

SOUTHEASTERN PEANUT FARMER



A communication service of the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation

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5 Legislation calls for halt to Farm Service Agency office closings
Two pieces of legislation introduced recently by Senator John Thune and U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth calls for a delay in local FSA office closings. Also, farmers and commodity groups are appealing for an independent review of local offices before closing offices.

17 2007 Disease & Insect Guidebook
One important aspect of peanut production is disease and insect management. Learn more about disease and insect management and new products for 2007 in this guidebook.



28 2007 Southern Peanut Growers Conference
The Southern Peanut Growers Conference is set again in Panama City Beach, Fla. for July 15-17, 2007. View more information and the registration form on this year's conference.

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Cover Photo: Peanut field with inset photos of various diseases and insects. Photos by the University of Georgia Peanut Team.

Storage and Handling is an emergency

Following the vote on the emergency spending bill in the House of Representatives, there have been accusations that the Democratic leadership enticed on-the-fence members to vote for the legislation by including “pork” projects on the bill. The Washington Post, even asserted that the bill paid “more heed to a handful of peanut farmers than to the 24 million Iraqis who are living through a maelstrom initiated by the United States.”

During the last four years in Congress, my colleagues and I have paid much heed to the Iraqis - nearly \$500 billion worth. It is our hope that with this most recent emergency spending bill, which funds the war at \$4 billion above the President’s request, we are securing the funding to help the Iraqi people, end the civil war and bring our troops home.

My support of this bill was never in question. The bill needed no “but-tering up” for me.

But, just as the President himself asked for \$3.4 billion in Gulf Coast Recovery, the Appropriations Committee saw fit to address a crisis currently being faced by the peanut industry.

Besides low prices for peanuts in the global marketplace, a salmonella outbreak at a ConAgra plant has affected all aspects of the peanut industry. Ultimately the peanut industry lost millions of dollars by quickly recalling their product to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

So, I will make no apologies for language which keeps afloat an at-risk industry in America’s farming communities.

Furthermore, as many in the farming community are well aware, the \$74 million is not preferential treatment in hard times, but maintenance of the status quo. It continues a long-standing program that, along with provisions on 9 of 11 spending bills, were not passed by the Republican-controlled Congress last year.

Consideration of an emergency spending bill is a regular occurrence in Congress. This country has many types of emergencies, and for years prior to 2001, those emergencies were not the War on Terror, or the War in Iraq. Those emergencies were cleaning up natural disasters, insuring the uninsured, aiding industries facing unexpected financial hardship - pretty much everything the bill is being criticized for today.

Again, I make no apology for my role in securing this funding. It is an emergency, and it is warranted. ◀



U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop
D-GA 2nd Congressional District
www.house.gov/bishop

Congressman Bishop is serving his eighth term in the US House of Representatives and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittees on Agriculture, Defense and Military Construction

Calendar of Events

▶ **Peanut Seminar hosted by Farm Service Agency and American Peanut Shellers Association**, May 24, 2007, Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Ga. For more information contact Tonye Gross with FSA at 202-720-4319.

▶ **USA Peanut Congress**, June 24-28, 2007, Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, Fla. For more information call 229-888-2508.

▶ **Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day**, July 10, 2007, Moultrie, Ga. For more information visit <http://www.sunbeltexpo.com> or call 229-985-1968.

▶ **American Peanut Research and Education Society Annual Meeting**, July 10-13, 2007, Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham, Ala. For more information contact James Sholar at 405-372-3052 or Austin Hagan at 334-844-5503.

▶ **Southern Peanut Growers Conference**, July 15-17, 2007, Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, Fla. For more information, www.southernpeanutfarmers.org.

▶ **Farm to Fuel Summit**, July 18-20, 2007, Marriott Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg, Fla. For more information, www.floridafarmtofuel.com or call 850-922-5432.

▶ **Southeast Bioenergy Conference**, July 31-Aug. 2, 2007, UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton, Ga. For more information, www.sebioenergy.org or call 229-386-7274.

(Let us know about your event. Please send details to the editor, using the following e-mail address: sepf@gapeanuts.com)

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Legislation calls for halt to U.S. Farm Service Agency local office closings

Local FSA office closings across the nation may be on hold now after legislation was recently introduced on Capitol Hill. The legislation introduced are welcomed across the country by many U.S. farmers and commodity organizations.

U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., recently introduced legislation (HB 1649) in the House of Representatives to prevent the closure of Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for 12 months, including those offices scheduled for closure in South Dakota. The delay would ensure that no final decisions are made until the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, thereby ensuring a better understanding of staffing demands on county offices under that new law.

“To me, it’s common sense that we would wait until we have more information about the specific demands the 2007 Farm Bill will place on our already busy FSA offices before jumping to any conclusions,” Rep. Herseth says. “I’m skeptical about the savings that this controversial plan would actually achieve, and I am concerned about the financial and logistical strain this premature move would have on farm and ranch families throughout the state.”

Senator John Thune, R-S.D., recently introduced legislation (S.944) that would stop any potential FSA county office closures until the Secretary of Agriculture conducts a study on cost savings and/or efficiencies at the three FSA headquarters locations and all state FSA offices. Additionally, this legislation requires that the report recommendations must be implemented at all FSA headquarters and state offices before any county FSA offices may be closed.

“After hearing from parties on both sides of this issue, it became clear to me that action is needed to ensure that FSA streamlining also includes the FSA headquarters and state offices - not just the county offices that deliver important programs and services to farmers and ranchers,” Senator Thune says. “While I strongly

support finding cost savings and improved efficiencies at every level of government, they should be initiated from the top down, not the bottom up. If changes need to be made, they should not come at the expense of farmers and ranchers.”

The Georgia Peanut Commission recently spoke out on the closing of local FSA offices. In a letter to the Georgia FSA State Committee, Armond Morris, GPC chairman, encourages the state committee to study the Senate bill 944 and to hold off on closing any of the local offices proposed until the issue is resolved in Washington.

this right,” he says. “Don’t displace farmers for political reasons in the name of better service.”

The Baker County FSA office disburses 10.6 million dollars which is 14th out of 83 offices in Georgia. According to Heard the administrative cost per dollar is one cent. The state average administrative cost per dollar is .09 cents and ranges from .01 to .40 cents per dollar.

To insure that local FSA offices are given fair treatment and consideration, Heard and other farmers request that the Georgia State Farm Service Agency stop any action of office closures until the S.944 Bill by Senator Thune can require

“While I strongly support finding cost savings and improved efficiencies at every level of government, they should be initiated from the top down, not the bottom up. If changes need to be made, they should not come at the expense of farmers and ranchers.”

U.S. Senator John Thune, R-S.D.

“Our board had discussion on this matter and we are very concerned that many growers will suffer from a rushed decision at this point,” Morris says.

The closing is very near and dear to Jerry Heard, Jr. along with other farmers in Baker County, Ga. Heard has served on the Baker County FSA committee for several years. He has commented at numerous meetings and contacted congressional leaders regarding the Georgia plan for closing local offices especially the FSA office in Baker County.

According to Heard, only 23 states have submitted a plan around the United States for office closures. Heard does not understand why Georgia is rushing to submit the state plan for office closings. “Farmers around the state of Georgia would rather you take your time and do

the Secretary enter into a contract with an independent reviewing authority selected by the Secretary to carry out an independent review of efficiency and effectiveness.

The following is a list of the 16 counties selected for closure Georgia. The first county listed is slated for closure. The second county is the proposed office with which the county will be consolidated. The counties include: Baker-Mitchell; Bleckley-Pulaski; Brantley-Pierce; Coweta-Carroll; Dougherty-Calhoun; Evans-Tattall; Greene-Morgan; Habersham-Hall; Houston-Peach; Johnson-Washington; Lanier-Lowndes; Seminole-Miller; Walker-Floyd; Ware-Atkinson; Wheeler-Telfair. Irwin & Ben Hill opted to be combined.

