



GEORGIA SEED
DEVELOPMENT

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August 2023 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

I think most of us can agree with the notion that some days are better than others. But, what about the nights? Well, on the evening of July 25, 2023 in Saint Simons Island, Georgia, I experienced the opportunity to see three outstanding colleagues being recognized by the Georgia Seed Association. These recognitions included our own Mr. Justin Tanner, who was presented the Seedsman of the Year Award; Mr. Bill Bullard from Birdsong Peanut, who was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award; and Mr. Terry Hollifield, from Georgia Crop Improvement Association, who was presented the Hall of Fame Award. What a night! *See their photos later in this Update.*

For some reason this event made me think about the importance of trade associations. One obvious value of these organizations is disclosed above in the recognitions of outstanding association members. Learning of their accomplishments and successes provides each of us with motivation and aspirations for the future.

Most association meetings include a combination of networking, formal presentations, and social and food functions. The opportunity to network with friends, associates, competitors, and vendors provides us with the diversity of thought that is difficult to achieve during our daily business operations. These connections provide the opportunities for members to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

The formal presentations at association meetings allows members to hear updates from experts on cutting-edge issues related to commerce, governmental issues, and related organizations. Listening to these experts provide opportunities to expand our knowledge base and consider how the new information will impact our businesses. Trade associations also provide members opportunities to assume leadership roles outside their normal business responsibilities. Members benefit from experiencing the type of leadership required to guide a broadly based trade organization.

One last role of trade associations is to serve as a collective voice for the industry. Generally, it is more influential to governmental officials when the leadership of a trade association communicates the consensus view from the industry. This is especially critical when communicating the impact of government regulations on an industry. I want you to join me in congratulating Justin, Bill, and Terry on their awards. Also, please join and participate in the trade associations related to your business.

A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

Licensing activity has remained steady for the past two months. We have had several amendments that have been completed for various crops. We have also completed several peanut licensing agreements. UGARF and GSD have just finished the first license agreement for a new Seashore Paspalum (SeaBreeze™) from Dr. Raymer's turfgrass program. We had a new wheat variety that was just released from Dr. Mergoum's wheat breeding program. Brent Marable (UGARF) and I will be sending out the Announcement of Licensing Opportunity letters to prospective wheat licensees.

Marketing/Meetings

I attended a couple of meetings over the summer. The first one was the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies annual meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota. The meeting was held the first part of June and had very good attendance along with excellent speakers.



The second meeting was the Georgia/Alabama Seed Associations Conference held the end of July at St. Simons Island, Georgia. This meeting also had a very good attendance along with an excellent program. There were interesting and informative presentations by Bryan Tolar (Tolar Capitol Partners), Simmer Vick (UGA-Tifton), Caleb Warrington (GSD), Ben Campbell (UGA-Athens), and Greg Van Brunt (Georgia Ports Authority). Georgia's new Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper was the lunch speaker and did an excellent job. (*Awards Banquet pictured left*)

Education

This summer Buddy Parker and Alex Gilreath from GSD attended the Soybean and Small Grain Seed Conditioning Workshop at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. This was a three-day training session that covers many aspects of seed conditioning. Doug Batchelder from GSD attended the 2023 Mississippi State University Seed and Agricultural Technology Short Course. The first day included presentations on State and Federal Seed Laws, seed treatment processes, and application systems. The second day covered grain bin safety and grain bin rescue.

AWARD SEASON

Caleb Warrington, Senior Director of Operations



Terry Hollifield (Georgia Crop Improvement Association) received the Hall of Fame Award at the Georgia/Alabama Seed Association Convention in St. Simon's Island (pictured left are Billy Skaggs, Terry Hollifield, and President Kevin Phillips)

Bill Bullard (Birdsong Peanuts) received the Georgia Seed Association's Distinguished Service Award at the Georgia/Alabama Seed Association Convention in St. Simon's Island (pictured right are Kevin Calhoun, Bill Bullard, and President Kevin Phillips)



