



# Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

SUMMER 2020



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

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## I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The Georgia legislature finally passed the FY20-21 budget. Just like at your house, income has to meet expenses. In Georgia, fortunately, we are required to pass a balanced budget. The COVID-19 pandemic and the required shelter-in-place order meant a large reduction in sales tax collections, and thereby less money was available for state appropriations.

Virtually all state agencies were required to reduce their budgets significantly. Of course, state budget restrictions find their way to the University of Georgia College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and on down to the many researchers working on behalf of Georgia's farmers and agribusinesses. If you are reading this article, you are most certainly aware of the need for and the benefits of agricultural research. Fortunately, not all research funding comes from state appropriations or direct funding from the College.

In Georgia, as in many other states, we have very active commodity commissions that support the research and promotion of varieties. Georgia has 12 commodity commissions which collect and distribute assessments used for research, education and promotion of the commodity. These commissions are truly farmer funded, farmer directed self help programs. Below are some of the active commissions that we have an interest in and their most recent annual support for research:

Corn	\$450,000
Cotton	\$1,400,000
Peanut	\$1,500,000
Soybean	\$200,000

Whereas state and federal funding for research, education and promotion are needed over the long term, for the foreseeable future, commission funding is bridging the gap for these important programs.

Before I wrap this up, it would be irresponsible not to say a few kind words about the farmer volunteers who give of their time to the commodity commissions. Farmers have always been willing to step up when needed, but these commission members are seldom seen or recognized by their peers. So from me to you, here's a big thank you for all you do!



MEMBER  
[www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com)

## Certified Peanut Update

In preparation for the peanut field inspection season, GCIA held an inspector training on July 28 in Perry. As in years past, we reviewed peanut field standards, discussed issues to look out for, and distributed inspection assignments. Peanut acres applied for increased greatly this year to almost 135,000 acres - an increase of over 20,000 acres from 2019. Our team of inspectors will have a lot of ground to cover over the next six weeks. Below is a breakdown of acres applied for by variety.

Variety	2020 Acres Applied For:
297	1451.00
331	1139.00
ACI-198	61.00
ACI-3321	145.00
GEORGIA GREENER	15.00
GEORGIA-06G	115416.80
GEORGIA-09B	5199.60
GEORGIA-11J	19.00
GEORGIA-12Y	1968.83
GEORGIA-14N	664.10
GEORGIA-16HO	3950.57
GEORGIA-18RU	1898.38
TIFGUARD	493.00
TIFNV-HIGH O/L	2597.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>135018.28</b>



**Special thanks to Becki Hicks and Kasandra Hernandez in our office for their efforts in processing all the peanut applications! We could not do what we do without their help!**

In preparing for field inspections, we have been in touch with our members regarding any necessary precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our inspectors will be prepared to abide by any such requirements (including facemasks, social distancing, etc.)

Also related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have opted to forego our annual Buying Point Training typically held in late August. Instead, we will be contacting any new buying points as well as new staff at existing buying points to make sure they have the resources they need for harvest season. Of course, we encourage all of our peanut members to call on us with any questions you may have.

Lastly, thanks in advance to the buying point managers for your assistance with field inspections! We certainly could not undertake such a task without your help. We look forward to another successful peanut season.

## 2020 ASTA Distinguished Service Award – Wayne Parrott

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) Distinguished Service Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the association and the seed industry. At their recent virtual conference, ASTA recognized Dr. Wayne Parrott with this honor.



Wayne Allen Parrott is a professor of crop sciences in the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in Athens. Since 2017, he has also been an Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Parrott became interested in the clover plant as a teenager growing up in Kentucky. He received his B.S. in agronomy from the University of Kentucky, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985.

Parrott joined the faculty of the University of Georgia in 1988. Founder of the Parrott Lab, he has researched the genetic map of the soybean, with the goal of identifying genes that control its growth. He is also researching the genetic origins of the four-leaf clover, and his lab has come closest to discovering the plant's genetic roots.

Wayne Parrott has been a tireless advocate in efforts to reach the public, elected and regulatory communities to address evolving plant breeding methods. As part of these efforts, he has testified before Congress and served as part of a recent joint National Association of Plant Breeders and the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee-ASTA Plant Breeding Innovation session for federal regulators in Washington D.C. He has always been there when the American seed industry needed his expertise and knowledge and we congratulate and thank him for his tremendous service.

For more information on ASTA, visit <https://www.betterseed.org/>.