BY JOY CARTER

Because diseases
lurk both above



Top Growers Predict Keys

Both apprehension and optimism are on the minds of peanut growers as they prepare for the upcoming season. Heading into the 2007 crop, two top producers from South Carolina and Georgia share their thoughts on past success, current concerns and plans to build on their achievements.

Ricky Kneece of Pelion, S.C., and Al Sudderth of Dawson, Ga. have a few things in common as top peanut producers, including the fact that both are perennial yield winners from their respective states. Although each concedes they do not have much influence over the Farm Bill or rising input prices, they can make a difference in their operations by choosing cost-effective products. And they both agree that the Syngenta fungicide portfolio is superior in protecting their peanuts and helping to maximize their profits.

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Kneece relies on Abound® as the foundation of his disease management program. "We've tried other products before, but Abound consistently provides better results and healthier peanuts," said Kneece.

"ABOUND CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES BETTER RESULTS AND HEALTHIER PEANUTS."

Abound offers broad-spectrum control and a superior level of activity that protects peanuts against a variety of yield-robbing diseases. "On our farm, we typically see pressure from *Cylindrodactium* black rot (CBR) and white mold, but we've been using Abound for the past 7 years, and it's done a great job keeping these diseases in check," said Kneece.



to Success for 2007

Abound is a proven performer, on both soil-borne and foliar disease, and consistently ranks as a yield leader among competitors. "We did our own comparison trials for two seasons on fields with high *Rhizoctonia* pressure, and we repeatedly saw a significant yield increase with Abound," said Sudderth. "We've gone with 100 percent Abound ever since and continue to have great success with it."

"WE'VE GONE WITH 100 PERCENT
ABOUND EVER SINCE..."

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Although concerns remain over this year's peanut crop, growers can find confidence in the Syngenta fungicide portfolio to deliver the most cost-effective results and help maximize yields. "We've set yield records 8 out of the last 10 years using these fungicides, and we definitely plan to use them again this year," said Sudderth.

"WE'VE SET YIELD RECORDS 8
OUT OF THE LAST 10 YEARS."

and below the ground.



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Georgia Peanut Commission celebrates National Peanut Month during March

The Georgia Peanut Commission promoted peanuts all through the month of March with the state welcome centers, events at the State Capitol and a New York radio station.

Tourists stopping at one of the Georgia Welcome Centers in March were able to get more than directions or places to visit in the state. The tourists were able to sample peanuts and obtain recipes through the "Travel Light . . . Pack Peanuts" promotion. All of the Georgia Welcome Centers were distributing peanuts, recipe brochures and nutritional information about peanuts through the month long promotion.

The Georgia Peanut Commission exhibited at a celebration held in March at the Georgia Freight Depot hosted by Governor Sonny Perdue and the Agriculture Advisory Commission. The Georgia Peanut Queens from Sylvester, Ga. and Buddy McNutty also made a



The Georgia Peanut Commission board and staff meet with Governor Sonny Perdue during National Peanut Month in March and Georgia Ag Awareness Day in Atlanta, Ga.

special appearance at the event. GPC also exhibited at the Georgia Peanut Producers Association National Peanut Month festivities at the state capitol.

GPC promoted peanuts with a New York radio station during the month by giving away two gift baskets filled with Georgia peanuts, candy and recipe brochures.

Joseph Gannascoli, also know as Vito of The Sopranos, launched the new radio show called "Chewin The Fat" on FM 98.5 WBZB, Business Talk New York®. The show's health format deals with topics ranging from sport snacks, late night TV show munchies, low calorie foods, restaurants, nutritional supplements, and diets.

Georgia Peanut Commission mourns loss of former GPC board member

W.R. "Billy" Hatcher of Baconton passed away March 16 at his residence. Hatcher served 12 years on the Georgia Peanut Commission Board and served as president of Farmers for Fairness. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Billy's family during their time of loss," says Don Koehler, GPC executive director. Memorials may be made to Albany Community Hospice, 2332 Lake Park Drive, Albany, Ga. 31707.



A visitor to Georgia samples some of the Georgia peanuts at the Georgia Visitor Center in Ringgold during National Peanut Month in March.

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- ✓ Promotion with Paulding County Ag Day
- ✓ Promotion with Crawford County Farm Day
- ✓ Promotion with Franklin County Ag Day
- ✓ Promotion with Hazlehurst County Ag Day
- ✓ Promotion with Georgia Visitor Information Centers during National Peanut Month
- ✓ Sponsored 14 March of Dimes Chef's Walk America events
- ✓ Attended Georgia Ag Day Celebrations in Atlanta
- ✓ Attended the Georgia FFA State Convention
- ✓ Exhibited at the Georgia Extension 4-H Agents State meeting in Eatonton, Ga.
- ✓ Promotion with Georgia District Kiwanis
- ✓ Promotion with Auntie Roz Peanut Show
- ✓ Promotion with San Mateo County Farm Bureau in California
- ✓ Promotion with the Georgia Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention Conf.
- ✓ Promotion with University of Georgia College of Agricultural Alumni Event in Taiwan
- ✓ Numerous Peanut Circus events across the U.S.
- ✓ Attended Georgia Peanut Producers Assn. event at the state capitol for Georgia Peanut Month
- ✓ Promotion with "Chewin the Fat" New York radio show on FM 98.5
- ✓ Attended American Peanut Shellers Association Spring Industry Meeting in Cordele, Ga.
- ✓ Attended American Peanut Council Spring Industry Meeting in Atlanta, Ga.
- ✓ Assisted with Syngenta Peanut Leadership Program session in Cordele, Ga.
- ✓ Promotion with bullfighter Matt Baldwin on ESPN
- ✓ Attended numerous peanut production meetings across the peanut belt of Georgia
- ✓ Met with Senators and Congressmen regarding storage and handling for the 2007 peanut crop in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Supplied peanuts to Congressional offices in Washington D.C. and Legislative offices in Atlanta



Georgia Peanut Commission

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UGA helping update farm irrigation contact info

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) needs updated contact information for farmers who use irrigation in the Suwannee and Ochlockonee watershed in south-central Georgia. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension can help provide it, says a UGA water specialist.

Farmers there and across the state are required to place meters on their permitted wells to tally their water usage, says Kerry Harrison, a UGA Extension irrigation engineer. If the SWCC can catch up with them, the state will cover the cost (\$1,000 per meter per well).

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has an estimated 9,000 permits in the area. All contain contact addresses, but most are outdated rural-route numbers, he says. Those have since been changed to Emergency 911 addresses. But the changes were never shared with the Department of Natural Resources.

The SWCC wants the updated contact information for at least half the permit holders in the area by June 30. In

2003, UGA Extension agents within the Flint River Basin in southwest Georgia helped with a similar process. Less rushed, the update there took about four years to complete, Harrison says.

Funding for this initiative was approved in late January. Depending on the actual number of updated contacts, the

“The use of water in agricultural crop production is a very important element to ensure yields and subsequent farm profits.”

Kerry Harrison
UGA Extension
Irrigation Engineer

initiative will cost between \$750,000 and \$1.2 million. The money will pay for extra work hours and tools the county agents will need.

Along with updating addresses, UGA

Extension agents will locate the water withdrawal site for each permit. That information will be given to Albany State University in Albany, Ga., to map the area irrigated with the permit.

“The use of water in agricultural crop production is a very important element to ensure yields and subsequent farm profits,” Harrison says. “Hopefully, this effort to update agricultural permit contact information will not intrude on any farming operation.”

This initiative is sparked by the “Water Wars,” a decade-old negotiation between Georgia, Alabama and Florida over shared water rights.

One skirmish in 2003 resulted in Georgia House Bill 579. It called for all agricultural water users to have a meter installed by 2009. The SWCC was given the task of implementing the metering program.

“This effort is being undertaken so agriculture’s right to continue to use water in Georgia will be understood by other users of water in the state,” Harrison says. ◀

BY BRAD HAIRE
UGA NEWS EDITOR

Georgia Ag Tag now available

The new Georgia agriculture license plate to honor Georgia agriculture is now available. A tag can be purchased by calling or visiting your local county tag office.

