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INSIDE

I've Been Thinking Cont.	2
2022 Soybean/Small Grain Expo	3
Upcoming 2022 Ag Industry Events	4
GCIA 2021 Applied for Acres	5
2021 D.W. Brooks Lecture	6
2021 D.W. Brooks Award Winners	7
Officers, Directors & Staff	8



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GCIA News Briefs

FALL 2021

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Over the years, here in this little spot, I have discussed at length the four pillars of seed and turf certification:

- Begin with a known source of seed (Foundation or Registered classes);
- Field inspected to verify the variety, freedom of inseparable other crop and weed seed;
- Conditioned by an approved facility;
- Final certification based on seed analysis to assure purity and quality.

One area that I have not adequately covered in the past is field inspections. The inspector adequately covers the production field to determine if the crop inspected meets the variety description provided by the breeder/developer, utilizing phenotypic characteristics of the plant to determine variety identity and purity. The inspector determines if the field meets certification standards of the crop and class of seed/turf inspected i.e, inseparable weed seed, other crop, diseases present, etc. The final decision is the field either passes for certification or is rejected.

Here is an example of a typical inspector's day. Actually this is an example of one of my days last week as I inspected a turf farm. This particular farm is located in the beautiful North Georgia mountains. The day starts early as I have to navigate through Atlanta traffic. The farm is only 80 miles from home but takes two and half hours to get there. I can shorten that time by paying the state of Georgia for the privilege of riding in the express lane that I already paid for one time with my taxes.

Upon arrival at the farm, I unload the ATV and start my inspection procedure. First riding the outside edge of the field looking for other crops, in this situation Bermudagrass in zoysia, then traversing the field to determine the number of off-type plants, other crops, annual grasses, etc. About thirty minutes into the inspection the ATV stops, then I hear a "pop" and smell something funky. I look under the ATV and see that the top of the battery has blown off!

Now what? Call my colleague (Billy) or the farm manager to come and help me. No, I need to walk off my anger so I hiked one mile back to my truck and drove to town to purchase a new battery. I drive back to the ATV and begin the process of installing the new battery. Three hours later in 80 degree heat and 90% humidity, the battery is installed, (I am way too old for this), but only after I received 24 mosquito bites. Who knew that mosquitoes could count and communicate with each other to provide me with twelve bites per elbow?

Continued on Pg. 2

After about 30 minutes my inspection partner, Billy, calls to tell me that his ATV will not start. Keep in mind that the oldest ATV is about 18 months. I go to Billy's aid and sure enough, you guessed it, his ATV battery is dead. So back to the store and we purchase another battery that I install in about 20 minutes as I now have experience. Thankfully, Billy was parked in the shade. What can happen now you might ask? Just wait, it gets better.

I travel to another sod farm about 30 miles down the road. Not long after getting started, I drove my 4-wheeler into a center pivot tire track which is actually a ditch. The sudden stop slams my ankle into something which removes the skin from my ankle bone. Pictures available by request! Lesson learned; always cross pivot tracks at a right angle not a 45 degree angle. By now I need a drink, and what better place than a Mexican restaurant for a margarita. Thankfully all went well at the restaurant, and on my next trip I will go by and get my credit card I left on the table.

By the way, if anyone cares, the next day was much better.



GCIA Annual Meeting-March 16, 2022!

Location: Georgia Center of Continuing Education

Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission Host 2022 Soybean/Small Grain Expo

The Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and The Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission invites soybean and small grain producers, users and buyers to the January 5, 2022 Soybean/Small Grain Expo, to be held at the Georgia National Fair Grounds and Agricenter, Perry, Georgia. The Expo will provide up to date marketing projections and the newest production techniques, as well as remarks from University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences leaders.

Attendees are invited to visit with our exhibitors who will be showcasing the latest in new varieties, pest control, and products.

To register for the EXPO call 706-542-3793

There is a \$20 registration fee or save money by registering in advance for only \$10.



Upcoming 2021 Ag Industry Events

- Sod Producers Field Day & Southeast Turf Conference – Nov 2-3; <https://urbanagcouncil.com/uac-industry-events/#!/event/2021/11/3/nov-3-2021-georgia-sod-producers-field-day>



- American Peanut Shellers & National Buying Points Association Post-Harvest Meeting – Nov 9-10; <http://www.peanut-shellers.org/event-info.aspx?eid=36>



- Georgia Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration – Nov 19; <https://www.ga-agribusiness.org/Events.aspx>



- Southeastern Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference – Jan 6-9; <https://seregionalconference.org/>





2021 Acres Applied For:



CROP	ACRES
Peanuts	130,000
Turfgrass	9,700
Small Grains	5,334
Forage Grasses	1,136
Soybeans (including Corteva)	4,000
Miscellaneous	18
TOTAL	150,188



PEANUTS:

- Acres down slightly to approx. 130k compared to 134,018 acres in 2020.
- Field inspections have been completed utilizing 4 fulltime staff & 3 part-time inspectors.
- Annual buying point training was held in September via zoom with 45 attendees; all relevant information sent to buying points prior to receiving certified peanut seed.
- Inspectors are now visiting buying points.

