



GEORGIA SEED
DEVELOPMENT

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November 2019 Update
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Plains Peanut Facility
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director



Dr. Wayne Hanna – 2019 Recipient of the NAPB Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Hanna is a professor at the University of Georgia Department of Crop and Soil Sciences - Tifton Campus since 2003. This followed a successful 32-year career as a research geneticist and research leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service in Tifton, Georgia.

This August I attended the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) Meeting at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. During the meeting Dr. Wayne Hanna was honored with the esteemed NAPB Lifetime Achievement Award.

In making the formal presentation of the award Dr. Jim McFerson, the chairperson of the NAPB Awards Committee, said, "For more than 50 years at both the USDA ARS and the University of Georgia, Dr. Hanna has assembled and distributed forage and turfgrass germplasm, developed and released highly successful turfgrass varieties, published hundreds of papers on breeding and genetics, and trained numerous graduate students and postdocs. Dr. Hanna is exactly the kind of scientist, mentor and human being the NAPB seeks to honor with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award."

I have known Dr. Hanna since the early 1970s. I believe that those who know and work with him would agree that he is a highly driven and focused individual. In addition, there are a number of other attributes that have guided him throughout his career. Some of these traits include; honesty, integrity, accountability, confidence, commitment, passion, creativity, innovation, optimism, ability to inspire, and outstanding communication.

Recently, I have been reading some articles on the distinguishing characteristics of outstanding leaders. It isn't surprising to me that these authors have included many of the attributes I have associated with Dr. Hanna in their characteristics of outstanding leaders.

Dr. Hanna will often stop by the GSD office during his trips to Athens. I cannot remember a time that after his visit that I did not feel inspired by his comments and the work he and his team was doing to make the world a better place by developing another improved plant variety. There are not many people that I interact with that leave me with such an optimistic view of the future. We can all enhance our lives by embracing Dr. Hanna's attributes. Congratulations Dr. Hanna!

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

GSD hosted the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) in Plains for a tour of the Foundation peanut sheller and seed treating facilities. Dr. Boerma, Ralph and JT lead the tour groups through the facility. The NAPB held their annual meeting at Pine Mountain, GA from 25-29 August 2019. I had the opportunity to visit the Foundation TifTuf field we have in California with Terry Hollifield and Bill Caraway the first of October. While we were in California Bill took us to visit four of The Turfgrass Groups Licensees for TifTuf. It was very informative visiting with each one of these growers and learning how TifTuf is working for them on the West Coast. *(TifTuf Foundation field in California pictured right)*



Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

As the trade show season is approaching 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 will be reviewing our current promotional material and looking at new material for the shows.



Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

SIGN
HERE

The licensing activity has remained steady over the past 2 months with some new license agreements and amendments. UGARF and GSD have just completed licensing three new wheat varieties from Dr. Mergoum's program. We continue to receive request about licensing some of the UGA-developed blueberry varieties.

Processing/Production

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

2019 SMALL GRAINS PROCESSING

The 2019 Foundation small grains processing is completed and we have almost completed shipping small grains from our Athens and Plains warehouses. We are planning to grow Foundation seed of nine wheat varieties on approximately 390 acres in Athens and Plains for 2020 along with one variety of Rye. Three varieties of wheat are newly licensed and we have four new experimental lines to increase from the UGA wheat breeding program. In addition, we will increase three experimental lines from the program at LSU for potential release. The Foundation seed of TifQuik bahiagrass has been harvested and the seed will be processed mid-winter for spring sales.

2019 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

We planted four Foundation soybean varieties: G13LL-44 (SH 7218LL) in Plains GA, AGS 738RR in Marshallville GA, and the AGS Woodruff and Cook conventional varieties in Allendale, SC. We experienced good early season growing conditions for soybeans before the weather turned extremely hot and dry in August and September. The Foundation soybean fields with inadequate irrigation produced very small seed. Harvest is currently underway in between bouts of rainy weather.

2019 TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

We have filled several Foundation TifTuf and TifGrand orders since August and several orders for TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle are still outstanding awaiting green lights from the customers. A new one-acre Foundation field of Tifway was established at the UGA Iron Horse Farm and should be ready for its first sprig harvest in the summer of 2020.

2019 PEANUT PRODUCTION

The 2019 Foundation peanut crop has been a challenge and we are not quite finished with harvest. As of 5 November we lack about 20% of our acreage. The extreme heat and dry conditions this summer caused damage to our irrigated Foundation peanut fields, especially for the growers that have multiple pivots on a limited water source. Under these conditions the irrigation systems could not keep plants from stressing. The extreme heat also seemed to disrupt pollination and pod set resulting in split crops that lowered grades. We also had an unusually high amount of southern corn root worm damage. Our yields are lower than expected and seed shell-outs will also be lower than expected. To date we do not have preliminary germinations back from the Seed Lab, but with the lower grades I'm concerned about seed quality. We had the following Foundation acreage planted for 2019: 1,200 acres of GA 06G, 100 acres of GA 16HO, 100 acres of GA 18RU, 100 acres of TIF NV HI O/L, 53 acres of GA 14N, 20 acres of GA 11J, and 5 acres of the experimental line GA 142728.



SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



Foundation Cook soybeans in
Allendale, SC



Harvesting soybeans with the Almaco R1
Rotary combine at the Iron Horse Farm



Corey and Buddy hand planting Breeder
TifEagle plugs in the Sandbox field



Expanding the Foundation Tifway
field at the Iron Horse Farm

Upcoming Events

*Annual GSD Commissioners' Meeting
Athens, GA November 13, 2019

*Small Grain/Soybean Expo
Perry, GA January 8, 2020

*Southeastern Fruit and Vegetable Conference
Savannah, GA January 9-12, 2020

*Georgia Peanut Farm Show
Tifton, GA January 16, 2020

Georgia Seed
Development is a proud
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Georgia Department of
Agriculture.