The idea for the agriculture tag’s design came from FFA and 4-H members attending the Governor’s Honors Agriscience Program. The students researched other states’ agriculture tags and came up with their own ideas of what should be on the tag. The students completed a draft design and then Mike Parsons, an artist from Winder, created the final design for the agriculture tag.

In November, Georgia voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing specialty tags. Included in this amendment was the “Ag Tag” proposed by Senator Greg Goggans of Georgia’s 7th District. The new automobile license



plate was designated to honor Georgia agriculture.

“We want to make sure that all Georgians recognize how important agriculture, agribusiness and agriculture education are to this state,” says Senator Greg Goggans of Douglas, who introduced the bill. “It is my hope that when drivers see this tag on the highway they will be reminded of the hard work that goes into

putting food on our tables.”

The tags can be pre-purchased now. Visit or call your local tag office and request the tag. If your tag clerk needs coaching to find the tag listed in a computer, the code is FFH. There is an initial \$25 manufacturing fee for the tag.

Once 1,000 orders have been placed, the tags will be manufactured and shipped to the purchasers. There is an annual \$45 registration and speciality tag fee to renew.

Proceeds from the sale of the agriculture tags will go to benefit Georgia FFA and 4-H. Ten dollars will be evenly distributed between both organizations and the funds will be used to support work relative to the mission of each organization and to promote agriculture, agricultural awareness, and environmental education.

Peanuts donated to victims of recent tornado

The famous Boll Weevil Monument in Enterprise, Ala., was recently surrounded by blue and white ribbons that represent the high school colors in this Southeast Alabama town. But in addition to the school color ribbons there is a black ribbon prominently displayed that represents the eight high school students that lost their lives as the result of a tornado that swept through the area on March 1, 2007. A total of nine persons lost their lives in this storm.



Alabama Peanut Producers Association and Florida Peanut Producers Association joined forces immediately after the tornado that swept through not only Enterprise, Ala., but other communities, and donated packets of peanuts to assist with the much needed food supply for that area.

Approximately 10,000 packets of peanuts were donated by the two associations to the Enterprise disaster relief just days after the destruction took place. These packets were distributed by volunteers including members of the American Red Cross.

When the need for additional protein items came, the Western Peanut Growers Association in Texas made contact with the APPA office and together produced specially designed labels for cans of peanuts that were also donated. The label on the cans read, "You Are In Our Thoughts..." and included both association names.

Volunteers and residents of the Enterprise area said they were very gracious for the donations of peanuts and the special comments on the cans were extra thoughtful.



From top: Tarps are a common sight on numerous houses that withstood the strong storm; A picture from a classroom at Enterprise High School; American Red Cross Volunteer Charlie Brower of Pensacola, Fla., and volunteer Brandy Helms of Ft. Lewis, Wash., are pictured with some of the cans of donated peanuts.



Local media help celebrate March - National Peanut Month

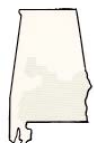
Several Southeast Alabama radio stations helped celebrate March - National Peanut Month with a variety of peanut trivia, peanut health segments, and special peanut gift basket give-a-ways. Radio stations who participated in the special promotion included: WTVY-FM, WKMX-FM, WJRL - FM, and 91.3 Magic - FM, among others.

Top of the Morning Show with Charlie Platt also promoted the special peanut month and gave



away an Alabama Peanut Producers Association (APPA) 50th Anniversary gift basket that featured a large of variety of peanut products.

APPA staff also spoke with over 60 volunteers with the local school system about the importance of peanuts and peanut butter in one's diet. Staff also distributed a variety of healthy peanut snack recipes that could be included in recess and after school snack times.



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Minor tornado damage to area fields as planting season approaches

Farmers are paying close attention to the Risk Index due to the increase pressure from tomato spotted wilt. The index states that the optimum planting window is from May 10-20 but not all farmers' plant during that window due to the fact of how many acres they have to plant and the weather conditions. Usually they all plant from May 1 till the end of the month, depending on the weather as to when they can plant and get a good stand to start the plant off right.

Alabama took a huge dip in acres last year. I thought at one time that the acres would be down if we didn't get a good contract. However with high fertilizer prices peanuts are a good crop. Some growers are definitely going to decrease peanut acres and shift to soybeans with the low input costs and \$8.00/bu price. I think with such a huge decrease in acres last year it will be hard for us to go below that level again.

The recent tornado affected growers in Coffee, Dale, and Henry counties (Enterprise, Echo, and Screamer Communities some of the areas that I heard about). Most of the damage was debris that was blown into the fields by the tornado. I haven't heard of any major structure damage to any growers that I know of.

Some growers are applying their grass herbicides now

"Most of the damage was debris that was blown into the fields by the tornado."

Kris Balkcom
Program Assistant
Auburn University
Wiregrass Research and
Extension Center



where they have already turned the land to help keep grasses under control and conserve moisture. Other growers that are strip-tilling into a cover crop are killing those crops now to prevent the cover crop from depleting the moisture supply any more. It's important to conserve that moisture now when we start getting some showers for when we lay the rows off and begin to plant.



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FPPA hosts 32nd Annual Membership Meeting



2007 FPPA Board of Directors, left to right. Damon Sandlin, Williston, Fla.; Jeff Pittman, Bascom, Fla.; Andy Robinson-Vice President, Williston, Fla.; Joe Tillman, Altha, Fla.; Michael Davis, President, Graceville, Fla.; Larry Ford, Greenwood, Fla.; Robert Barnett, O'Brien, Fla.; Lewie Joe Smith, Jay, Fla.; Damon Griswold, Jay, Fla.

More than 350 peanut farmers and their families attended the 32nd Annual Membership Meeting of the Florida Peanut Producers

Association recently held in Marianna, Fla. The program included an update of legislative and farm bill issues and

reports on state, regional and national promotions. Larry Ford of Greenwood, Fla., and Lewie Joe Smith of Jay, Fla., were elected to serve three year terms on the board of directors.

Booker named Florida Peanut Farmer of the Year

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and FPPA continue their tradition of honoring an outstanding peanut farmer with the Young Peanut Farmer of the Year Award. Gary Booker of Okaloosa County Florida is the recipient of this year's award. Booker's farming operation is carried out on land that his family has been farming for three generations. Booker has a diversified farm operation with peanuts, cotton, corn, hay and livestock.



Rick Hemby with Farm Credit of Northwest Florida presents the Young Peanut Farmer of the Year Award to Gary Booker of Okaloosa County Florida.

Gary believes that a farmer must give back to his community and stay involved with matters that concern his industry. He is an active member of the Bullard Free Will Baptist Church and serves on the Okaloosa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He also serves as chairman of the Yellow River Soil and Water Conservation District and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Okaloosa County Extension Service.

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and Florida Peanut Producers Association are proud to honor Booker as the Young Peanut Farmer of the Year.



Davis testifies at Ag Summit

Michael Davis, president of FPPA, delivers proposals for the 2007 Farm Bill during an Ag Summit hosted by Congressman Allen Boyd, D-Fla., in Monticello, Fla. Also, participating in the event, Congressmen Collin Peterson, D-Minn., chairman of the House Ag Committee and Sanford Bishop, D-Ga.

