



GEORGIA SEED
DEVELOPMENT

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

November 2020 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

A couple of weeks ago our minister's podcast sermon was focused on the concept that reality does not go away just because it is ignored. The second law of thermodynamics suggests that things that are ignored decay. After the podcast I started thinking about how this concept relates to agriculture, the seed industry, and personal relationships.

I was first reminded of the grain farmer that completed small grains harvest in early June and noticed that the combine was making an unusual sound. Instead of trying to chase down the cause for the potential problem, he put the combine under the shelter. In mid-October he brought out the combine to begin soybean harvest. After making a couple of rounds the combine stops operating. Upon examination of the problem he notices a major shaft had broken. He called the dealership and finds that it will take up to 8 days to obtain the new shaft and repair the machine. A case where he ignored reality, but he could not ignore its consequences.



My next thought was how this law of thermodynamics helped to explain the progress that has been made at GSD in the past few years. As you may recall prior to 2008 GSD's business structure limited our ability to update our facilities and equipment which had resulted in their slow but sure decline. The 2008 change in our business structure allowed GSD to invest in its equipment and facilities and has greatly increased the organization's efficiency and productivity. This has resulted in the ability to expand the quality and quantity of Foundation seed and plant materials and the generation of additional income to invest in the UGA and Georgia-based USDA plant breeding programs.

Last, I would like to comment on how the maintenance of personal relationships is critical to success. Most successful businesses are highly people-centric organizations. If a business operation does not service its personal relationships with customers, vendors, employees, and their community these relationships will deteriorate. This is the reason many successful businesses provide thank you cards, small gifts, personal phone calls, and other ways of showing a sincere caring attitude to the people with which they interact. These gestures go a long way in maintaining lasting relationships.

I believe these examples show why reality cannot be ignored. The simple take away lesson is that we must remain proactive in our personal lives and businesses operations to succeed. This is especially critical during these current challenging times in our society.

A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Education

We have not held any educational programs at GSD during the past quarter due to Covid-19.

Licensing

The licensing activity has remained steady over the past two months with some new licenses and some amendments. UGARF and GSD have just completed licensing three new wheat varieties from Dr. Mergoum's breeding program. We also continue to receive licensing requests for some of the previously released blueberry and peanut varieties.

Marketing

As we continue to deal with Covid-19 issues, some of the winter trade shows are moving ahead with plans to hold in-person meetings while others have moved to Virtual. So far I have reserved booth space at two shows and waiting to hear from the other events regarding how they plan to move forward.



Processing/Production

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

SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

The 2020 Foundation small grains conditioning is complete and we have completed shipping small grains from both the Athens and Plains warehouses. There were 23,407 fifty-pound units of wheat conditioned in Athens and 8,817 fifty-pound units conditioned in Plains. In 2021, we are planning to grow 13 Foundation wheat lines on approximately 200 acres in Athens and Plains and one variety of rye. Three varieties of wheat are newly licensed and we have five new experimental lines to increase from the wheat breeding program at UGA as well as three new experimental lines from the breeding program at LSU. The Foundation harvest of TifQuik Bahia was completed at our GSD farm near Plains, GA and will be conditioned this winter for spring sales.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

We planted five Foundation soybean increases: 25 acres of the Liberty Link variety G13LL-44 (SH 7218LL), 12 acres of the high oleic, Roundup Ready line G17PR-1053HOLLR1, 19 acres of the conventional line G14-6063, and a half acre each of the high oleic lines G15PR-340 and G17PR-1207HOLL. These increases were grown near Plains, GA at the UGA Southwest Research and Education Center. GSD also planted 18 acres each of AGS 738RR and AGS Woodruff near Allendale, SC. Foundation soybean harvest is completed in both South Carolina and Plains.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

All of our Foundation turfgrass fields have grown back in from harvesting earlier in the summer and are preparing to go dormant for the winter. There is still an outstanding TifTuf order for a licensee in China that GSD will fill in mid-November. We are in the process of establishing a 1-acre Foundation field of the experimental bermuda greens grass line 12-TG-101 at Pike Creek near Adel, GA.

PEANUT PRODUCTION

The 2020 peanut harvest started on October 2 which is 18 days later than our 2019 season. With the additional storage space from our new warehouse, we were able to contract for 8,195,000 lbs. of Foundation farmer stock peanuts this year. This was a significant increase from the 7,010,043 lbs. of farmer stock peanuts in 2019. As of November 2 2020 we have 6,599,579 lbs. of farmer stock peanuts in storage with approximately 518,000 lbs. either on the dryers or waiting to be graded. We have graded and placed in the warehouses the following varieties and volumes: 5,423,801 lbs. of GA 06G; 542,639 lbs. of Tif NV; 123,905 lbs. of GA 16HO; and 509, 234 lbs. of GA 18RU. The Breeder lines, GA 19HP, Tif Jumbo, and GA 142537 are harvested and are waiting to be graded.

The time period for peanut harvest seems to become less each year and coupled with the farmers' ability to employ multiple 6-row combines in the same field (this year the maximum was six) definitely posed a challenge for GSD. These factors resulted in GSD experiencing peanut trailer and dryer shortages. The entire GSD team pulled together and accomplished in 4 weeks what in past was spread over a 6-week period. On a couple of occasions this required a member of the Athens staff to assist the Plains staff to get the job accomplished.

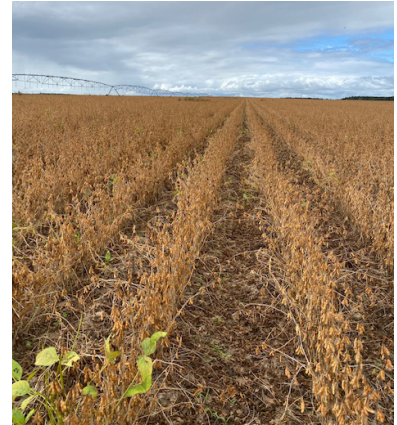
Sights around Georgia Seed



Foundation Peanut
Field in Plains



Harvesting Foundation
Soybeans in Plains



Foundation Soybeans
in Allendale, SC



Turfgrass
Sprayer in Athens



New Grain Bins
in Athens



Grain Drill in
Plains



Completed Warehouse
in Plains



Plains Warehouse
in Action



Georgia Seed Development
is a proud member of
Georgia Grown.
www.georgiagrown.com