

**A Report to the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peanuts
on
County Extension Agents Attend APRES**

Principal Investigator: John P. Beasley, Jr., Extension Peanut Agronomist, University of Georgia

Eight county extension agents representing peanut producing counties in Georgia were selected to attend the 2009 American Peanut Research and Education Society (APRES) annual meeting in Raleigh, NC. The meeting was held July 14-17 at the Raleigh Marriott City Center Hotel.

The Georgia Peanut Commission has sponsored agents' attendance at this meeting since 1988. Membership and attendance at the annual meeting is comprised of all segments of the peanut industry, with the majority of the membership being research and extension scientists from universities and USDA in the USA peanut producing belt. The annual meeting is a forum for scientific paper presentations and poster sessions. Papers are presented in the areas of production and agronomics, plant pathology, weed science, entomology, economics, food science and utilization, breeding and genetics, physiology, and extension techniques. Symposia are held each year to focus on a specific problem that cuts across disciplines. Invited speakers from various segments of the peanut industry participate in these symposia or the general session.

The APRES meeting is an outstanding venue for county extension agents from Georgia to learn the latest in production technologies. The agents can then take the information that is presented and incorporate it into their local county's production system in order to increase profit potential. The APRES meeting also provides county extension agents an opportunity to present data from their own applied research trials and demonstrations. They can also highlight a successful extension program on peanuts in their county. The county agents also have the opportunity to interact with scientists and extension agents from other peanut producing states. Many times an idea shared among colleagues is what leads to a new and profitable production practice being incorporated into a county's production system.

All University of Georgia county extension agents are in the Public Service promotion system and are required to show participation (presenting papers or posters) at a professional society meeting. The APRES meeting is one of the few professional society meetings that gives agents that opportunity. The Georgia Peanut Commission is to be commended for their financial support of county extension agents for attending and participating in this meeting.

County Extension Agents from Georgia attending the 2009 APRES meeting in Raleigh, NC were:
Paul Wigley – Calhoun County (Georgia winner of Peanut Education for Excellence, presentation)
Mark Crosby – Emanuel County (presentation)
Buster Haddock – Randolph County (presentation)
Rome Ethredge – Seminole County
Eddie McGriff – Coffee County
Mark von Waldner – Atkinson County
Scott Carlson – Ben Hill County
Phillip Edwards – Irwin County (presentation)