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- ✓ Promotion with Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville Agriculture Field Trip for kids
- ✓ Promotion with Chiefland Middle School "Fun Day on the Farm"
- ✓ Promotion with Alachua County Youth Fair
- ✓ Promotion with Levy County Soil & Water Conservation District
- ✓ Promotion with Hamilton County Extension Ag Day for 4th grade students
- ✓ Promotion with Dunnellon High School during National FFA Week
- ✓ Attended American Peanut Shellers Spring Meeting in Cordele, Ga.
- ✓ Promotion with Town of Campbellton "Spring Fling in the Park"
- ✓ Ag in the Classroom promotion with Madison County Farm Bureau
- ✓ Promotion with Leon County Health Department Nutrition Program
- ✓ Donated peanuts for Enterprise, Ala., tornado victims
- ✓ Promotion with Campbellton/Graceville Hospital Health Fair
- ✓ Promotion with Farm Service Agency Training in Ocala, Fla.
- ✓ Promotion with Lifeway Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn.
- ✓ Promotion with Chipola College State Championship Basketball Tournament
- ✓ Promotion with Dune Buggy the Clown
- ✓ Promotion with Jackson County Senior Citizens Center
- ✓ Promotion with Agronomy Department University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.
- ✓ Ag Venture Promotion with Nassau County Extension Service
- ✓ Promotion with Marion County Farm Bureau
- ✓ Promotion with Escambia County Extension Service
- ✓ Health Fair participation for 2000 employees at the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, Fla.
- ✓ Participated in Calhoun County Ag Ventures for 200 5th grade students
- ✓ Attended American Peanut Council Spring Meeting in Atlanta, Ga.
- ✓ Assisted with Syngenta Peanut Leadership Training Session in Cordele, Ga.



Florida Peanut Producers Association
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Marianna, Florida 32448
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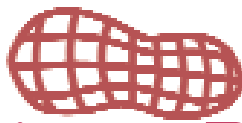


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Peanut Advisory Board Update

PAB attended Research Chef's Association Annual Meeting

The Peanut Advisory Board attended Research Chef's Association's (RCA) annual meeting in New Orleans in March. This year's meeting boasted their highest-ever attendance at 1,470 foodservice professionals. PAB made in-roads with several potential new partners at this meeting including Decas whole sweetened cranberries. We are planning a partnership with them as early as May of this year.

Research Chef's Association is the leading professional community for food research and development. Its members are the pioneers of the discipline of Culinology® - the blending of culinary arts and the science of food. The membership is comprised of chefs and food scientists working in food manufacturing, chain restaurants, hotels, ingredient supply houses, consulting and academia; and other food professionals in research and development, sales, marketing, manufacturing, distribution, and the media.

PAB promotes Real Wasabi Peanut Sauce



The Peanut Advisory Board partnership with Real Wasabi Peanut Sauce and the California Sheep Commission received rave reviews from attendees at the International Caterer's Association's annual conference in Las Vegas in January.

Peanut Advisory Board promotes peanuts

The Peanut Advisory Board has scheduled several opportunities to promote peanuts to local communities. They include:

April 22 – Friendship Baptist Church will collect peanut butter to feed the hungry in Chipola. PAB will provide recipe brochures for distribution to the congregation in Malone, Fla.

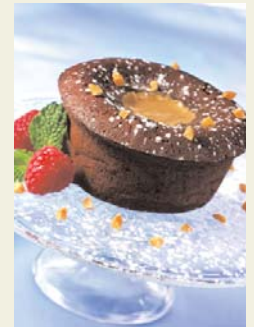
April 27 – Ag Day Festival booth for 350 students in Alpharetta, Ga.

May 21 – Birmingham United Methodist Church Charity Golf Tournament where peanuts will be the featured snack on the course in Canton, Ga.

June 13 – “Reading Takes You Everywhere” summer reading program focused on Georgia places and products at the R.T. Jones Memorial Library in Canton, Ga.

PAB's chef contest winner

Nation's Restaurant News featured Peanut Advisory Board chef contest winner “Molten Black & Tan” in the February 26 issue. This fabulous dessert was created by Chef John Venegas with Eures Dining Services, American Canyon, Calif.



Pacific Peanut Slaw

The weather's getting warm and we're all ready to fire up the grill. Try this slaw recipe with your next barbecue!

6 servings

Dressing:

1/3 cup creamy peanut butter
3 tablespoons lime juice
3 tablespoons sesame oil
1 small green onion, minced
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon molasses
1 teaspoon chili sauce
1 clove garlic, quartered

Combine the dressing ingredients in a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Process until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.

Slaw:

6 cups shredded napa cabbage or packaged cold-slaw mix
1 large cucumber

Peel, seed and coarsely shred the cucumber and drain on paper towels. Combine the cabbage and drained cucumber in a large bowl and toss with half the dressing. Reserve the remaining dressing to pass for those who would like more dressing.

Variation: For a sweeter slaw, add 1 ½ cups well drained pineapple tid-bits to the slaw before serving.

Marketing arm of



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Peanut Advisory Board

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Announcing a new runner peanut variety from AgraTech plant breeder, Dr. Ernest Harvey. AT-3081R is a high yielding, disease resistant variety with AgraTech's trademark prominent mainstem. The mainstem makes it easy to see the rows, keeping digging losses to a minimum. AT-3081R is available in 2007 on a limited basis.

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A young boy in a green shirt is shown in profile, looking up at a massive, dark tractor tire that dominates the right side of the frame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**YOUR 75 LB. CHILD
HAS NO CHANCE AGAINST
YOUR 10,000 LB. TRACTOR**

**KEEP KIDS
AWAY
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This message is developed and endorsed by the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network.
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2007 Peanut Disease and Insect Guidebook



Sources: Auburn University, Clemson University
and University of Georgia

Disease management in peanuts for 2007

For most peanut growers in the Southeast, the main focus of the 2006 season was on severe drought and not on disease management issues, with the exception of white mold that became problematic later in the season.

Despite predictions that spotted wilt would be severe in the 2006 season, based upon an assessment of weather conditions during the spring, this important disease

was fairly mild for most growers in 2006. We estimate that losses to spotted wilt in 2006 were around 2.5 percent, which is one of the lowest loss estimates for this disease in years. It is not possible (or necessarily helpful) to predict the severity of spotted wilt in 2007. Growers are simply reminded that the best way to minimize their risk is to adhere as closely as possible to the guidance provided in the 2007 UGA Peanut Disease Risk Index.

White mold became a real problem



for many peanut growers across the Southeast in 2006. Despite dry conditions, the warm soils favored the development and spread of this disease. Also, many growers began to stretch the interval between fungicide applications due to the lack of rainfall. In delaying fungicide applications, some growers likely allowed the white mold epidemic to develop without proper control measures in place.

Peanut pod rot was an important problem for a number of growers last season, especially those in the eastern part of Georgia around Emanuel, Jefferson, and Burke Counties. The problem was most prevalent in dryland fields where growers had planted varieties with larger pods, such as AP-3. Despite apparently adequate levels of calcium in the soil, the dry conditions did not allow for sufficient uptake of calcium by the pods in some cases, thus resulting in severe pod rot. Despite the problems with varieties like AP-3, growers should recognize that this variety offers an excellent disease package, especially for spotted wilt and white mold. Although growers in dryland areas may be hesitant to grow this variety again, it has performed very well under irrigated conditions and with adequate rainfall.

Although the 2006 season is now history, it offered peanut growers in the southeast many lessons for peanut production in the future. Most importantly for 2007, prior planning and timely management strategies are the keys to successful peanut disease control. ◀

New strategy - prescription fungicide program

“Prescription fungicide programs” are defined as strategies designed to maximize yields and maintain disease control in a field using the appropriate number and type of fungicide applications based upon the risk to disease in the field. The goal of prescription fungicide programs is to use the right amount of fungicide for the level of disease expected in a field and to modify the fungicide use as the risk of disease increases or decreases as the season progresses.

Fields where the risk to disease is high, for example where fields have shorter crop rotation, are planted to less resistant varieties, and weather favors disease development should receive at least seven fungicide applications during the season, and perhaps more.

Fields where the risk to disease is reduced to a low or moderate level, for example where fields have longer rotations and are planted to more resistant varieties, typically do not need the same fungicide program as a higher risk field in order to maximize yields, says Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia peanut pathologist. Research data from many on-farm and small plot studies conducted at the University of Georgia have demonstrated that growers who manage their crop so as to reduce the risk to leaf spot, white mold, and *Rhizoctonia* limb rot can also reduce the number of fungicide applications and increase the value of their crop by cutting production costs. “In low risk fields, it is quite possible to reduce the number of fungicide applications from seven to four, so long as the grower is willing to watch the field to insure that disease does not begin to develop unnoticed,” Kemerait says.

