



Georgia Crop Improvement Association



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
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GCIA News Briefs

WINTER 2017

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Well, another year has come and gone. As many of you who read this article know, as one gets older, time is like a snowball rolling down hill - it gets bigger and faster as it rolls. Apparently, my snowball is really big and rolls fast as it seems we should still be in August and not December. But the end of the year is here and I would like to give you an update on 2016.

As you are aware, traditional seed certification is our core business. Whereas peanut acres inspected for 2016 were 5,000 less than 2015, we still inspected a very respectable 131,444 acres. With the improving economy and the introduction of a new variety named TifTuf, we saw a 653 acre increase in turfgrass acreage for a total of 8,894 inspected turfgrass acres. Certified turfgrass acres have increased 23% from 2014. I understand that 8,894 acres of turfgrass is pretty small when compared to peanuts, but remember that we inspect turfgrass three times per year and the inspection process is slow and methodical. Certified small grain acres continue to decline due primarily to depressed prices. Only 4,814 acres were inspected in 2016, a 30% decrease from 2015. Soybeans, pasture grasses and other miscellaneous crops resulted in a total of 148,453 acres being inspected in 2016.

Our "Outside Service" Programs (food safety inspections, organic certification, association management, the International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program, Quality Assurance) continue to be growing or stable. These programs allow us to better utilize our inspectors and provide needed services to the agricultural industry.

For 2017, we are moving forward with adopting a new computer program that will allow us to enter field inspection data electronically and share that information with the seed company and/or grower in real time. In addition, we are preparing to grow our organic program by adding to our administrative staff and another organic inspector.

For those of you who want to learn more about our services, please visit our website at www.georgiacrop.com.

As always, I wish you a Happy New Year and God Bless America.

Greenhouse Project 2016-2017 / Tifton Seed Lab Update

Scott Hobby, Program Director - GDA Seed Laboratory Section

The Georgia Department of Agriculture Seed Laboratory has recently expanded its grow-out testing of peanuts, soybeans & browntop millet. The tests will be performed in the newly completed greenhouse facility in Tifton. The goal of this project will be to compare laboratory germination results with simulated field conditions in a greenhouse.

Currently, the Tifton lab has on a regular basis shared difficult or troublesome samples with the USDA lab in Gastonia, North Carolina. The USDA sharing project is a **Quality Assurance** program that insures that results are uniform with the two facilities. In the past, the Tifton lab could only compare lab results. The new greenhouse grow-out program opens the door for a more field-type comparison. This should help assure farmers all throughout the southeast that they are planting the highest quality seed that will yield more positive results. The program will be set up this spring to handle any concerns from companies and/or farmers regarding seed quality - in particular, for those test results which are just below germination standards.

Future programs that look to be on the horizon for 2017 : The lab will be starting up a **new genetics lab**. This type of research will give farmers the assurance that they are planting pure varieties with no cross contamination. We hope to have this project started up by the end of 2017. Major crops will be the main focus in the beginning, with plans to expand into other seed types as possible.

(See pictures below of grow-outs conducted during the 2016 season.)



GCIA on the road again - Industry Events in 2017

Over the first few months of 2017, GCIA staff will be participating in a number of Ag industry events and trade shows. Such activities provide us a great opportunity to visit with our members as well as those working in related industries. If you're attending one of these events, we hope you will stop by and visit.

The 2017 Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference is January 5-8 at the Savannah International Convention Center, Savannah Georgia. The Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference is the largest educational conference and trade show in the southeastern U.S. that unites growers, vendors and suppliers. Anyone with an interest in specialty crop agriculture is invited to be a part of this event. For more information, visit www.seregionalconference.com.



The 41st Annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show will be held Jan. 19, 2017, at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton, Georgia. The one-day show offers peanut farmers and those involved in the peanut industry the ability to learn more about the latest products, services and peanut research within the peanut industry. [Click here for more information.](#)



Golf Industry Show 2017 is February 5-9 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. The Golf Industry Show (GIS) is an innovative trade show designed for owners and operators of golf facilities and golf course management professionals. Featuring the largest exhibit floor in the industry, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, equipment managers, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, and architects and builders. GCIA staff will be attending to promote our International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program. GIS provides us with a great opportunity to interact with our international clientele as well make new contacts. [Click here for more information.](#)



The 2017 Annual Winter Conference of the National Peanut Buying Points Association will be on February 17-20, 2017 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside in beautiful Tampa, FL. The 2017 Conference theme is "PEANUTS AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE." Will China buy USA again? Markets are expanding at home and abroad, will that expansion continue? Farm Bill hearings will start next Spring, will we change the Peanut Bill again? Will we ever upgrade the grading system? Will regulations from government agencies continue increasing costs of operating a buying point? For more information, visit <http://www.peanutbuyingpoints.org/>.



