



Georgia Crop Improvement Association



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GCIA News Briefs

WINTER 2023

I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

In preparation for writing this article I reviewed the article I wrote for the January 2022 newsletter and realized how very critical I was of winter. Considering that we just celebrated Christmas, a time of rejoicing and merriment, that a new year is upon us offering hope of a better year, and the fact that I am a year older, a very good thing, I should be more upbeat about winter.

Winter is a time when the cold allows us to wear our Christmas gifts. I have a new Stetson hat and a new vest.

Winter is a time when I can spend more time in the house with Kay and the two dogs rather than being in the hot sun mowing grass.

Winter is a time when I appreciate remote starting available on my truck and heated seats.

Winter has holidays were we eat too much of our favorite foods.

Winter is a time to visit neighbors and maybe some of our relatives.

Winter is a time when I take out a loan to pay my heating bill.

Winter is a time when we have snow and ice and I fall and injure myself.

This is not working. I tried, I really did. I still hate winter.

Even though winter is not my favorite time of the year, winter is the time for meeting after meeting. Whereas, the internet is a great place to find the newest technology and products, there is just something about face to face meetings that most people like. Especially when there is free exchange of ideas. For those of you who are on boards, commissions, advisory committees don't take those elections and appointments lightly. You have been selected to serve because someone thinks you have something to offer. Whatever success GCIA has enjoyed over the years is largely due to its staff and an the guidance of an active board of directors. Get out and attend meetings and be a contributor, be a leader.

In closing, I do wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

P.s. I am hoping for an early spring!

**GCIA Annual Meeting
March 1st, 2023!**



2023 GCIA Upcoming Ag Events:



GCIA Annual Meeting

The 78th GCIA Annual Membership Meeting is set for March 1, 2023 at The Hyatt Hotel (412 North Thomas Street, Athens, Georgia 30601). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will conclude by 4:00 p.m.

Presenters include:

Jordan Gregory – Membership Engagement Manger, American Seed Trade

Roger Boerma – Executive Director, Georgia Seed Development

Brent Marable – Assistant Director, UGA Plant Licensing, Innovation Gateway

Scott Mickey – Master Extension Associate, Clemson University

Bryan Tolar – Principal, Tolar Capitol Partners, Inc.

Please register for the meeting by calling the GCIA office at (706) 542-2351 or email leslie.wright@georgiacrop.com before the close of business on Friday, February 24th. Room reservations may be made by calling 706-542-3134. Our meeting code for room reservations is "G-GCI3 Georgia Crop Improvement Association".



Peanut Seed Short Course

The Georgia Crop Improvement Association invites you to attend the 61st Annual Peanut Seed Short Course on Tuesday, February 14th at the ABAC Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided at registration and the meeting will adjourn at 12:30 p.m. (lunch will not be served).

We encourage you to attend this meeting as we strive to continue improving our overall peanut program. We have a great lineup of speakers planned including Dr. Scott Monfort, UGA College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences; Dr. Eric Prostko, UGA Extension Entomologist; Tyron Spearman, National Peanut Points Assoc.; Dr. Jack Davis, JLA Global; Dr. Mark Abney, UGA College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, Dr. Tim Brenneman, UGA Professor-Peanut Disease Management, and Dr. Nino Brown, UGA Assistant Research Scientist.

GCIA approved plant representatives and buying point representatives are required to attend a seed short course once every two years for the conditioning facility or buying point to remain on the GCIA approved list. Please confirm your registration by email (becki.hicks@georgiacrop.com or leslie.wright@georgiacrop.com) or phone (706)542-2351 before Wednesday, February 8th.

2023 Upcoming Ag Events:

- American Peanut Shellers Association Spring Meeting– March 7-8
<http://www.peanut-shellers.org/event-info.aspx?eid=44>



- Alabama Crop Improvement Association/Southern Seed Certification Association joint membership meeting– February 26-27
<https://southernseedcertification.org/> * Call 334-693-3988 for more info!



- 2023 Georgia Grown Symposium– February 28-March 1
<https://georgiagrown.com/events/2023-georgia-grown-symposium/>



Georgia Soybean Commission Announces 2023 Funding



The Georgia Soybean Commission met January 13th to approve funding requests for calendar year 2023. A summary of the projects funded is below. The Georgia Soybean Commission is funded through a national check-off in conjunction with the United Soybean Board. Their mission is to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. Members of the Commission here in Georgia include: Greg Mims, Chair, Mark Ariail, Jonathan Hitchcock, Brian Ogletree, Jesse Patrick and Tony Smith.

