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November 2017 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful fall season and that the harvest is progressing and the yields are satisfying. In the past couple of years my granddaughter and I have spent time discussing our views on books that we have selected to read and discuss together. Our most recent installment is a book by Admiral William McRaven entitled, "Make Your Bed: Little Things Can Change Your Life and Maybe the World".

Admiral McRaven was the commander of a highly successful commando unit in Afghanistan, retired after 36 years as a Navy Seal, and is now serving as Chancellor of the University of Texas System. In his book he provides a very simple approach to achieving success in life. He believes that starting each day by completing a simply task such as making our beds provides us with the early morning accomplishment that will encourage us to achieve the next more difficult task and so on until we arrive at the end of the day with many successfully completed tasks. He believes that life can be very difficult at times, but being able to take pride in knowing you have already achieve an important task early each day helps us address these difficult challenges. His view is that we all face struggles during our lives, but they can be overcome by working to change ourselves and at the same time the world around us.

His book got me to thinking about how we can apply his approach and wisdom to our daily lives. How many times do we miss the small opportunities to make our and other people's lives better - To inform a colleague or employee of their outstanding performance on a project? To compliment our spouse on the great meal or the wonderful social gathering they put together? To acknowledge our children for how they handled a difficult situation with a friend? Capitalizing on these opportunities are some of the small things that we can do that will return dividends to each of us.

Admiral McRaven believes in the importance of team work and that teams are necessary to avoid the let downs that occur when one of our team mates may be under the weather. Effective team members pick up the slack and carry the additional water to achieve success. This approach to "paying it forward" allows the unit or our businesses to become more successful than otherwise was possible. I even read recently in the Wall Street Journal that some large corporations are hiring complete teams rather than individual employees from a competitor since they already know they can effective work together.



It is my view we would all be well served to consider Admiral McRaven's ideas of utilizing small task completion and effective teamwork in our approach to achieve greater success. Is it possible that simply making our beds each morning would help us to change the world?

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger



Licensing activity has remained steady over the past two months with some new license agreements and some amendments. The Liberty Link soybean agreements have been sent out to the licensees for their signatures. UGARF and GSD have completed draft copies of the three new wheat licenses and they have been sent to the licensees for them to review before we start the signing process. We continue to receive request for international turf testing/ license agreements along with inquiries about licensing some of the blueberry varieties that are available.

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

GSD and GICRS are planning another busy trade show season. I have been busy securing booth spaces at all the trade shows we have decided to exhibit at in the next few months.

Erin and I have been working on some new promotional materials for 2018. Stay tuned for more details on these items in the next update.

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

GSD hosted Dr. Nick Hill's class on September 5th. The class had about 30 students this year. The students were split in to groups with one coming in the morning and the other coming after lunch. Dr. Boerma gave a presentation to each class and then they went on a tour of the facility led by Doug Batchelder and Corey Booth. The groups were able to see the seed conditioning equipment in operation cleaning and treating wheat seed. They also walked across the street to look at the Foundation TifDwarf, TifGrand, and Sea Isle Supreme turfgrass plots.



Processing/Production

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

2017 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

2017 Foundation processing is complete and we are currently shipping small grains from our Athens warehouse. We are planning to produce Foundation seed of 21 wheat varieties on approximately 250 acres in Athens and Plains in 2018. There are three newly licensed varieties and five new experimental lines from the wheat breeding programs at UGA as well as LSU. We currently have a good supply of both Foundation Wrens Abruzzi rye and GA Gore wheat.

2017 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

We produced Foundation seed of two soybean varieties this year in North Georgia: G12PR-63R2 and G13LL-44. We have had great weather with consistent rain and expect to have great yields. Both of these varieties should be ready to harvest during the first two weeks of November. We are also harvesting a new R2Y soybean lines for potential release in 2018 for Dr. Zenglu Li.

2017 PEANUT PRODUCTION

Peanuts - As of the last week in October peanut harvest season was rapidly coming to an end. We had 1,582 acres planted and have 160 acres left to harvest. One 80 acre field of 06G and one 80 acre field of 14N remain. For the most part our yields have been good, but not the outstanding irrigated yields that we were predicted. Our producers have some 6,000 lb. plus per acre yields, but most of our fields have averaged in the low to mid 5,000 lb./acre range. We are on target to meet our contracted Foundation peanut poundage. This year's quality appears to be excellent, but no preliminary germination results are back from the State Seed Laboratory. Varieties produced were: 06G - 1,200 acres, 14N - 150 acres, 16HO - 100 acres, Tif NV - 50 acres, 13M - 25 acres, 11J - 25 acres, 122540 - 6 acres, and 082549 - 2 acres.

2017 TURFGRASS AND FORAGE GRASS PRODUCTION

We have filled several Foundation TifTuf orders and both domestic and international TifEagle orders since August. A new Foundation Tifton 85 field was established the end of summer at the J. Phil Campbell Research and Education Farm in Watkinsville, Georgia. We hope to have it ready to harvest by summer of 2018. Harvest of Foundation Tifton 9 Bahia and TifQuik Bahia seed were both completed and will be processed this winter for spring sales.

Personnel Update

Erin Montgomery

GSD is pleased to announce that Colby Rustin (*pictured right*) has been hired in the position of Foundation Seed/Plant Processing Technician in Plains. Colby and his wife Kristy have two daughters, Kaitlyn 6 and Mallory 2, and live on a farm in Marion County. Colby grew up and worked on the family farm that produced chickens, cattle, and hay. Colby has an Associate degree in business management from South GA Tech and is a trained EMT.



New Equipment



Grain Truck



Small Grains Seed Cleaner - Plains



Seed Counter - Athens



Seed Fumigation Chamber - Athens



Seed Treater - Plains

2017 Georgia Peanut Farm Tour

Erin Montgomery

The 2017 Georgia Peanut Farm Tour made a stop at our GSD Foundation Peanut Facility in Plains during September. On the GSD stop, participants were introduced to the various aspects of conditioning and treating Foundation Peanut Seed. The tour at GSD included our Small Bin Warehouse, Columbo Combine, Sheller/Treater, and the Air-Gap Cleaner. It was a great opportunity to show the 2017 Georgia Peanut Farm Tour what makes it possible for GSD to provide superior quality Foundation peanut seed.



Justin Tanner presenting the sheller/treater in Plains

Upcoming Events

*Georgia Seed Development Annual Board of Commissioners Meeting
Athens, GA November 8, 2017

*American Seed Trade Association
CSS 2017 & Seed Expo
Chicago, IL December 4-7, 2017

*Georgia Farm Bureau Convention
Jekyll Island, GA December 3-5, 2017

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