GCIA Seed Short Course set for January 18

The annual seed short course for approved conditioners of soybean, small grain and grass seed will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Tifton Seed Laboratory. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the program will kick off at 9:15 a.m. The short course will include a tour of the Seed Lab and should conclude by noon. Attendance by an approved representative will fulfill the requirement to attend a GCIA sponsored seed short course once every two years. We hope you and/or your employees will join us.

Seed Short Course – January 18, 2017

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Tifton Seed Laboratory
3150 U.S. Hwy 41 S
Tifton, GA 31794

GCIA approved plant representatives are reminded that they must attend a seed short course at least once every two years for the conditioning plant to remain on the approved list.

Please confirm registration by email (joy.mccracken@georgiacrop.com), fax (706) 542-9397 or phone (706) 542-2351 before January 13, 2017.

2017 Soybean / Small Grain Expo set for February 21st

The Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission are proud to present the Soybean & Small Grain Expo on February 21, 2017 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry.

The Expo provides up-to-date market projections and information on the newest production techniques, as well as the latest research from Extension Specialists from the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental.

2017 Expo topics include:

- Ultra late soybean production
- Smart irrigation
- World outlook for commodities
- 2018 Farm Bill preview
- Fusarium head blight control in wheat
- Update from CAES Dean, Dr. Sam Pardue

To register or for further information, please contact the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association at 706-542-3793.



Georgia Soybean
Commodity Commission

Woodruff & Sparks honored at CAES Alumni Awards Banquet

(Summarized from article by Merritt Melancon, UGA CAES)

This year, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and CAES Alumni Association recognized bankers, farmers and Cooperative Extension leaders as part of its annual awards program.

“From the farm and field to the board and exam rooms, our alumni are leaders in a variety of areas,” said Elliott Marsh, president of the CAES Alumni Association. “These awards not only allow us to recognize the accomplishments of our fellow alumni, but also the ways in which CAES has contributed to our collective success.”

The alumni association recognized its 2016 award winners at the annual CAES Alumni Awards Banquet on Nov. 11 in Athens, Georgia.

Among those inducted into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame was longtime GCIA friend and supporter, UGA soybean pioneer John Woodruff, of Tifton, Georgia.

The soybean industry in Georgia and worldwide has seen increasing yields thanks to the work of John Woodruff, a pioneering University of Georgia Extension soybean agronomist. He has long been recognized as one of the top soybean specialists in the nation. Woodruff developed computer programs to assist county agents and farmers in selecting the best possible variety for individual fields and farms.

Woodruff's research helped Georgia soybean producers in creating higher yields and higher profits. In 2014, Woodruff adapted the early season soybean production system from Mississippi and Arkansas and worked with a soybean grower to produce 116 bushels per acre. This was the first time a 100+ bushel per acre yield had been achieved in Georgia. Woodruff has also helped developing countries such as Haiti, Kenya and Tanzania produce higher yields to help combat their growing hunger rate.



In addition, the alumni association awarded four Alumni Awards of Excellence. These awards recognize CAES alumni who have achieved excellence in their chosen fields or in their communities. This year's winners included another longtime friend of GCIA, Dr. Beverly Sparks, former CAES associate dean for Extension.

Sparks, who graduated from UGA with her undergraduate degree in horticulture in 1978, went on to receive her master's degree in entomology from UGA and her doctorate in entomology from Louisiana State University.

After a long career in UGA Extension, Sparks was named associate dean for Extension within CAES in 2007. She was the first woman to lead UGA Extension, and she served as director of Extension until 2014. Her leadership is credited with helping Extension weather the financial turmoil that accompanied the Great Recession.



GCIA congratulates Dr. John Woodruff and Dr. Beverly Sparks on these outstanding achievements!



Georgia Crop

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