



## **Seed for Thought**

### **Roger Boerma, Executive Director**

The first day of November I had the honor of presenting a tribute to Dr. Joe Key, former University of Georgia Vice-President for Research, at the annual retreat of the UGA Plant Center in Callaway Gardens. Dr. Key passed away on August 29, 2024 at the age of 90. I had previously dedicated my GSD Seed for Thought in May of 2016 to the accomplishments of Dr. Key. In that article I outlined his vision and the impact that he provided by applying plant biology to the improvement of agriculture. His legacy reminded me of the impact a single individual can have on our society and well-being. He was a pioneer in science and a positive and forward-thinking individual.



*Dr. Joe Key*

I have spent my career working on plants and always felt plants were the source of the energy that feeds the world. In hindsight I may have missed something. It is really people that provide the energy that feeds the world.

I have experienced first-hand the impact of positive, forward-thinking people. I have mentioned some of them previously on the pages of Seed for Thought. Some examples would include James Lee Adams, Gale Buchanan, Jerry Cherry, Fred Davison, Earl Elsner, Bill Flatt, Wayne Hanna, Terry Hollifield, and John Woodruff.

What are the characteristics these folks share? They believe in what they are doing and are willing to go the extra distance to achieve their goals and aspirations. They do not give up after initial unsuccessful attempts. They see the good in people and surround themselves with like-minded people. They appreciate their role in the bigger picture.

My list above includes individuals that I have observed during my over 50-year career in Georgia agriculture. The good news is there is a new generation of young leaders possessing these very same characteristics. The next generation of contributors are already making their mark on agriculture and society. We need to commit ourselves to help them achieve their visions of a better agriculture.

## **A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE**

**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

### ***Licensing***

The licensing activity has remained steady over the past 2 months with a couple of new licenses and a few amendments. UGARF and GSD completed a license agreement with a company for a new wheat variety from Dr. Mergoum's program a couple of weeks ago. We continue to receive requests for international turf testing/licensing agreements. The licensing committee will be meeting in the few weeks to review the new products that have been released by UGA plant breeders that will be available for licensing in the spring.

### ***Marketing/Meetings***

The countdown is on for the trade show and meeting season to begin. I have been working to secure booth spaces and hotel accommodations for the trade shows and meetings we are planning to attend the next few months. Stay tuned for more details on the trade shows and meetings in the next update.

Erin has been working on a new brochure for peanuts along with restocking our current brochures for the up-coming year.

## **SAFETY IN THE GSDC WORKPLACE**

**Caleb Warrington, Senior Director**

GSD held a forklift training at our Foundation Peanut Seed Facility in Plains on September 17th. Josh White, the Safety and Loss Manager with Agritrust provided the training, which included 3 hours of classroom introduction followed by 2 hours of actual forklift experience.

Twelve GSD employees were in attendance comprising a group from Athens and Plains and all received certification. This training is especially important as we move into shelling season, where the use of forklifts increases dramatically. This Fall, GSD drafted a new Safety Orientation Document for new and existing employees.

Topics in the new document include: Propane/Carbon Monoxide safety; Ladder Safety; Personal Protective Equipment; Hazardous Material Storage; Safe use of Hand Tools; Fire Prevention; Forklift Safety; Fall Protection; Driver Safety; and Back safety/lifting.

Our next safety training will include Electrical Safety/Lock Out Tag Out.

## PLAINS PEANUT CENTER FACILITY UPDATE

In mid November, Dr. Boerma unveiled a new addition to the GSD Plains office building. The conference room was coined the “Ralph Johnson Conference Room” in special recognition of GSD’s former peanut plant manager, Mr. Ralph Johnson.



The exterior of the office building has been completed with new siding and a stone work base (*pictured left*). The new drying shed has also been completed (*pictured right*).



An overhaul of the interior of office building saw a new and refreshed reception and office area for the Plains Peanut Center (*pictured left*). GSD was able to add a new color sorter in the shelling plant (*pictured right*).