In the past growers using a reduced spray program were not covered by crop protection companies if there was a problem. Syngenta has now developed a prescription program where growers will be covered when and if there are problems with reduced sprays.

“Syngenta is excited about working with the authors of the Peanut Disease Risk Index to offer Southeast peanut growers the best and most current information about disease control in peanuts,” says Lyle Stewart, district manager for Syngenta Crop Protection. “We are confident that our prescription peanut program will allow growers to make the most informed decisions for maximizing profits from their peanut crop.”

Program specifics are currently being finalized, and more information will be available about this new program in the coming weeks. Growers interested in developing prescription programs should first assess the risk in their field(s) using the UGA Peanut Disease Risk Index and then contact their local county agent for guidance on a suitable fungicide program. ◀

New Labels for 2007

Trilex Optimum or Trilex Star: Two new seed treatments will be available to growers this year. Research at the University of Georgia conducted by Tim Brenneman, plant pathologist, finds that all seed treatments, Vitavax PC, Dynasty PD, and Trilex Optimum, perform very well in improving plant stand over seed that has not been treated with a fungicide. In the past, growers had to make a special request for seed to be treated with Dynasty PD. Now, the seed supplier will make the decision on whether to treat with Dynasty PD, Trilex Optimum, or Vitavax PC.

Generic Formulations of Folicur: In 2007, growers will have access to a number of generic formulations of tebuconazole (the active ingredient in Folicur). Some of these include TriSum (Cerexagri-Nisso), Integral (Luxembourg), Tebustar (Albaugh), Muscle and Muscle-Echo co-pack (Sipcam), Orius (MANA), and Tebuzol (UPI). These generic formulations of tebuconazole should be used like Folicur in a fungicide program. According to Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia peanut pathologist, these formulations should perform like Folicur; however we at the University of Georgia have not tested each one of them in replicated fungicide trials. It is possible that some products are produced better than others and will thus perform better than others in the peanut field, he says.

Provost: A new fungicide mix, Provost, is a pre-mix of tebuconazole (Folicur) and prothioconazole (Proline) available from Bayer CropScience. Provost will be used in a 4-block program like Folicur has been. From data collected at the University of Georgia, Provost offers excellent control of leaf spot diseases and control of white mold, Rhizoctonia limb rot, and CBR control that is at least as good as Folicur. The prothioconazole fungicide appears to have very good activity against CBR, especially when used in-furrow as Proline. Proline (prothioconazole alone) will likely be marketed as an in-furrow treatment beginning in 2008. The rate of application of Provost will vary somewhere between 8 and 10.5 fl oz/A depending on the severity of disease in a field.

Evito 480SC: A new strobilurin fungicide (in the same class as Headline and Abound) that will be available for peanut growers in 2007. Evito is labeled to be used on peanut at 5.7 fl oz/A and on a similar 2-application timing to Abound (approximately 60 and 90 days after planting) for control of leaf spot and soilborne diseases. According to Kemerait, there is limited data from the University of Georgia on this product so growers are advised to use Evito cautiously (e.g. on limited acreage) until researchers have a better understanding of its performance in the field.

Top 10 Tips for Improving Peanut Disease Control

- 1) Use the Peanut Disease Risk Index to develop a production plan to reduce risk to disease.
- 2) Practice good crop rotation (e.g. peanuts in a field no more than once every 3 years) and know the disease history of each field.
- 3) Plant peanut varieties that have greater disease resistance.
- 4) Spend time scouting your fields watching for the onset of diseases.
- 5) Spray your peanut fields with fungicides on a preventative basis, i.e. do not let diseases get ahead of you and use a fungicide spray advisory, such as AU-pnut, to optimize timing of fungicide sprays.
- 6) Insure that sprayers are carefully calibrated and maintained to maximize efficacy and coverage of fungicide applications.
- 7) Consider using fungicides with systemic activity at critical times during the season.
- 8) Insure seeds are treated with an effective fungicide package and plant when conditions favor vigorous germination and rapid growth (neither cool and wet nor hot and dry!).
- 9) When possible, time fungicide sprays for control of soil-borne diseases in anticipation of rainfall or irrigation events approximately 12-36 hours after application.
- 10) If weather conditions become favorable for spread of disease (especially if unusually wet), be prepared to shorten the interval between fungicide applications.

Growing concern of Tebuconazole resistance

There is growing evidence that leaf spot pathogens are becoming more resistant to tebuconazole so growers should be cautious and manage their disease control options. According to Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia Extension peanut pathologist, if farmers grow peanuts under conditions that favor leaf spot diseases, such as planting a more susceptible variety, poor crop rotation, or extended periods of wet weather, then they should consider taking additional steps for disease management.

One of those steps is tank-mixing a reduced rate of a second fungicide for leaf spot control with 7.2 fl oz of tebuconazole. In three years of studies good tank-mix partners with tebuconazole included chlorothalonil (0.75 pt/A or 0.7 lb/A) and Topsin 4.5F (5 fl oz/A with two of the tebuconazole applications). In 2007 Sipcam is introducing Muscle-Echo, a co-pack of tebuconazole and chlorothalonil.

Bayer CropScience is also introducing a new fungicide pre-mix, Provost which is a combination of tebuconazole and prothioconazole. This product should also be used in a 4-block spray program similar to Folicur. ◀

Special thanks to Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia (UGA) Extension Peanut Pathologist, Tim Brenneman, UGA plant pathologist and Albert Culbreath, UGA plant pathologist, for providing information for the 2007 Disease Guidebook.

When should fungicide applications be modified from the 14-day interval?

The interval should be shorter than every 14-days if conditions:

- ◆ Rainfall has been abundant and conditions are favorable for leaf spot.
- ◆ You are using the AU-PNUT leaf spot advisory and it calls for an early application.
- ◆ Peanuts follow peanuts in a field and leaf spot is expected to be severe.
- ◆ Rainfall came on quickly after your last leaf spot spray and you are concerned that some of the fungicide may have been washed off the plants in the field too quickly.
- ◆ You are planting a variety that has poor resistance to leaf spot diseases.
- ◆ Peanut rust appears in your field prior to the end of the season.

It may be possible to extend the spray interval beyond 14-days if:

- ◆ Conditions have been dry and unfavorable for leaf spot, especially if you use the AU-PNUT advisory for spray guidance.
- ◆ You are using a variety with increased resistance to leaf spot, such as C99-R, Tifrunner, or GA-01R. For example, if pressure from soilborne diseases is not severe, the spray interval for C99-R could be every 21 days while it is possible to treat DP-1 only three times during the season. The real concern for these varieties is not leaf spot control, but control of *Rhizoctonia* limb rot.
- ◆ You use the Peanut Disease Risk Index and find that the predicted risk of fungal disease in a field is low to moderate and rainfall has not been excessive since your last spray.
- ◆ Since many fungicide applications are used to manage leaf spot diseases and soilborne diseases, one must consider the effect that an extended spray schedule would have on both types of disease (foliar and soilborne) before shifting from a 14-day schedule. ◀

Additional information can be obtained from your local Extension Agent. The 2007 UGA Peanut Update is available online at www.ugapeanuts.com with additional information on disease control.

Can you identify these diseases?



Answers to Disease Identification section at top of the page.
 1. CBR 2. Funky Leaf Spot 3. Early Leaf Spot 4. Late Leaf Spot 5. White mold sclerotia 6. Rhizoctonia limb rot 7. Underground white mold 8. White mold sclerotia 9. Wilted plant with white mold 10. Peanut rust

2007 Peanut Insect Management Guide

Last year was certainly far from a normal year as far as peanut production goes! And it also was far from a normal year for insect management in our peanut crop in the southeast. So, what do we expect or predict for the 2007 peanut crop? I gave up trying to prognosticate what biological systems will do several years back- it can get you into a tough spot.

