



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

FALL 2020



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
<http://www.aosca.org>

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I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

I've been thinking that I can't believe that I am still thinking and trying to cope with this pandemic. I am clinging to the hope that we will someday return to "normal", whatever that is. However, I am fairly sure that the old normal is gone, and the new normal is here to stay. We now participate in fewer in-person business meetings, less social interaction, purchase more goods online, and see more people working from home. All of these changes and more are stressful and disruptive. As disruptive and stressful as the pandemic is, there are actually a couple of good things that may come out of all this (I must be a real optimist).

When times are good – such as good health and business is thriving - little change occurs. Only when things go sideways do we start analyzing, reflecting and adjusting. Of course one could say, "When things are good why make changes?" Answer - because everything in the world is in constant change making us adapt if we want to stay successful. How many businesses have you witnessed go under because they kept marketing, manufacturing, distributing, etc. using the previously successful system? It goes without saying that I am old school. I still like in-person meetings; people need people. I believe that we are social animals. As an example of forced change, we have converted our conference room to a "Zoom Room" with TV, camera, etc. I was and still am reluctant, but this is the new norm. So the pandemic could be an agent of necessary change for some of us.

The pandemic has also made me reflect and think about the fact that nothing physical is really permanent. We all know this; we just don't want to admit it. We all tend to take our family, friends, colleagues, possessions and jobs for granted; that they will always be there. Unfortunately, this is not true. Sometimes it takes a jolt to shake us out of our complacency. Now is a good time to tell family, friends and colleagues how much you appreciate them.

You may want to send a thank you note to the GCIA staff and thank them for their tireless work. Elaborate on how professional, efficient, helpful and good looking they are! You may even think about sending left over Halloween candy!



MEMBER
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GCIA Actively Supporting Hemp Industry

Some of you may be shocked at the above headline. The Farm Bill of 2018 and Georgia House Bill's 213 and 847 legalized industrial hemp production and processing in Georgia. For those of you who are still confused, industrial hemp may not contain more than 0.3 percent THC, the ingredient that causes marijuana users to feel "high". Industrial hemp is used for grain and fiber and is the source of CBD and CBG oils. Many claim that these oils offer relief from certain physical ailments.

The Farm Bill, Georgia Laws and Georgia Department of Agriculture rules are very stringent. Everyone has to be licensed to grow and have a permit to process. To be eligible an applicant for a license or permit must pass a background check, identify by GPS grow sites, storage locations and processing facilities, and be audited for compliance.

The auditing is where GCIA's Agricultural Audits subsidiary comes in. Utilizing our staff and experience in auditing and sampling we act as an agent for the Georgia Department of Agriculture to verify compliance with the Farm Bill, Georgia Laws and Department of Agriculture rules.

We are working with over 100 licensed growers auditing documents and taking official samples to determine THC levels. Samples must be taken before harvesting can begin. Those fields that test higher than 0.3 percent THC must be destroyed.

We are excited to be working with this new crop and hope it will develop into another source of income for many Georgia farmers. For more on the Georgia Hemp Program, click [HERE](#).



A Cause for Celebration

- Excerpt from Georgia Seed Development August 2020 Update

We celebrated Ralph Johnson's 40 years of service and commitment to GSD with a delicious prime rib luncheon and great fellowship at the Plains Foundation Peanut Facility on July 9, 2020. Ralph was joined by GSD staff and Board members and colleagues from Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA), UGA Southwest Research and Education Center, and fellow peanut seed producers. Both the GSD and GCIA organizations presented Ralph with rocking chairs to commemorate his dedication to the production of high quality Foundation peanut seed. The meal was prepared by Chef Jimmy Clements and enjoyed by all.



UAC Sporting Clays Tournament set for October 28



Nothing like being outside at Blalock Lakes! Safe social distancing, masks and other CDC recommended protocol will be in place for the event - your safety is our priority!

This is a great opportunity to reward your employees for their hard work, perseverance and good attitudes during the Covid-19 Spring & Summer!

Blast your troubles away | Win prizes | Eat BBQ

Join us for the UAC Sporting Clays Tournament at Blalock Lakes!

Registration 9:00 am -- Safety talk: 9:45 am
On course: 10:00 am

For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

Georgia Soybean News is available online

The fall edition of the Georgia Soybean News is available online - click [HERE](#).

Brought to you by the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission, this quarterly newsletter is distributed to over 400 producers and industry. If you would like to receive it, send your contact info to gasoybean@gmail.com.

To view past editions as well as the Soy Connection (courtesy of the United Soybean Board), click [HERE](#). Once there, look for the blue box titled 'Related Publications'.

GEORGIA SOYBEAN COMMODITY COMMISSION

Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You

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Georgia Soybean Crop Update
- Dr. Corey Bryant, UGA Grains Agronomist

As of the writing of this article the Georgia soybean crop is looking good based on fields I have personally walked and feedback I have received from county agents and industry partners who have been walking other fields. Most recently, I spent time walking a field of indeterminate soybeans (MG 4.6) in Screven county that if yield estimates hold through harvest should finish in the 90+ bushel range. This is great news, considering total soybean acreage in the state has continued to drop and we are currently at approximately 90,000 acres statewide.

However, we are not finished with the crop yet and still need to ensure sound management decisions are made along with some help from mother nature to realize maximum yields and seed quality. For growers with indeterminate soybeans a properly timed desiccant application will go a long way in maximizing seed quality, while timely harvest is important for both determinate and indeterminate soybean varieties. My recommendation to growers is to start setting up the combine for soybean harvest as soon as the last ear of corn has been pulled from the field. Waiting until soybeans are ready for harvest to start making sure the combine is ready only opens the door for delays which provide time for weather events that are detrimental to yield and seed quality. My hope on the weather front is that we can finish this season without any direct hits from tropical storms or hurricanes. The last thing I want to see is soybeans, ready for harvest, laying on the ground. Speaking from experience, I know that seed quality will deteriorate quickly when this happens and it is never fun harvesting at 0.5 mph, or slower, while trying to pick-up soybeans off the ground.