TURFGRASS:

- 9,700 acres applied for this year which is up almost 1,000 acres over 2020.
- 3rd round of turf inspections are under way and should be completed by the end of October.
- Again this year, GCIA conducted license compliance audits for the The Turfgrass Group; 16 growers from across the country were audited.

SMALL GRAINS & BAHIA GRASS:

- 5,334 small grain acres this year which is up 1,000 over 2020; forage grasses acres held steady at 1,136.

SOYBEANS:

- Soybean acres are holding steady this year at approx. 4,000 acres with the majority of the acres being contract inspections for Corteva.



FAO chief scientist to highlight ag technology in 2021 D.W. Brooks Lecture

By Leslie Matos for CAES News



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Chief scientist of the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), **Ismahane Elouafi** is set to deliver the talk at this year's **D.W. Brooks Lecture and Awards**, which will be held virtually Nov. 2. Elouafi's lecture, "How science, technology and innovation can accelerate the transformation of our agri-food systems," will highlight the advancement of e-agriculture and its benefits for farming around the world.

"I am thrilled that Dr. Ismahane Elouafi will deliver the 2021 D.W. Brooks lecture," said **Victoria Collins McMaken**, coordinator of international programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at the University of Georgia. "As the first ever chief scientist at FAO, she is uniquely well-positioned to share with our audience the urgency of utilizing science and technology to accelerate our global progress towards achieving the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals."

A **UGA Signature Lecture** and CAES Signature Event, the D.W. Brooks Lecture and Awards showcases outstanding faculty contributions, fosters community and industry collaboration, and spotlights the college's impact on a global scale.

"We are excited to be hosting Dr. Ismahane Elouafi as this year's lecturer. Her work in agricultural research and development is a shining example of the innovation we are seeking to celebrate through the D.W. Brooks Lecture. I am looking forward to hearing her thoughts on technology's role in moving our food systems forward and ensuring continued productivity in agriculture," said CAES Dean and Director **Nick Place**.

"The D.W. Brooks Lecture and Awards is a time for us to recognize faculty members who excel in teaching, research, extension, public service, diversity, and international agricultural and environmental sciences," Place added. "Our CAES faculty members are working to address critical issues in our world today and we're looking forward to this opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of this year's award winners."

2021 Award Winners

The D.W. Brooks Awards recognize faculty who make outstanding contributions to the college's critical mission areas.

The **2021 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service Extension** goes to **Jacob Price**, UGA Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources agent and Lowndes County coordinator. Price began his Extension career focusing on horticulture and green industry issues, and he has led multiple programs for commodities in the green industry, row crops, vegetables and emerging state crops like citrus.

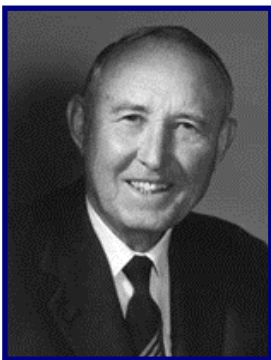
2021 Award Winners Continued

The **2021 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching** goes to **Marin Brewer**, Associate Professor of Mycology in the Department of Plant Pathology. Brewer teaches two courses on fungi at UGA every year, and her research focuses on the evolution and diversity of fungal threats to plants and people. Her lab focuses especially on the evolutionary processes that contribute to population-level diversity, the formation of new species and species diversification.

The **2021 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Extension** goes to **Scott Monfort**, Extension Peanut Agronomist and UGA Peanut Team leader on the Tifton campus. Monfort specializes in developing cost-effective crop management systems including seed quality, cultivar evaluation, tillage systems and precision agriculture technologies. His primary role is to provide support to county Extension agents in all peanut-producing counties, providing research-based recommendations to help Georgia peanut growers remain economically viable.

The **2021 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Diversity** goes to **Shavannor Smith**, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Plant Pathology. Smith's research focuses on the structure, function and evolution of plant disease resistance genes and pathogen virulence genes to understand plant defense mechanisms. Smith has been instrumental in recruiting and supporting students from underrepresented groups and is an advocate for creating inclusive and equitable learning environments to improve innovation and creativity in the sciences.

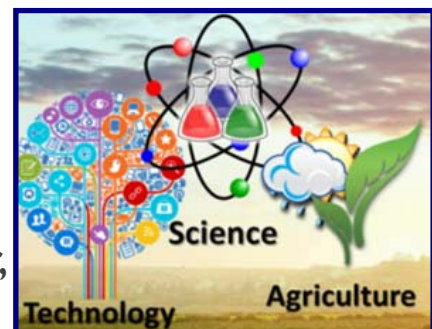
The **2021 D.W. Brooks Faculty Award for Excellence in Research** goes to **Zenglu Li**, Georgia Seed Development Professor in Soybean Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. Li's research interests are focused on the development of soybean varieties using an integrated classical and molecular breeding approach, the discovery of innovative genetic and genomic solutions to abiotic and biotic limitations of soybean productivity, and the use of genomic and phenomic technologies to improve selection efficiency.



The Event's Namesake

The event is named in honor of the late D.W. Brooks who founded Gold Kist Inc. and started Cotton States Mutual Insurance Companies in 1941. Among his many honors, he was the first inductee into the **Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame**, and the college hosts this annual event in celebration of D.W. Brooks' memory.

The event will be held as a Zoom webinar at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 2. To learn more and to register, visit dwbrooks.caes.uga.edu.





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