With that said, there is nothing wrong with having a plan for managing insect or other pests in peanuts. Based upon weather conditions and resulting changing pest populations, we do need to be somewhat flexible in putting our pest management program for peanuts into practice. This is where scouting, monitoring or whatever you want to call it comes into play. Thirty-two years of scouting peanuts and monitoring peanut scouting programs has proven to me that it is a worthwhile and economically smart plan for peanut production in the southeast.

The first insect pests that peanut growers are faced with during the growing season are thrips. They stunt seedling peanuts which can lead to delayed maturity and direct yield loss. But the most significant thing that thrips do is to vector tomato spotted wilt virus. Traditional



Ron Weeks, Extension peanut entomologist, discusses peanut insect management during a field day in Alabama.

thrips control is applied at planting in the seed furrow. Granular insecticides with the active ingredients aldicarb or phorate are effective in reducing early season thrips damage to peanut seedlings during the first month of emergence when applied at-planting in-furrow. Hopper box seed treatment with the active ingredient acephate in the powder formulation is

also recommended for at planting thrips control. For early-to mid season plantings this treatment is usually not as effective under heavy thrips pressure and the length of control is only two to three weeks long. Foliar sprays of recommended insecticides for thrips control are not usually necessary unless poor results were obtained with the at-planting treatments due to poor up-take of the materials or unusually heavy thrips pressure. Scouting peanuts two to three weeks after emergence will tell whether these additional treatments are needed. Excessive damage to the new terminal bud (expressed as burnt leaf tip) should be avoided during the first month after emergence. Controlling thrips in peanuts has not proven to have a significant impact on reducing spotted wilt. However, research data has shown significant reductions in spotted wilt where phorate insecticide is used. This has been shown to be unrelated to direct thrips control. But in peanuts where high spotted wilt levels may be expected phorate is recommended to help manage and reduce levels (see TSWV Risk Index for details).

Another early season insect pest that has been somewhat troublesome for the last few years is the granulate cutworm.

Tips for successful pest management

- When preparing soil before planting peanuts, check for soil insects.
- After peanuts are up, check fields at least once a week for pest and beneficial insects in order to make treatment decisions.
 - ▶ To check a field, walk diagonally across it and around at least half of the borders. Look for any abnormal plants or plant parts and, if any are found, try to determine the cause. Look for any discolored leaves and examine the undersides closely to determine if spider mites are present.
 - ▶ At ten locations in each field, examine 3 feet of row carefully. In each 3-foot section, shake the vines thoroughly and fold them back to count any foliage-feeding pests on the surface of the soil. Identify and record numbers of each kind of insect found. Carefully examine the undersides of the plants for signs of lesser cornstalk borer damage.
 - ▶ As the vines are folded back, some pods and pegs will be pulled out of the soil. Examine these for damage. It may be necessary to remove a few plants from the soil in order to thoroughly check for southern corn rootworms and lesser cornstalk borers and their damage. If you find larvae or fresh damage from either of these soil insects at three or more of the ten locations, a recommended insecticidal treatment should be made.

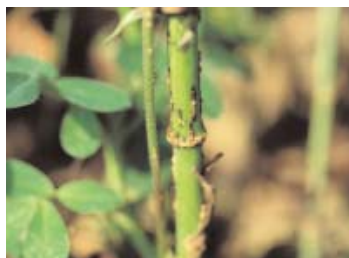
"Scouting for insect pests and damage on a weekly basis is the best way to economically manage them."

*Ron Weeks
Auburn University*

continued on page 22 ▶

Can you identify these insects & damage?

Answers are located at the bottom of this page.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

continued from page 21

Usually cutworms will start showing up about the time that peanuts are 4-6 weeks old. Dry weather, leaf shed, fields that have high incidence of seedling diseased plants or strip-tilled peanut cultivation may all be factors that increase potential for high numbers of cutworms. Control problems continue to pop up across the southeast peanut belt each year. Older pyrethroid insecticides generally have not been especially effective. The newer chemistries like Steward and Tracer have been more consistent, but still there have been fields where especially high numbers existed that these materials did not

provide satisfactory results. The night feeding caterpillars will spend most of the day under the plant/in the soil and at times will crawl up on the plant and begin feeding. I think therein is one of the problems. In especially high populations not all of these worms are feeding up on the plant foliage and are not exposed to the insecticide residues. It is virtually impossible to get enough material down through the canopy to reach the worms on the ground. Unless they feed you won't see good results with the foliar sprays.

Granular insecticides with the active ingredient chlorpyrifos have not worked well either. They control the worms only

by contact and since the worms don't feed on the granules themselves effective control is not usually accomplished. Evaluate cutworm control based upon plant damage. Even if worms are still there and damage is not being seen, treatments may not be advisable.

Through mid-season insect pests that should be watched are three-cornered alfalfa hopper (3CAH), leafhoppers and foliage feeding caterpillars as a group. In mid-season corn earworm, tobacco budworm and fall armyworms are the main species that may reach treatable levels. Weekly scouting for these insects will

continued on page 23 ►

Be aware of Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper damage

The three-cornered alfalfa hopper (3CAH) is certainly not a new insect pest of peanut, and it's not the most damaging, but it may be the pest whose economic impact has increased the most in recent years. There is little data on the impact of 3CAH on peanut yields, but the impact appeared to be significant in many peanut fields in 2005 in the Southeast. For the 2007 growing season, the following recommendations are being offered:

1. Scouting is the key to control. Damage seen in August and September is probably the result of feeding in June and July. Not every field requires treatment and unnecessary, automatic sprays will increase production costs and may lead to outbreaks of secondary pests,

development of insecticide resistance in other pests.

2. There are varietal differences in susceptibility to 3CAH but any variety may experience damage. Yield loss depends upon not only the number of feeding sites (girdles) on a plant, but also on the plant's reaction to that damage. Relative to other currently available varieties, Georgia Green appears to be a preferred variety, but other varieties can be heavily damaged as well.

3. Insecticides can be effective, but timing is critical. Based on limited data,

Greater than 75 days to digging	1 adult per 6 ft. of row, or, any nymphs
25-75 days to digging	1 adult or nymph per 3 feet of row
Less than 25 days to digging	Do not spray for 3CAH

the following treatment thresholds are being proposed (see table)

4. The following insecticides can be effective if used at the right time: Karate, Asana, Baythroid, Orthene 75S, Sevin, and Lannate. However, keep in mind that Asana, Orthene and Lannate, although labeled on peanuts, do not list 3CAH as a target pest. ◀

Answers to Insect Identification section at top of the page.
1. Velvet Bean Caterpillar 2. Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper Damage
3. Granulate Cutworm 4. Thrips Damage

STEVE BROWN
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Burrower bug damage to peanuts

Burrower bugs are first cousins to stink bugs that spend most of their lives below ground. Although burrower bugs are very common in all peanut producing states, they seldom get noticed unless severe feeding damage is found on kernels after harvest.

Burrower bugs use their needle-like mouthparts to pierce pods and feed on peanut kernels. There is

no sign of damage on the pod or even on the seed coat, so most of the time their minor feeding goes unnoticed and it is a live-and-let-live situation. There probably aren't many peanut fields in the Southeast that don't have at least a few burrower bugs feeding on the pods.



Conditions that cause damage

So what triggers more severe damage? It's drought stress, particularly in reduced tillage systems. Our research with James Thomas at Blackville has consistently shown that tillage disrupts the life cycle of overwintering adult burrower bugs and significantly reduces injury potential.

But don't abandon strip-tillage. Even reduced tillage peanut fields that develop high burrower bug populations don't nec-

essarily sustain economic damage. For example, last year we saw one farm crawling with burrower bugs in peanuts strip-tilled into corn stubble. But since the grower had irrigation we did not treat, and the field made over 4,500 lbs. with 72 SMK, and no damaged kernels. At least in South Carolina, it takes late season drought stress for severe burrower bug injury to occur. In our experiments we have seen similar burrower bug populations in irrigated versus drought stressed plots, but less injury under irrigation. Extremely dry soil appears to increase the pod piercing activity of burrower bugs, perhaps because they need to feed on more pods to avoid drying up themselves.

