



# Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

Fall 2015



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

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## I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Everyone has used, or at least heard, "if it ain't broke don't fix it!" There is a lot of truth in that statement, but sometimes you don't know if "it" is broken. Sometimes we need to do some self evaluation and/or ask folks familiar with our work to help determine if there is a problem or not.

Recently, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black appointed a group of over 20 stakeholders to the Seed Laboratory Advisory Council. The Council is composed of seed producers, wholesalers, and other professionals who will meet quarterly to learn about and discuss various segments of the Department's role in providing timely, accurate laboratory reporting on seed quality.

The council has already started to work by touring the state seed laboratory, located in Tifton. Should this diverse group have suggestions, they will be forwarded to Dr. James Sutton who is serving as the liaison between the Department and the Advisory Council.

The seed laboratory is extremely important to not only seed producers but consumers. Seedsmen desire to produce and market only the highest quality seed possible. And likewise, consumers want the best quality seed that is true to type and of good value.

The Department of Agriculture is currently advertising for a seed scientist for the laboratory and is considering developing a system to provide continuing education for seed laboratory personnel. The Department and the Seed Laboratory Advisory Council are committed to the seed laboratory being the best in the Southeast – both in perception and reality. If you have suggestions or recommendations for the Council, please let us know.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

UAC Sod Producers Field Day - Oct 28

GAC Harvest Celebration - Nov 20

Georgia Farm Bureau Convention - Dec 6-8

SE Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference - Jan 7-10

Georgia Soybean & Small Grain Expo - Feb 4

GCIA Annual Membership Meeting - March 24

## Hollifield Completes Term as AOSCA President



Our own Terry Hollifield served as President of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) during the past year. In his remarks at the 2015 Annual Meeting's Opening Session, Terry commented that two of the major accomplishments of the Board during the past year was the adoption of a new investment policy and placing additional focus on AOSCA's internal evaluation process that confirms U.S. seed certifying agencies are in compliance with the Federal Seed Act. He stressed the importance of volunteers and encouraged AOSCA members to remain engaged in its committees and activities. Terry's term as President ended at the conclusion of the meeting, but he remains on the Board of Directors for another year.

## South Georgia Crop Update

**Rome Ethredge, Seminole County Extension Coordinator**

Corn harvest went pretty well with some blown down but overall a good harvest season and a very good quality corn crop this year. Southern corn rust was here but not a real big outbreak this year.

Soybeans are looking good (photo: Seminole County Farmer Greg Mims with full season beans). Full season beans had caterpillar problems in most fields that had to be controlled. Now Asiatic rust is here but fortunately most growers had a fungicide in with recent insecticide and boron sprays. We need to keep scouting for disease, especially if they are young. We are keeping a sharp eye out for stink bugs on soybeans. Ultra late soybeans after corn are growing and looking good.

Cotton is opening like crazy and soon defoliation will go out on some fields. Recent drier weather has been good for boll rot hopes. Target spot has increased but wasn't bad early on.

Peanuts have had a good growing season, even some dryland fields look good. We have some of the deepest vines we've seen in a while. White mold has been very bad and cost of control has been up for many folks. In some spots dryland are stressed and spider mites are on the increase. Maturity checks show normal maturity on most fields.

Peanuts are beginning to be dug and a few picked. Early reports look pretty good on weights and grades (see photo).



## Ag Industry Hires & Promotions

UGA's Innovation Gateway Director Derek Eberhart recently announced two promotions of particular importance to plant variety commercialization. On July 1, Mr. Brent Marable was promoted to Assistant Director for Plant Licensing and Ms. Shelley Fincher was promoted to Licensing Manager II. GCIA has enjoyed a great working relationship with Brent & Shelley, and we wish them continued success!

The Georgia Green Industry Association recently announced Mr. Chris Butts as their new Executive Director. Chris joined the GGIA Staff in November 2008 as the Director of Legislative, Environmental & Public Affairs. Chris served as interim director when Sherry Morris resigned after 28 years of service. We wish Chris the best and look forward to working with him in this new capacity. Congratulations, Chris!

UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Office of External Relations named Suzanne Griffith as the new Director of Alumni Engagement for the CAES. Griffith has 13 years of experience in both alumni relations and annual fund development which should bode well for CAES for years to come.

