



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

Athens Seed Facility
2420 S. Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605
706-552-4525

August 2019 Update
www.gsdc.com

Plains Peanut Facility
1547 US Hwy 280 W
Plains, GA 31780
229-824-7881

Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

How do others view our occupation and the overall field of agriculture? Two hundred years ago 50% of the U.S. population were living and directly working on farms and ranches. Today, less than 2% of the U.S. population works on a farm or ranch. Yet, when farming and ranching are combined with related agricultural businesses it becomes the largest industry in Georgia.

This summer GSD and GCIA employed three college-level interns (Sarah Wills, Nick Hollifield, and Ray Griffin). One requirement of the program is for the intern to submit a final report that captures their experiences and insights. I always look forward to learning how our interns assess their experience, evaluate the GSD and GCIA businesses, and view agriculture.

I have listed a few of the quotes from this year's internship reports. Ray commented, "One of the major things that I learned while interning here is that while the field of agriculture itself is very broad, there are numerous amounts of small, niche jobs and markets that I had no idea existed." Sarah said, "The exposure to these different industries and fields in agriculture has shown me the multitudes of different possibilities for jobs that are out there." Nick remarked, "It opened my eyes to the broad spectrum of ag businesses across the state and showed me how many different possible careers there are in the industry."

It is interesting that all three of these individuals had some previous exposure to agriculture through work experience or participation in agricultural organizations such as FFA. In spite of their previous exposure to agriculture, they were all amazed at the breadth and depth of the agricultural industry.

Based on these comments it appears we could do a much better in communicating the opportunities in agriculture and the abilities to find a fulfilling career in our industry. Many young, aspiring individuals are looking for the opportunity to work in an industry that grows things. We need to do a much better job of communicating the prospects and rewards of working in an industry that produces the food, feed, fiber, recreational fields, enhanced natural beauty, and the products used in the manufacture of clothing and shelter.

I hope each of you will consider taking some time out of your busy schedule and offer to assist an elementary or secondary teacher, a 4-H leader, or a FFA advisor in telling the story of agriculture. I am convinced that if we don't do it, it won't get done. Not only the next generation will benefit, but it will remind each of us of the many blessings we experience working in this great industry.

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

This year we were very fortunate to have three excellent interns whom you met in the last update. A significant part of the internship includes traveling with GSD or GCIA personnel to visit various agricultural operations in the state. The interns were able to travel to some local farms with GCIA personnel to learn how they do field inspections on row crops and turfgrasses. In the Northeast Georgia area the interns were able to visit a regional greenhouse operation and a regional fruit and vegetable distributor. The tour also included stops in Atlanta at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the State Farmers Market, and a stop in Tifton at the Georgia Department of Agriculture State Seed Laboratory (pictured right). The interns also visited with a large sod production company in middle Georgia along with a regional seed processing facility in Southwest Georgia. During a tour in southeastern Georgia the group visited a blueberry nursery and packing facility along with a stop at a large peanut shelling and processing facility. The interns along with Buddy Parker of GSD were able to participate in the UGA Plant Breeding Practicum course which included classroom instruction and field tours with breeders at Griffin, Tifton, and Athens.



Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

The deadline for trade show exhibitor contracts is quickly approaching for this coming winter's shows. We are planning on attending a number of trade shows and conferences in 2020 to promote GSD and GICRS. I'm continuing to look for new trade shows and conferences that might be beneficial to GSD and/or GICRS.

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing activity has remained steady for the past two months. We have had several amendments that have been completed for various crops. We are continuing to see a few requests for peanut and blueberry licenses. We have also completed a new turfgrass license agreement for Sea Star and a couple of term extensions for some of the international turfgrass licenses. Dr. Mergoum's program is releasing several new wheat varieties for planting this fall. UGARF and GSD will be working in preparing the announcement of licensing opportunity for these new varieties.



