



Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

I would like to introduce GSD's newest employee, Dr. Caleb Warrington. Caleb has assumed a new position at GSD as the Senior Director of Operations.

Caleb was born and raised on the Delmarva Peninsula. He studied Entomology and Biology at the University of Delaware, where he received his B.S. degree. Caleb obtained a M.S. degree at UGA where his research focused on the mapping and characterization of genes conferring soybean insect resistance. Caleb was one of the initial Ph.D. graduates of the UGA Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, & Genomics where his research concentrated on the identification of the soybean genomic regions associated with protein quality.

After graduate school Caleb was hired as a soybean breeder with Schillinger Genetics, a seed company focused on developing conventional soybean varieties with improved nutritional qualities. He was responsible for managing breeding stations in both Iowa and Maryland and for overseeing their genomic data. His work led to varietal releases from Missouri to as far north as Minnesota. He also managed their off-season winter nurseries in Argentina, Chile, and Puerto Rico.

Caleb next moved to Austin, Texas to become a sesame breeder with the Sesaco Corporation. He was tasked with initiating sesame breeding research and developing a large scale sesame varietal testing program throughout Texas and Oklahoma. His research group was successful in the developed several novel sesame varieties for specialty markets.

Please join me in welcoming Caleb to GSD. We believe he will bring additional energy and new ideas to our organization. In his spare time he loves to spend time outdoors with his family and is a diehard Dawgs fan.



A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

The licensing activity has accelerated as people started to think about spring planting and which specific varieties they want to market in the coming years. We expect to have several requests for license agreements for Dr. Branch's new peanut variety Georgia-20VHO. We have also completed a couple of license agreements along with several amendments for currently licensed cultivars.

Marketing/Meetings

The trade show season has returned after a year of many cancellations. I started off the season by attending the Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference in Savannah in early January. The meeting was very well attended, with an attendance of around 2,800 people. The Small Grain/Soybean Expo was scheduled for the first part of January in Perry GA, but the increase in the Omicron variant caused the Expo to be cancelled. Roger and I attended the Georgia Peanut Farm Show in Tifton. We received inquiries about the availability of Foundation peanut seed for the coming spring. We also received grower feedback on current varieties being produced. I then attended the Southern Seed Association Conference in Austin, Texas. Attendance at this conference was high and provided an opportunity to meet with several of our out-of-state licensees. I also heard a number of highly informative presentations. Next I traveled to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego where we had the Georgia's Integrated Cultivar Release System display at the trade show. GSD was part of a group exhibiting at this show including the International Genetic Assurance program, the Turfgrass Group and the TifEagle Growers Group. We were able to meet with UGA Turfgrass licensees from around the world. The attendance for this show was down due to international travel regulations. Billy Skaggs and I then returned to San Diego the next week to attend the Turfgrass Producers International Show. The show had some very interesting speakers and a field day at American Sod Farms. GSD works with American Sod Farms to maintain a Foundation field of TifTuf for the licensees in the west.

Education

GSD hosted Dr. Donglin Zhang Plant Propagation class on February 24th. I gave a presentation to the class about GSD's history and current activities. Doug and Corey provided the class with a presentation and tour of the Athens conditioning facility. During the tour the class was able to see the conditioning machinery operating, the Almaco Purity Combine, and the turfgrass plots here in Athens.

Georgia Seed Development (GSD) along with Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA) are sponsoring summer internships for rising junior or senior undergraduate students majoring in one of the plant or crop sciences, agribusiness, agricultural economics, or a related discipline. For more information, please scan the QR code to the right or email erin.montgomery@gsdc.com. The deadline for submitting an application is March 31, 2022.



Processing/Production

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

2022 SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Foundation small grain plantings for this year totaled 345 acres in Athens and Plains. Acreage increased 50% from last year and GSD is producing Foundation wheat of 15 different licensed varieties. In addition, there are two public varieties (Ga Gore wheat and Wrens Abruzzi rye) of Foundation small grains being produced. We will be increasing five new wheat lines from Dr. Mergoum's program as well as two increases for Dr. Harrison at LSU. While commodity prices have increased this year, input prices are astronomical so getting all of the nitrogen units applied may be a challenge for some growers. We will continue monitoring for insects and disease pressure including any FHB that may occur.

2021 SOYBEAN PROCESSING

GSD is processing seven soybean varieties in Athens totaling a little more than 4,700 bushels that were grown in 2021; SH 7418LL, AGS Woodruff conventional, AGS 738RR, AGS 6777C conventional, G17PR-1053HOLLR1, G17PR-1207HOLL conventional, and G15PR-340 conventional. So far, we have completed processing SH 7418LL, G17PR-1053HOLLR1, G17PR-1207HOLL, and G15PR-340 and are awaiting lab results. We have 1,100 bushels of the remaining three varieties to process and anticipate being finished with soybeans mid-march.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

All of the turf plots here in Athens and at the UGA Iron Horse Farm are doing well and lie dormant and weed free at this time. We've got to apply spring pre-emergence weed control along with an application of lime on several of the varieties. They will all be ready for spring Foundation sprig harvest and we are currently receiving domestic and international orders.

2022 PECAN HARVEST

We have collected and distributed graftwood cuttings for Dr. Conner's variety Avalon to a licensee.

FOUNDATION PEANUT

Our start date to begin shelling peanuts was delayed a couple of weeks this year due to several facility updates and equipment modifications that ran a little longer than expected. The addition of our in-shell holding bin above our cleaner along with the added screw auger in our hull building allowed us to make up for lost time. We continue to check our split percentages multiple times per day and have maintained a low split percentage throughout shelling our varieties. The germination reports we have received from the State Lab are excellent to date. We have shelled 74% of our farmer stock inventory (8,963,944 lbs.). We began shelling and treating GA-06G simultaneously on January 21st. We have treated 51% of our total shelled inventory for all varieties (5,354,267 lbs.).

SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



Blake Fleeman speaking to Dr. Zhang's Plant Propagation Class



Construction of in-shell peanut holding bin



Collection of pecan graftwood



Foundation wheat increase in Plains, GA

UPCOMING EVENTS

GCIA ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2022 ATHENS, GA

GSD SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 25, 2022 AMERICUS, GA

USA PEANUT CONGRESS
JUNE 13-16, 2022 CHARLESTON, SC

