



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

Impact of Our Actions - We are usually cautioned by our parents, grandparents, and teachers to always be aware of our personal behavior and activities. The importance of this was brought clearly into focus for me last weekend when Dr. Earl Elsner and I were invited to a dinner with several former UGA-CAES graduates. The group included Ernie Purcell, Danny Stanaland, Ed Deane, Carroll Hopkins, Jackie Brannen, and John Guthrie (see photo with Ernie, Carroll, Earl, Danny, and Jackie on front row and John, Roger, and Ed on back row) and their spouses. Dr. Elsner and I served together as professors in the UGA Department of Agronomy in the 1970's.



Last year Ernie and his colleagues decided it would be great to reconnect by gathering in Athens for a weekend together after having graduated from UGA in the mid-1970's. Ed and his wife are living in Greenville, Mississippi and John and his wife are from Dallas, Texas, while the rest of the group still resides in Georgia. During the ensuing 40 years they had mostly lost touch with one another.

During the day several UGA-CAES ambassadors gave the group a tour of the UGA campus and some of their previous hangouts. The evening dinner was at a local BBQ restaurant and the conversation centered around the memories that they had of their time at UGA and catching up on the status of their former professors, employers, and friends. They shared memories of the Agronomy Club members packaging in-shell peanuts as the club's money making project for the football crowd at Sanford Stadium, some of their most interesting and challenging professors, and their employment on campus in the soybean breeding, weed science, and forage physiology programs. Yes, in the 1970's most undergraduate students worked their way through college with part-time jobs.

One obvious thread that ran through their comments and stories was the impact their various experiences at UGA had on their lives. They universally indicated that their most important lessons were taught by professors that required critical thinking rather than rote memorization of facts. They also mentioned the value of the mentoring activities of CAES faculty and staff. This was not only advice on course work, but on their future career possibilities. They valued the farm backgrounds, practical understanding, and availability of the CAES faculty. This is interesting given that only two of the group ended up farming while the others had careers in UGA extension or the seed and agricultural chemical industries.

It was both humbling and an honor to have the opportunity to listen to how Dr. Elsner and I along with other UGA-CAES faculty and staff members had a positive influence on their lives and careers. I hope my experiences last weekend helps each of us to keep the simple thought in mind that our conversations and actions have a lasting influence on the various people we interact with each and every day. This is a valuable lesson that I intend to be more aware of during my future personal and business dealings.

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

SIGN
HERE

The licensing activity has begun to pick up some with potential licensees starting to think about which new peanut varieties they would like to add to their seed programs. We are expecting to have several requests for license agreements for the two new peanut varieties Georgia-16HO and TifNV-High O/L. We currently have several license agreements for other crops being processed at this time. UGARF and GSD just sent out request for bids for three new soybean varieties released from Dr. Li's program. Two of the new varieties are Liberty Link and the other one is a RR2Y variety. Hopefully we will be drafting agreements for all three of these in the near future.

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

The trade show and meeting season started a little earlier this year as I traveled to the ASTA Corn and Soybean convention in Chicago early in December. This was the first time I had ever been to this convention. It allowed me to meet with representatives of some of our larger corporate licensees. The convention also has a large trade show that showcases the newest seed processing and conditioning equipment. In January Roger and I attended the Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference in Savannah. The conference attracted over 3,000 participants. The attendance at the Southern Seed Association meeting was also very good this year. The program had some good speakers from around the Southeast. I was able to visit with some of our out of state licensees while at this meeting. The Peanut Farm show was the next stop on the circuit. Roger, JT, and I were in attendance at this show. Based on early projected planting intentions for Georgia, it appears peanut seed sales will have another very good year. We also received several inquiries about Dr. Branch's new high-oleic peanut variety Georgia-16HO.

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger



In early January GSD hosted an educational program for a group of Agribusiness Club students from Ohio State University. Roger provided them with an overview of the operations of GSD and GICRS in the conference room. Doug and Corey provided the class with a tour of the processing plant and allowed them to actively participate in the conditioning of Foundation soybeans.

GSD will also be providing a tour and presentation to Dr. Donglin Zhang's HORT3620: Plant Propagation class in March.

Processing/Production

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

2017 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

Foundation wheat plantings in Athens for 2017 totaled a little over 170 acres consisting of seven different varieties. Also planted was 45 acres of Foundation rye. Our Plains location has planted four wheat varieties resulting in a total of 110 acres. In addition, Plains has 10 acres each of two different oat varieties. In 2017 we have experienced a warm, wet winter in Georgia and we will once again try to stay ahead of FHB (scab). Athens has completed conditioning the Foundation Tifton 9 bahiagrass seed and the purity is excellent. We are still waiting on the germination results for Tifton 9. The Foundation TifQuik bahiagrass seed has already been conditioned and purity and germination are both good.



Field of Savoy Wheat near Dublin, Georgia

2016 SOYBEAN PROCESSING

We have completed conditioning five out of the seven soybean varieties totaling a little more than 5,600 bushels that were grown in 2016. All soybean processing is expected to be completed by the first week of March. Preliminary germinations were all in the 90's.

2017 PEANUT PROCESSING

We are now well into shelling our 5th and final peanut variety, GA 06G. Shelling should be completed on 2/17 and we will start treating immediately thereafter. I was a little concerned with seed quality based on the lower incoming farmer stock grades, but so far that has not translated into any germination problems. Germination results are back on about 60% of the final inventory, and with the exception of two lots of GA 14N, everything has been in the 90% range. The following quantities of Foundation Peanut seed will be available for planting spring 2017: GA 06G - 3,500,000 lbs (est.), GA 14N- 400,000 lbs, GA13M-120,000 lbs, GA 16HO- 65,000 lbs, GA 11J 60,000 lbs, and TifNV-High O/L -30,000 lbs.



PECAN HARVEST

We have begun the process of collecting graftwood for our licensees from the Foundation trees at the UGA Horticulture farm (*pictured left and right*) and from Foundation trees in South Georgia.



FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

All of the turf plots here in Athens and at the Iron Horse Farm are doing well and lie dormant and weed free at this time. We already have orders for TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle for later on in the spring and it appears that our supply will be able to match the demand.



Georgia Seed Development on the Road

As Mr. Fleeman mentioned in our Marketing Section on Page 2, Georgia Seed Development has traveled for various trade shows near and far the past few weeks. Our booths have been present at several of the trade shows and they continue to be a wonderful visual representation of Georgia Seed Development and also Georgia Integrated Cultivar Release System.



Georgia Seed Development Booth at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, Georgia



Georgia Integrated Cultivar Release System Booth at the Georgia Peanut Farm Show in Tifton, Georgia



*Dr. Paul Raymner and Mrs. Shelley Fincher in the GICRS Booth at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida
(Not Pictured: Blake Fleeman and Terry Hollifield)*

Important Dates

- *National Peanut Buying Points Association Winter Conference, Tampa, FL, February 17-20, 2017
- *Soybean/Small Grain Expo, Perry GA, February 21, 2017
- *Georgia Seed Development Semiannual Board Meeting, Americus, GA, May 24, 2017

Georgia Seed Development
is a proud member of
Georgia Grown, a program
of the Georgia Department
of Agriculture.
<http://georgiagrown.com>

