

## **ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLANTED PEANUT ACREAGE IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002**

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The National Center for Peanut Competitiveness continues to analyze the effects the passage of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 has on the distribution of planted peanut acreage in not only Georgia, but also the United States as a whole. Data obtained through cooperation with Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel in Athens, GA, Washington, DC, and Kansas City, MO, was used in this analysis. The geographic landscape of planted peanut acreage continues to take a different shape as the final 2004 FSA certified acres by county data is analyzed. Peanut acreage continued to grow in many non- traditional production areas of the southeastern United States in 2004. The southern and eastern tiers of Georgia, southwest Alabama, northern and central Florida, southern Mississippi, South Carolina, and southeastern North Carolina all continued to expand acreage. Overall acreage declines were observed in Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, although certain areas of these states were significant strongholds for the Virginia type peanut acreage in 2004.

The top five counties in planted peanut acreage in the United States in 2004 were Gaines County TX, 58,974 acres; Houston County AL, 39,767 acres; Jackson County FL, 35,634 acres; Collingsworth County TX, 29,781 acres; and Early County GA, 28,966 acres. The top five counties in 2004 consisted of predominantly runner type acreage, with the exception of Gaines County TX that reported 40,690 acres of runner type, 1,630 acres of Spanish type, and 16,653 acres of Virginia type. The top 5 counties in Georgia for 2004 were as follows: Early, Mitchell, Worth, Decatur, and Bulloch, with 28,966 acres, 27,902 acres, 27,499 acres, 25,846 acres, 24,411 acres respectively.

The top five counties that expanded acreage in 2004, as compared to the average planted acreage from 1998-2001, were Baldwin County AL, 18,515 acre increase; Coffee County GA, 12,406 acre increase; Burke County GA, 11,031 acre increase; Escambia County AL, 10,901 acre increase; and Monroe County AL, 10,748 acre increase. On the reduction side Collingsworth County TX reduced 35,137 acres; Caddo County OK reduced 19,317 acres; North Hampton County NC reduced 16,146 acres; Hall County TX reduced 15,615 acres; and South Hampton County VA reduced 14,308 acres when the 2004 planted acreage was compared to the average planted acreage from 1998-2001.

When the planted acreage in 2004 was compared to the planted acreage in 2003, the top five expanding counties are Appling County GA, 6,756 acre increase; Monroe County AL, 6,373 acre increase; Jeff Davis County GA, 5,624 acre increase; Orangeburg County SC, 4,868 acre increase and Brooks County GA, 4,732 acre increase. The top five counties that reduced acres in 2004 as compared to 2003 were Terry County TX, 8,907 acre reduction; Gaines County TX, 7,955 acre reduction; Collingsworth County TX, 5,817 acre reduction; Cochran County TX, 5,762 acre reduction; and Andrews County TX, 5,155 acre reduction.

In today's environment, runner type peanuts dominate peanut acreage in the United States. The 2004 season was no exception as runners claimed 79.60% of the United States total planted peanut acreage. Georgia planted 53.77% of the United States runner type acreage and 43.14% of total planted acreage in the United States in 2004. Georgia, by far leads the country in both categories. Alabama follows Georgia in runner type acreage with 17.31% of the total runner acreage in the United States and Texas follows Georgia with 16.50% of the total peanut acreage planted in the United States.

Although the overall peanut acreage in certain areas of the United States has declined, many of these areas continue to have significant planted acreage in specialized types of peanuts. In 2004, Virginia type acreage made up 15.70% of the total planted peanut acreage in the United States. The top five counties in 2004 that planted Virginia type peanut acreage were Gaines County TX, 16,653 acres; Bertie County NC, 12,694 acres; Martin County NC, 12,653 acres; Edgecombe County NC, 12,374 acres; and Halifax County NC, 10,603 acres. One should note that although many of these areas may have had an overall planted acreage decline they lead the way in Virginia type peanut acreage. North Carolina leads the United States in Virginia type acres, planting 46.85% of the United States Virginia type acres, followed by Texas, which accounts for 20.18%.

Similar trends are expected for the planted peanut acreage in 2005. Although many areas have not reached their bounds, there are limits as to how many acres of peanuts a geographical area can plant and harvest efficiently. Acreage should begin, and in many cases already has begun, to plateau in some of the recently expanding areas. Rotational constraints, irrigation availability, soil type, timing of harvest, weather patterns and commodity prices are all functions of planted peanut acreage, both spatially and quantitatively. All indications at the time of this study leads one to believe that the Southeast will plant more acres of peanuts than was planted in 2004, Georgia being no exception to this trend.

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