Under these drought conditions we have measured significant grade and yield loss from burrower bug injury. Also, when severe injury is found on 2.5 percent of kernel weight, the load is graded as Segregation II and if it can't be cleaned below that level, the peanuts are consigned to the oil market at about \$135/ton - disaster.

Aflatoxin

Hot dry soils late in the season are also ideal for development of aflatoxin problems. Working with Joe Dorner of the National Peanut Laboratory several years ago, we found that in one grower field, over 98 percent of the aflatoxin present was associated with burrower bug injured kernels. Burrower bugs have probably



been an unnoticed accomplice in aflatoxin contamination of peanut for many years, while the more obvious injury from lesser cornstalk borer got most of the blame.

Preventing damage

How can burrower bug damage be prevented? Irrigation is without question the best defense. Conventional tillage also has a big impact, but reduced tillage has too many benefits every year to abandon it for what might happen in a drought year. Lorsban 15G applied at standard timing (about 50 DAP) has also provided significant burrower bug control in our tests at Blackville, but Lorsban can have negative consequences in causing severe mite and worm outbreaks.

In summary, burrower bugs are one more example of the fact that if we have severe drought stress and can't get water to the crop, there are no easy answers. ◀

By JAY W. CHAPIN
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION PEANUT SPECIALIST

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give growers the information needed to make timely treatment decisions.

Data in Alabama studies in 2005 and 2006 showed peanuts treated with aldicarb insecticide at planting had significantly reduced 3CAH damage from main stem girdling. Several of the new peanut cultivars also show reduced damage from 3CAH and some to leafhoppers. When scouting for 3CAH use the proposed treatment thresholds of the University of Georgia.

Soil insects are particularly important during pod development and scouting during this time of the season should focus on insect pests and the damage they

cause. Lesser cornstalk borers, wireworms, southern corn rootworms and burrower bugs all can cause considerable damage to peanut yields and/or quality. Knowing how specific environmental and cultural practices affect the damage each one of these pests cause is important in effectively managing these pests.

Burrower bug damage continues to be seen sporadically across the southeastern peanut belt each year. In Alabama, heavy crop residue and dry weather conditions in late season seem to be high risk factors for seeing damage from burrower bugs. In these situations scouts should focus, during pod development and maturation, on looking in the soil and under the canopy for these bugs. Although treat-

ment thresholds have not been established, if adult bugs and/or nymphs are found at an average of one per six feet of row treatments are probably warranted.

Insect pest populations vary considerably from one year to the next. Different weather conditions have a great impact on what insect populations do. Changes in cropping patterns (increase in corn or soybeans) may impact the kind of insect pest problems we have in 2007. To be successful managing insect pests and their damage in peanuts be alert, be aware and be flexible. ◀

By RON WEEKS
EXTENSION ENTOMOLOGIST
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Washington Outlook

by Robert L. Redding, Jr.



Storage and Handling fees still in play

The U.S. Senate has completed work on the Fiscal Year 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The bill now goes to conference with the U.S. House of Representatives. Included in the House bill are peanut storage and handling fees for 2007.

Southeastern growers are working with peanut state leaders to hold the fees in conference. U.S. Congressman Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., has led the effort to maintain the fees for 2007.

South Korea Trade Agreement finalized

U.S. negotiators concluded a free trade agreement with South Korea. Although the agreement aids U.S. automakers, it did not achieve the concessions desired by the U.S. rice industry.

The agreement was signed in time to meet the statutory guidelines for congressional consideration under the current trade negotiating authority. Trade Promotion Authority expires this year.

NASS reports major changes in national plantings

In what could impact farm policy in 2007, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported that estimated corn acres are up 15 percent nationally from the 2006 crop year. Corn plantings have contributed to reduced acreage for other commodities nationally. Cotton acreage is down 20 percent, soybeans down 11 percent, rice down 7 percent and peanuts down 4 percent nationally.

Various energy proposals are being discussed for the farm bill which may or may not be impacted by the increase in ethanol production and demand for corn.

According to the report, producers intend to plant 1.20 million acres of peanuts in 2007, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, planted acreage would be the lowest since 1915.

Southeast growers (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) intend to plant 857,000 acres, down 10 percent from last year. The most significant acreage decline in this region is expected in Georgia, down 14 percent from last year, where producers intend to plant more corn and soybeans. In the Virginia-North Carolina region, producers intend to plant 118,000 acres, up 16 percent from 2006. Growers in the Southwest (New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) intend to plant 222,000 acres, up 17 percent from last year.

Disaster assistance included in supplemental

The Fiscal Year 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill includes disaster assistance for agriculture. The House and Senate bills both include disaster provisions.

Approximately \$4 billion is included in the bill for agricultural disaster relief. The bill covers crop years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The legislation now moves to a joint House-Senate Conference Committee for approval.

Farm bill hearings continue

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, scheduled a committee field hearing in Atlanta, Ga., April 10, to discuss Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs. U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is the Ranking Member of the committee.

The House Agriculture Committee may hold hearings in Georgia later this Spring. The House Agriculture Committee's subcommittee on General Farm Commodities has already held a farm bill hearing on commodity programs. The Specialty Crops subcommittee has not scheduled a peanut hearing as of this writing.

Georgia FSA Office moving to Tifton

Georgia Farm Service Agency director Susan Holmes recently announced that the Georgia headquarters of FSA will be moving to Tifton. The offices are currently located in Athens, Ga. Currently there is no timetable for the move but it is expected to occur within the year.

USDA/NASS Prospective Planting Report

State	2005	2006	2007 ¹	2007/2006
	1,000 acres			Percent
AL	225	165	160	97
FL	160	130	120	92
GA	755	580	500	86
MS	15	17	17	100
SC	63	59	60	102
NM	19	12	12	100
OK	35	23	20	87
TX	265	155	190	123
NC	97	85	94	111
VA	23	17	24	121
US	1657	1243	1197	96

¹ Intended plantings in 2007 as indicated by reports from farmers.

Legislative Updates available online at www.americanpeanuts.com

Bayer CropScience introduces Provost

Foliar and soilborne diseases constantly attack peanut plants and reduce yield. Growers must carefully weigh their fungicide choices to maximize both their yields and profits. Provost™ fungicide from Bayer CropScience, which recently received EPA registration, can make an immediate positive impact on growers' bottom lines.

"We have every indication that Provost will be the new standard in peanut disease protection," says Randy Myers, Provost product manager, Bayer CropScience. "More protection means more peanuts. Provost controls all of the major foliar and soilborne diseases, and it even suppresses *Cylindrocladium Black Rot*."

University trials in 2004 and 2005 showed Provost programs consistently out-yielding other programs. For example, in 17 research trials across the Southeast, the average yield improvement over using Folicur® fungicide was 515 pounds per acre.

Provost excels when disease pressure is highest, Myers says. It controls early leafspot, late leafspot, white mold, rust,



web blotch and *Rhizoctonia* limb rot. It also has the greatest activity of any current peanut fungicide on CBR.

"This aggregate protection adds up to more than just a few pounds of peanuts per acre," Myers says. "We're talking about a quarter of a ton improvement per acre over some other treatments."

Some fields will see larger or smaller gains, depending on yield potential and weather patterns. Still, Provost gives everyone a chance for consistently higher yields year-in, year-out, Myers says.

With flexible use rates — 7 oz. per acre to up to 10.7 oz. per acre — peanut growers also have options for improved control in fields with a history of high disease pressure or during abnormally wet periods. Provost contains no strobilurin component, which makes it a good fit for resistance management programs because it can be rotated with products containing strobilurins.

