

Job Tax Credit Rankings

2015

Tier 1

1. Hancock	13. Stewart	25. Baldwin	37. Screven	49. Echols	61. Cook
2. Telfair	14. Crisp	26. Coffee	38. Mitchell	50. Seminole	62. Early
3. Atkinson	15. Emanuel	27. Washington	39. Dougherty	51. Ware	63. Marion
4. Jefferson	16. Taliaferro	28. Treutlen	40. Murray	52. Laurens	64. Clayton
5. Ben Hill	17. Sumter	29. Decatur	41. Peach	53. Colquitt	65. Turner
6. Macon	18. Jeff Davis	30. Johnson	42. Irwin	54. Wayne	66. Rabun
7. Wilcox	19. Clay	31. Glascock	43. Toombs	55. Baker	67. Elbert
8. Calhoun	20. Wilkes	32. Tattnall	44. Randolph	56. Upson	68. Spalding
9. Dooly	21. Warren	33. Terrell	45. Brantley	57. Bleckley	69. Grady
10. Burke	22. Twiggs	34. Montgomery	46. Chattooga	58. Heard	70. Hart
11. Taylor	23. Wheeler	35. Berrien	47. Dodge	59. Candler	71. Lincoln
12. Jenkins	24. Quitman	36. Bulloch	48. Clinch	60. Talbot	