Dr. Donn Shilling, Department Head of UGA CAES Crop & Soil Sciences, recently announced that Dr. Mohamed Mergoum had accepted the position of Wheat Breeder. Dr. Mergoum will be housed on the Griffin Campus and follows in the footsteps of the retiring Dr. Jerry Johnson. Congratulations to Dr. Mergoum, and many thanks to Dr. Johnson for his outstanding service!



GAC's Harvest Celebration provides an opportunity for leaders from every commodity group and service sector to gather in a festive salute to Georgia's diverse agribusiness industry. GCIA is a proud supporter of the Harvest Celebration and we hope you will as well.

<http://www.ga-agribusiness.org/>

## USDA LPS Seed Division Welcomes New Director

Mr. Ernest Allen has been selected to serve as the Director of the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service/Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program's Seed Regulatory and Testing Division (SRTD) in Gastonia, NC. He formerly served as the Deputy Director and Laboratory Supervisor of SRTD and for the past three months, has served as Acting Director.



Prior to joining the Seed division as a seed analyst in 2004, Mr. Allen served in several management roles in the service industry, where he cooperated with diverse groups of stakeholders, handled administrative issues, and managed financial resources. As a seed analyst and later a botanist for SRTD, Mr. Allen played an integral role in administering the Federal Seed Act, carrying out seed testing services, and other outreach activities for state government and industry partners. He has also served as the voting AMS representative for the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), the voting delegate for the United States at the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Ordinary Meetings, and Acting U.S. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes Program Manager for the Agricultural Marketing Service. Mr. Allen is a Certified Seed Analyst and has earned a bachelor and master's degree in biological sciences from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC.

## Seed & Turf Certification Program Update

### PEANUTS:

- Certified acres applied for up almost 8,000 acres over 2014 to 138,670 acres.
- Field inspections will be completed by mid September; a BIG thanks goes to our full time & part-time inspectors.
- Annual buying point training was on August 25 in Tifton and 40 attended; inspectors will begin visiting buying points soon to verify that standard operating procedures are in place; first inspections will include diagrams of storage locations to determine if in compliance with GCIA guidelines.

### TURFGRASS:

- Over 7,000 acres were applied for this year with several hundred new acres expected to be planted by the end of the year; estimate 7,300 acres total for 2015.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> round turf inspections have begun and will be completed by the end of October.
- Took advantage of several opportunities to promote our Certified Turfgrass program this year – presentations & exhibits for industry, homeowners, county agents, master gardeners & students.

### SMALL GRAINS:

- Acreage remained steady with 7,100 acres in 2015; two crops new to the program – ‘Eso’ Field Peas and ‘Cosaque’ Black Forage Oats.
- Staff continue to review lab analysis reports on all grain samples submitted to the state seed lab to ensure all seed meets GCIA standards.

### SOYBEANS:

- Reviewing soybean applications now; acres should be in-line with the last few years.
- GCIA staff will be inspecting an additional 4,000 acres this year per contract with Pioneer.



## Sunbelt Ag Expo

North America's Premier Farm Show®

TICKETS \$10  
8:30 - 5 (T,W)  
8:30 - 4 (TH)

**October 20-22, 2015**  
**Moultrie, GA**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition explodes with 3 days of non-stop action unveiling new technology in agriculture and rural living. Over 1,200 exhibitors will display and demonstrate products and welcome thousands of visitors to the 100 acre show site.

Crowned as North America's Premier Farm Show® and the largest Farm Show in America with field demonstrations, the Sunbelt Ag Expo brings together all segments of rural living from research and education to the live farm harvest and agribusiness. Add in rural lifestyle fun, truck, tractor, and ATV test drives and sports and the venue is perfect for rural enthusiasts.

A crowd-pleaser is the 600 acre research farm's field demonstrations as farmers watch tractors, combines, peanut pickers, cotton pickers, hay equipment and Global Positioning Systems working side by side. Over 300 seminars are taught at exhibits on beef, dairy, poultry, forestry, equine, dairy and cattle management.

For more information, visit <http://sunbeltexpo.com>.



# Georgia Crop

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