## Processing/Production

**Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Justin Tanner, Plains  
Production Managers**

### **FOUNDATION PEANUTS**

GSD produced Foundation seed of 11 peanut varieties on 2,268 acres in 2024. This was a 5% increase in acres from 2023. We also increased 3 experimental peanut lines. One of the 3 experimental lines, GA 192710, was released by GAES as GA 24NHO. NHO refers to nematode resistant and very high oleic. The variety is medium + maturity with a seed count ranging from 590 to 684 seeds per pound. Foundation seed of Tif CB 7 was held in our cold storage facility since there is a suitable amount of foundation seed available.

In 2024 harvest began two weeks later than normal with the first Foundation peanuts arriving at the plant on October 4. The initial Foundation peanuts delivered to GSD had lower grades and yields than usual, but both quality and yields increased as the season progressed. As of 25 November 2024 99%, of our contracted Foundation peanuts have been delivered to the plant. There are 6 acres of GA 11J remaining in the field. Over 4,900 tons of Foundation farmer stock peanuts have been graded and stored or are on the yard ready to be graded.

### **FOUNDATION TURFGRASS**

In August we completed three shipments of washed turfgrass. One Tif3D shipment went to Arizona and two TifEagle shipments went to Arizona and California. In addition, we fulfilled a small domestic order for sprigs of Tif3D. We also dug and washed Foundation TifEagle from Athens and Tifton for the reestablishment of a new Foundation TifEagle field at Pike Creek Turf in Adel at the end of October. There is still an outstanding shipment of Tifway that should be dug around the first week of December. Turfgrass orders for next year are already being requested.

### **FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS**

The Foundation small grain processing has been completed and the majority has been shipped to licensees. The remaining wheat and rye varieties will be shipped as requested by the licensees. The number of Foundation wheat varieties increased, and total acreage will be higher in 2025. This fall we plan to grow one Foundation rye variety increase, one Foundation oat variety increase, and seven Foundation wheat variety increases for licensees on a total of 305 acres. We will also be producing a total of three breeder line increases from UGA Dr. Mergoum's program as well as two increases from Dr. DeWitt's program at LSU. Except for one large wheat increase being grown in North Georgia, the remaining wheat increases will be planted at the Southwest Research and Education Center near Plains.

### **FOUNDATION SOYBEANS**

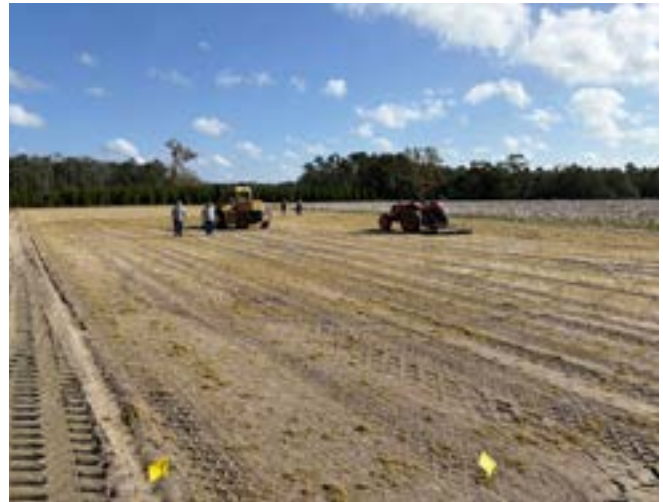
We produced two indeterminate forage soybean experimental lines at the J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center near Watkinsville. Both lines were harvested by the middle of November. We have over 40 bushels of each line to be conditioned and bagged prior to their release to potential licensee(s).



### SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



Washing TifEagle Springs for Foundation Planting in Adel, GA



Planting Foundation TifEagle field in Adel, GA



TifEagle Foundation sprigs ready for shipment in Athens, GA



Harvesting an indeterminate soybean line at the J. Phil Campbell R&E Center

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

ASTA Field Crop Seed Convention  
December 10-13, 2024 Orlando, FL

SE Regional Fruit and Vegetable Show  
January 9-10, 2025 Savannah, GA

Georgia Peanut Farm Show  
January 16, 2025 Tifton, GA

Georgia Ag Forecast  
January 24, 2025 Macon, GA