JT Tanner (Georgia Seed Development) received the Seedsman of the Year Award at the Georgia/Alabama Seed Association Convention in St. Simon's Island (pictured left are Roger Boerma, JT Tanner, and President Kevin Phillips)



Processing/Production

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

FOUNDATION PEANUT

Cool spring soil temperatures resulted in early-planted peanuts germinating and emerging slower than desired. Plants in most Foundation peanut fields caught up to their normal rates of growth after a return to warmer temperatures. We have seen very little TSWV in our Foundation production fields, but root worms are still an ongoing issue in the heavier soils due to a lack of a replacement for the Lorsban insecticide. GSD's 2023 Foundation peanut production plan includes 19 varieties (15 Runners, 2 Virginias, 1 Spanish, and 1 Valencia) grown on over 2,100 acres. We plan to harvest 5,000-tons of farmer stock inventory.

GSD has contracted production of the following acres of these 19 peanut varieties: GA 06G - 1,367 acres, GA 18RU - 115 acres, GA 22MPR - 80 acres, GA 14N - 20 acres, Tif NV Hi O/L - 88 acres, GA 21GR - 75 acres, GA 20VHO - 115 acres, Tif NV HG - 170 acres, GA VAL HO - 1 acre (Purity), GA SP- RKN - 1 acre (Purity), CB 1 - 5 acres, CB 2 - 5 acres, CB 7 - 30 acres, GA 182729 - 0.5 acre, GA 182521 - 0.5 acre, GA 23 RKN - 0.7 acre, GA 11J - 3 acres, GA 192710 - 0.4 acre, and GA 19 HP - 21 acres.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

After a cool, wet April, we experienced a cool, wet, and unpredictable May and June. Turfgrass growth remained sluggish until temperatures finally hit 90 degrees the last week of June and a flush of growth occurred. We filled domestic turf orders of TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle in May with Tifway and TifEagle being completely sold out by the end of May. A second harvest of both Tifway and TifEagle did not occur until the second week of July due to the cool temperatures and again, we sold out of both varieties. Throughout June and July, we were able to fill orders of TifTuf and Tif3D. Currently, we still have remaining domestic orders for TifEagle (3), Tif3D (2), and Tifway (4), along with an international order of TifGrand going to China.

FOUNDATION SOYBEAN

This year GSD is producing Foundation seed of six soybean varieties. Four of them are Foundation increases being produced at the Southwest Research and Education Center near Plains along with a new conventional soybean from Dr. Li's soybean program. An additional Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean is being grown at JPCREC in Watkinsville, Georgia. Both new varieties have an excellent yield potential combined with enhanced resistance to certain nematodes, insects, and diseases.

FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS

Foundation wheat and rye were harvested in late May at Plains, Georgia and early June at Athens, Georgia. We harvested a little over 5,000 bushels of wheat divided among 11 different varieties. Six of the varieties were less than 200 bushels and were harvested with GSD's Almaco R1 purity combines. Wheat conditioning and bagging have been completed for three of the larger varieties in Plains and are tagged and ready for shipment. Conditioning and bagging for the remaining eight in Athens are ongoing and should be completed by the end of August.

FOUNDATION BAHIA GRASS

All 13 acres of TifQuik bahiagrass were harvested the second week of July from the GSD farm near Plains, Georgia. The seed was dried and placed into medium-term storage for processing and bagging in December.

FACILITY UPDATE



GSD's new Federal/State building has been under construction in Plains this summer and is due to be completed September 1. This building is in close proximity to the sampler and will house Federal/State employees during peanut grading.



Construction of a new transfer station is also near completion in Plains. This will allow GSD to move farmer stock peanuts from hopper bottom trailers to 21 ft. trailers for drying or from hopper bottom trailers and 21 ft. trailers to dump trucks for warehouse storage.



UPCOMING EVENTS

35th Annual Georgia Peanut Tour
Septmeber 12-14, 2023, Bainbridge, GA

Sunbelt Ag Expo
October 17-19, 2023, Moultrie, GA

Annual Georgia Seed Development Board Meeting
November 8, 2023, Athens, GA