Processing/Production

Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Ralph Johnson, Plains; Production Managers

2019 SMALL GRAINS HARVEST & PROCESSING

Plains: We experienced extremely hot and dry weather during the final month of small grain production. All nine varieties of wheat and our single oat variety were harvested below 12% moisture with an average preliminary germination of 86%. Wheat processing in Plains was completed by early-August. Over 6,300 50 lb.-units have been conditioned and bagged of the following wheat varieties: Baldwin, SH 5550, LA 754, and four new experimental wheat lines for release this fall. One thousand bushels of Foundation oat seed was produced and is being processed and treated in Plains. We also harvested about 1,200 lbs. of Foundation Tifquik bahiagrass seed from a 4.5-acre field located on our farm.

Athens: North Georgia experienced much of the same weather conditions as Plains for small grain production. Preliminary germinations were in the mid-nineties for the Johnson and 13LE31 wheat varieties and in the eighties for the Roberts and 13LE43 wheat varieties and the Wrens Abruzzi rye variety. Yield and seed quality were good for all varieties. Our Athens facility has already conditioned and bagged over 900 50-lb. units each of the 13LE31 and 13LE43 varieties, as well as 50 50-lb. units each of the experimental lines 16LE12, 16LE18, 16E39, and 16E55. The Johnson and Roberts wheat varieties still require conditioning. We expect to be complete them by the end of August. There is an adequate supply of Foundation GA Gore wheat seed in cold storage for the 2019 planting needs.

2019 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Small Foundation increases of the Cook and AGS Woodruff conventional soybean varieties have been planted in Allendale, SC. We also have an increase of AGS 738RR in middle Georgia and a Foundation increase of SH 7418LL planted at the Southwest Research and Education Center near Plains, GA. We are also growing two experimental Liberty Link increases of an acre each for Dr. Zenglu Li at the UGA Iron Horse Farm near Greensboro, GA. Both of these experimental lines are currently flowering.

2019 TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

We have filled nine domestic Foundation turfgrass orders this year with one of them coming from the Foundation field in California. There are additional domestic orders for TifTuf, Tifway, TifEagle, and TifGrand bermudagrasses and SeaStar seashore paspalum as well as an international order for TifEagle and TifTuf that still need to be filled. All of our established Foundation turfgrass fields are looking good and are being harvested or ready for harvest. This week, we are working on installing the irrigation system for the expansion of Foundation Tifway at the UGA Iron Horse Farm.

2019 PEANUT PRODUCTION

Our Foundation peanut fields are looking good and harvest should begin in 6 to 7 weeks (estimating 3rd week of September). Planting conditions in late April through mid-May were ideal and the crop is progressing on or ahead of schedule. For the first time in several years we don't have any late planted Foundation peanut fields. This year our entire production was planted before 25 May. We have the following Foundation acreage planted: 1,200 acres of GA 06G, 100 acres of GA 16HO, 100 acres of GA 18RU, 100 acres of TIF NV HI O/L, 53 acres of GA 14N, 20 acres of GA 11J, and 5 acres of the experimental line GA 142728. (Dr. Bill Branch and Dr. Nino Brown pictured right in a Foundation Field)



Insight From an Intern

Sarah Ruth Wills

From rogueing wheat fields, to washing the mowers, to picking seed out of every nook and cranny with a pocket knife, I was able to appreciate the hard work put in by the GSD and GCIA staff to keep foundation seed and vegetative material pure. Between the physical labor and the importance of quality hard work, I have acquired irreplaceable life skills that you can only gain with experience.



Sarah along with Nick Hollifield, Ray Griffin, and farm staff member inspecting turfgrass

The exposure to these different industries and fields in agriculture has shown me the multitudes of different possibilities for jobs that are out there. I loved the exposure to the Georgia Department of Agriculture but I also loved seeing the behind the scenes of the farming and market industries. You truly gain a different type of appreciation for the farmer and the process that it takes to get food on your table.



GSD's new Almaco RI rotary combine harvesting Foundation Wheat

Upcoming Events

*2019 Georgia Peanut Farm Tour
Cordele Area, September 17-19, 2019

*Sunbelt Ag Expo
Moultrie, GA October 15-17, 2019

*Annual GSD Commissioners' Meeting
Athens, GA November 13, 2019

Georgia Seed Development is a proud member of Georgia Grown, a program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