There is one last positive note regarding soybean prices. As of August 31, 2020, #1 soybean cash price, at central states grain, is \$9.11/bushel with a -0.45 basis. While the basis is still not as good as growers would like it to be current prices are much better than the late April early May low of \$7.91/bushel with a -0.50 basis. Cash prices have been trending up since this time frame and futures pricing is looking even better with prices reaching \$9.60/bushel depending upon delivery time. Overall, should we see the continuation of favorable weather, crop progress, and climbing prices, Georgia soybean growers could have a very positive year.

Related Publications

- [Georgia Soybean News - Fall 2020](#)
- [Georgia Soybean News - Spring 2020](#)
- [Soy Connection - Spring 2020](#)
- [Georgia Soybean News - Winter 2020](#)
- [Soy Connection - Winter 2020](#)

Iowa State Seed Tech Program Offers Free Week of Webinars in November

Ames, IA (October 6, 2020) - The Graduate Program in Seed Technology and Business (STB), housed at the Iowa State University (ISU) Seed Science Center (SSC), is sponsoring a free week of virtual webinars addressing current special topics in seed systems, science, and technology.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the decision was made to cancel the annual November STB on-campus short course in Seed Science and Technology. While this means the popular weeklong short course won't be conducted in person, the program leaders decided to create these live, interactive webinars for seed industry professionals. The best part – it is all completely free of charge and you don't have to be an enrolled ISU student to participate.

“It's much more challenging now to offer in-person workshops, but we really didn't want to lose the chance to continue with educational opportunities for the industry,” says Professor Gary Munkvold, STB Program Director. “I'm really pleased with the creativity and enthusiasm of our staff and the speakers that made this series come together very quickly.”

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Seed Science Center

The webinar sessions are being facilitated by some of the most respected seed experts and scientists in the industry. The webinar sessions topics include: what you need to know about phytosanitary certification for moving seed across borders; the latest in CRISPR genome editing technology; plant biotechnology regulations; innovations in improved crop production; new plant science technologies for seed companies; current technologies in seed sorting; and lab testing for hemp and cover crops.

“We have a nice mixture of seed industry scientists and Seed Science Center faculty and staff; all have extensive experience in one or more aspects of seed technology that are important to the industry today,” Munkvold says. “The sessions differ in their focus, so each one might appeal to a different segment of seed professionals, depending on their current job and goals.”

STB program leaders say they hope to be back next year to continue the on-campus, hands-on short course, but until then they invite anyone who is interested to join virtually starting at 11 a.m. (CST), Monday, November 2, and continuing through Friday, November 6. See the complete schedule of virtual webinar sessions [HERE](#).

“You only need to [register](#) once to have access to the entire week of incredible sessions, with industry renowned seed science and technology experts,” said Lori Youngberg, STB Program Coordinator. “We are really excited about bringing seed industry professionals together for these webinars and look forward to “seeing” everyone in November.”





United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Southern Region News Release October Crop Production



ATHENS, Ga. — Corn production in the United States is forecast at 14.7 billion bushels. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average a record high 178.4 bushels. Soybean production is forecast at 4.27 billion bushels, with an expected record high yield of 51.9 bushels. All cotton production in the United States is forecast at 17.0 million 480-pound bales, with an expected record high yield of 909 pounds per acre. Key findings for the Southern Region from the October Crop Production report:

Alabama: Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 340,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 54.0 million bushels, up 20 percent from 2019. Cotton production is forecast at 890 million bales, down 2 percent from last month and down 13 percent from last year. Peanut production is forecast at 710 million pounds, down 5 percent from last month but up 36 percent from 2019. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 280,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 11.3 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month but up 20 percent from 2019.

Florida: Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 100,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous estimate. Cotton production is forecast at 170,000 bales, down 6 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. With yield forecast at a record high 4,000 pounds per acre, peanut production is forecast at 660 million pounds, down 5 percent from last month but up 12 percent from 2019. Sugarcane for sugar and seed production is forecast at 18.1 million tons, up 3 percent from 2019.

Georgia: Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 430,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from the previous estimate. With yield forecast at record high 182 bushels per acre, corn for grain production is forecast at 69.2 million bushels, up 24 percent from 2019. Cotton production for 2020 is forecast at 2.40 million bales, down 12 percent from last year. Peanut production is forecast at a record high 3.60 billion pounds, unchanged from last month but up 31 percent from 2019. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 100,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the previous estimate. Production is forecast at 3.63 million bushels, up 45 percent from 2019. Tobacco production, at 16.6 million pounds, is unchanged from last month. Pecan production is forecast at 125 million pounds, an increase of 71 percent from last year and if realized, the highest production since 2007.

South Carolina: Corn area planted for all purposes is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the previous estimate. With yield forecast at record high 136 bushels per acre, corn for grain production is forecast at 50.3 million bushels, up 36 percent from 2019. Cotton production is forecast at 310,000 bales, down 6 percent from last month and down 38 percent from 2019. Peanut production is forecast at 312 million pounds, unchanged from last month but up 32 percent from last year. Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 310,000 acres, down 60,000 acres from the previous estimate and the lowest acreage since 1956. Production is forecast at 9.44 million bushels, up 15 percent from 2019. Tobacco production, at 9.6 million pounds, is forecast to be the lowest production since 1906.

To view the complete report, click [2020OCTOBERCropProduction](#).



Georgia Crop

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