## Small Grain & Forage Certified Seed

Throughout the spring and early summer, GCIA inspectors have been hard at work conducting field inspections on a wide variety of small grain and forage crops. Below is an overview of the crops and varieties. For further information on the varieties available, check out the GCIA Small Grain & Forage Buyers Guide at [www.georgiacrop.com](http://www.georgiacrop.com).

Crop	# of varieties
Bahiagrass	3
Bermudagrass	1
Oats	5
Rye	1
Triticale	1
Wheat	12

In addition to the crops inspected for certified seed production, GCIA also offers the Noxious Weed Free Forage & Straw program. This effort assures buyers that forage and straw sold with the Noxious Weed Free designation meets minimum standards designed to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Many landscape and roadway contracts call for the use of noxious weed free straw and mulch.

Thirteen GCIA members produced these crops totaling almost 6,000 acres, including the Quality Assurance and Noxious Weed Free programs. For more information, contact the GCIA office.

## Turfgrass Producers International investigating sod check off

Members of the U.S sod production industry have asked Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) to investigate the potential interest among sod producers in a sod checkoff program as well as its impacts. Over the next 12-18 months, TPI will host online webinars to seek input from producers and to share information on what a potential checkoff could look like for the sod industry.

Any sod industry checkoff would be designed, implemented and governed by sod producers, for sod producers. All U.S. sod producers will have a chance to provide input on establishing an industry-wide checkoff and ultimately be asked to vote on it in a nationwide referendum in order for it to become law.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding a possible sod checkoff program as provided by TPI.

### *How does an industry start a checkoff program?*

The initial step is to gauge industry-wide interest for a checkoff program. With industry support, an industry-crafted proposal is submitted to USDA for consideration. Following review and public comments, USDA will publish a final proposal and oversee a referendum of producers and others who would be subject to assessment under the program.

### *What will this checkoff do once it's launched?*

A checkoff program can work to develop new domestic and export markets, strengthen existing markets, conduct important market and scientific research, and promote select industry initiatives and activities. The industry can accomplish more together than any individual company can accomplish alone. A checkoff program allows an industry to unify and pool resources, as well as identify and address issues that impact its sales, while having a substantially-greater investment to drive demand.

### *Who is in charge of the program?*

A checkoff program is overseen by a board composed of industry members. It is managed by a staff that the board hires. The board is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Board representation will include representatives from all assessed segments of the industry. It will have control over strategic plan development, allocating funds, and approving business plans and programs. While directed and managed by the industry, the program is overseen by USDA to ensure fiscal responsibility, program effectiveness, and fair treatment of stakeholders.

### *Why form checkoff program?*

As an industry checkoff, we can invest in driving demand for our product and addressing shared problems and barriers on a scale that exceeds individual company solutions. A checkoff program allows the industry to highlight and promote the personal, emotional, and environmental value of the commodity in people's lives. Keeping campaigns free of specific brand names allows the industry to unite, pool resources, and collectively work toward driving sales and addressing barriers. And it leaves producers and other companies, as always, to compete on their own unique attributes and benefits.

For more information or to submit a question regarding a possible sod checkoff program, visit [www.sodcheckoff.org](http://www.sodcheckoff.org). Also on the site, you can view a sod checkoff webinar and sign up for email notifications on future developments.

Source: [Turfgrass Producers International](http://www.turfgrassproducersinternational.com)

## 2020 Peanut Industry Pre-Harvest Meeting

The 2020 Industry Pre-Harvest Meeting, a jointly hosted event by the American Peanut Shellers Association and the National Peanut Buying Points Association, will be held virtually this year. APSA Committee meetings will be conducted through Zoom on Tuesday, August 11 and a brief NPBPA Board meeting will also be held virtually.

The General Business Webinar will take place on Wednesday, August 12th starting at 9:00 a.m. The program will include various topics of interest to the industry. Immediately following the General Session, APSA & NPBPA will hold an Awards Ceremony, and a raffle drawing for a John Deere zero turn lawn mower and trailer will conclude the program. Call 229-386-1716 to purchase a \$100 raffle ticket for the mower.

There is no charge to register; however, all participants should register with the APSA office. For more information, click [HERE](#).



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## 2020 UGA Turfgrass Field Day will be a "virtual" field day

Regrettably, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the UGA Turf Team will be canceling the 2020 Turfgrass Research Field Day for August 5. The Team is making plans to prepare a virtual field day that can be viewed online. The target date to release the videos is mid-August. We have been in discussion with The Georgia Department of Agriculture with the objective to present the virtual field day where viewers can receive pesticide recertification credits. We are still working on details and preparing to resume research activities we can present. As the summer progresses, additional details will become available.

Source: [Urban Ag Council](#)





# Georgia Crop

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