Request received from:	Nature of Project:	Approved
Pam Knox, UGA	Georgia Weather Network support	5000
Terry Hollifield, GA/FL Soybean	Support of the Ga / Fla Soybean Association	12000
Billy Skaggs, GCIA	Commission Administrative Support	20000
Bob Kemerait, UGA	Soybean rust & fungal disease sentinel plot monitoring	30000
Zenglu Li, UGA	Development of high yielding cultivars w/ enhanced herbicide tolerance	32855
Eric Prostko, UGA	Soybean Response to HPPD Herbicides	6000
Richard Roth, UGA	Support for a Research Professional to Assist the Extension Grains Agronomist	58400
Richard Roth, UGA	Evaluating Soybean Desiccation Timing by Maturity Group	10000
Georgia Farm Bureau	GFB Farm Monitor support	8000
WISHH/ASA	Building New Export Markets	1500
GA Grown - GA National Fair	GA Grown Building Support	5000
TOTAL		188755

UGA Extension helps farmers improve efficiency, save 100 million gallons of water

By: Emily Cabrera for CAES Newswire



Over the last few decades, water use-related disagreements between Georgia and its surrounding states have held the spotlight in the Southeast. Legal battles have been fought, and although Georgia won the most recent lawsuit, the court's decision stressed that Georgia shares the responsibility to conserve that most precious, non-renewable resource on which we all depend — water.

"I work with farmers — it's part of my job — and I can tell you they truly care about stewarding our natural resources," said [Jason Mallard, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension](#) area water agent. "But it's also my job to support them in learning new production methods as researchers find better, more efficient ways of farming."

One of those production methods involves integrating advanced technology with traditional irrigation management systems based on research [College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#) Associate Professor [Wesley Porter](#) has conducted since 2014. As precision agriculture and irrigation specialist for UGA Extension, Porter focuses his research on the optimal water requirements of major row crops grown in Georgia. His research details how overwatering crops can be just as detrimental as underwatering and that hitting the "sweet spot" improves yields. Proper irrigation timing is more critical than the overall amount of water used. Porter emphasized that "water is the most important agricultural input for successful crop production and large-scale implementation of irrigation scheduling technology is a critical Extension program. Because it's difficult to progress an agricultural practice through just talks and meetings alone, we have to be able to show the successful implementation of these practices."

To address that need, the Agricultural Water Efficiency Team (AgWET) was created in 2017 to begin training county Extension agents on advanced irrigation scheduling. Now leading this initiative, Mallard assists agents as they help transfer that knowledge to growers in their counties via a unique one-on-one educational approach.

The advanced irrigation scheduling system involves installing sensors in production fields to track soil moisture content throughout the day, which can be monitored using an app from a smartphone or computer, Mallard explained. A grower can adjust irrigation timing to maximize efficiency based on the crop's optimal water requirements and the soil moisture content in the field.

Last year, the team deployed three types of soil moisture sensors in 28 production fields across 17 counties in south Georgia.

"County agents worked one-on-one with their growers, on a daily basis at times," said Mallard. "It was great to be able to do this with the producers and provide real-time troubleshooting and education. I think without that communication method, this project would not have been so successful."

In its first official year of data collection, the program impacted more than 1,450 acres of row crops in Georgia, 300 acres of peanuts and 1,150 acres of cotton, and yielded an estimated water savings of over 100 million gallons of water.



Mallard hopes the growers from year one are now more aware of the benefits of using advanced irrigation scheduling and feel comfortable using the technology enough to purchase their own sensors.

The Agricultural Water Efficiency Team (AgWET) was created to train county Extension agents to transfer advanced irrigation scheduling knowledge to Georgia growers through a unique one-on-one educational approach.

UGA Extension helps farmers improve efficiency, save 100 million gallons of water continued:

“There are just so many benefits to using this system, both for the growers in terms of cost savings and yield gains and for our overall effort toward water conservation in Georgia, so we’d love to see this begin to grow across the state,” said Mallard.

Farmers can apply for funding for the technology through various grant programs, such as the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP), which helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation practices into working lands.

The team will begin identifying new producers to participate in the upcoming growing season to expand the knowledge base in hopes of seeing increased adoption rates of the systems across the state.

CAES Associate Dean for Extension [Laura Perry Johnson](#), who has championed the initiative since its inception, said, “it has grown tremendously over the last five years and has resulted in a much better understanding of the process by which farmers make decisions.”

Mallard is excited to expand on the project with newly purchased sensors that can monitor fertilizer movements through salinity levels in the soil at multiple depths simultaneously.

“These new in-soil data insights will allow growers to monitor fertilizer movements in their soil over time and make adjustments in irrigation and other production practices to minimize fertilizer loss through leaching,” Mallard explained.

For more information on how UGA Extension is working to help conserve the world’s water, visit extension.uga.edu/water.

Source: [UGA CAES](#)



New soil sensors will allow growers to monitor fertilizer movements in their crop rows over time, allowing them to adjust irrigation and other practices to minimize fertilizer loss through leaching.



Georgia Crop

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