Growers interested in learning more about Provost fungicide should visit www.BayerCropScienceUS.com or talk to their local Bayer CropScience sales representative.

New AGCO brand web site

AGCO product brand marketing has launched a new Web site www.agcoiron.com featuring details on high-quality, high-tech, crop production equipment, special finance offers, and more. The user-friendly Web site includes a wide variety of comprehensive product information and quick access to breaking news on AGCO branded products including: AGCO Tractors, Gleaner combines, Hesston hay tools, Sunflower seeding and tillage tools and White Planters. Just like AGCO equipment, www.agcoiron.com is a powerful tool to keep visitors on the cutting edge of product information and equipment technology.

Valent introduces cleanout solution for Valor

Valent has introduced a new cleaner to help eliminate Valor residue in the spray tank and inside of the hoses. The Valor Tank & Line cleaner is free of charge at present time. Each sales representative with Valent has 100 gallons available for growers.



Growers interested in obtaining the complimentary tank cleaner should contact their sales representative. The sales representatives are: Jerry Dowdy, Northeast Georgia and South Carolina at 803-422-6605; David Whitehead, Southwest Georgia, Alabama and Florida panhandle at 850-217-3004; and John Altom, South central Georgia and North central Florida at 352-316-1366. Valent is currently developing more of the cleaner and when it is available the cleaner will be sold through the normal distribution channel.

The cleanout procedure for Valor SX Herbicide is as follows:

- Never let spray solution stay in the tank overnight.
- Fill sprayer with clean water & flush all hoses, booms, screens & nozzles.
- Remove dead end caps & clean out as well.
- Final Cleanout before spraying over top of any crops
- Completely drain the spray tank and rinse the sprayer thoroughly (inside of tank, lid, and all in-line screens, filters, tips and any dead end hoses).
- Flush tank & booms with clean water for 10 minutes.
- Fill tank with 50 gallon water & 2 qts. of Valent supplied Valor Tank & Line cleaner.
- Agitate water & Valor Tank Cleaner solution for 10 minutes through entire spray system.
- Open booms & charge the spray lines. Shut down sprayer & allow solution to stay in lines overnight for AT LEAST 12 HOURS.
- Next morning, finish filling tank with water & agitate through system. Flush this diluted solution through booms until empty. Flush with clean water.
- Check all strainers, filters & tips again. The Valor Tank Cleaner will thoroughly strip sprayers and bring lots of old residues out of tanks and into the strainers.
- Rinse with clean water.

BASF and Monsanto announce collaboration agreement in plant biotechnology

BASF and Monsanto Company recently announced a long-term joint research and development (R&D) and commercialization collaboration in plant biotechnology that will focus on the development of high yielding crops and crops that are more tolerant to adverse environmental conditions such as drought. The collaboration is effective immediately.

Over the life of the collaboration, the two companies will dedicate a joint budget of potentially \$1.5 billion to fund a dedicated pipeline of yield and stress tolerance traits for corn, soybeans, cotton and canola. The joint pipeline will include the companies' existing and planned yield and stress tolerance programs and be comprised of projects generated by independent plant biotechnology discovery and research from each company.

University of Georgia Midville Experiment Station remains open

After a great response from industry leaders and east Georgia farmers the University of Georgia Midville Experiment Station will remain open. UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean Scott Angle announced plans to sell 200 to 250 of the least used acres at the station. The remaining 500 acres makes Midville still one of the larger research farms at the college. The money from the sale will be used to reinvest back into the remaining farm acreage.

The Georgia Peanut Commission sent a letter earlier to Dean Angle in support of keeping the station open when there was discussion on selling the entire farm. During the Georgia Peanut Tour in 2006, attendees toured peanut research at the station and learned the need for research in Midville due to the different soil types when compared to other college farms across the peanut belt.

Starr named as APRES executive officer

The American Peanut Research and Education Society has recently named James Starr Executive Officer. Starr is a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology at Texas A&M University and a long-time member of APRES.

Starr is a respected and distinguished plant nematologist and, accordingly, he was elected as fellow of the Society of Nematologists in 2003. He also was honored for his contributions to the peanut industry where he received the American Peanut Research and Education Society "Bailey Award" on two occasions for outstanding research, and was a recipient of the American Peanut Council's Research and Education Award in 2001.

Starr is recognized for his scientific contributions and leadership as a plant pathologist. He has a distinguished record of professional service, which speaks to his leadership role in promoting the science of plant nematology. His studies of the nature and genetics of crop resistance to nematode diseases are recognized as an important model for other plant pathologists studying soilborne pathogens of field crops.

Peanut industry mourns loss of Joe Bryan



The peanut industry lost a great pioneer for southern peanuts, Joe Bryan on March 31. Bryan started Damascus Peanut Company in 1949. He was one of the seven original founders of ChemNut, Inc. and former president of the Southern Peanut Warehouseman's Association, now the National Peanut Buying Points Association. He was active on the Georgia Agribusiness

Council and former mayor and city councilman of Damascus, Ga. He served as director of the First State Bank in Blakely, Ga. He was known for his generosity in supporting the Boy Scouts of America, Southwest Georgia Academy, many area churches and other charities. Bryan received the Pioneer Award in 2005 from the National Peanut Buying Points Association.

ConAgra Foods announces the renovation of its peanut butter plant and enhanced food safety measures

ConAgra Foods will take a number of steps to ensure that its peanut butter product returns to store shelves as quickly as possible. The company plans to reopen its Sylvester, Ga., facility in August after it thoroughly addresses all possible causes of the Salmonella outbreak. The company will also take this time to implement significant changes in the plant, including installing new, state-of-the-art machinery, technology and designs throughout the plant. While these plant wide upgrades are being put in place, the company will partner with a third-party, co-manufacturing facility that meets all standards for producing safe and quality products. ConAgra Foods will begin shipping Peter Pan Peanut Butter to retailers this summer.



ConAgra Foods has appointed a food safety expert to a leadership position, which will consolidate responsibility for existing and future company wide oversight of food safety initiatives and systems in a single position. Additionally, the company has formed a Food Safety Advisory Committee composed of leading independent experts, uniquely positioned in the industry to help shape the company's efforts. The committee will be chaired by Michael Doyle, director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia and one of the foremost authorities on foodborne pathogens in the world.

Friend of Georgia agriculture, Henry Reaves passes away

A true friend of Georgia agriculture recently passed away on April 2. Henry L. Reaves was respectfully greeted by most as "Mr. Henry," and also known as "Mr. Agriculture."



He was a longtime state representative who came to the Georgia General Assembly in 1963 and retired in 2000. He served 38 years with seven governors, beginning with Gov. Carl Sanders. He was a longtime champion of agriculture research and development and worked tirelessly for extension and research in the University System of Georgia.

He served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the House of Representatives for 28 years, having previously chaired the Natural Resource and Environment Committee with water as his main focus.

The National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry was initiated and heavily influenced by his vision. The main arena is named in his honor. He was inducted into the Georgia Peanut Commission Peanut Hall of Fame in 2000 and the University of Georgia Agriculture Alumni Associations Hall of Fame in 1998. Friends endowed a scholarship in his honor as a way to extend appreciation to him for his long-standing commitment to the Georgia Youth and Georgia Agriculture and perpetuate his love and support of Georgia's youth.



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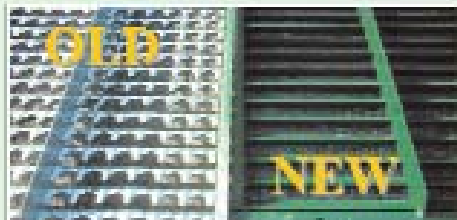
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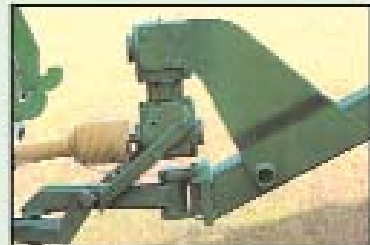
KMC Announces a \$1000 Discount on all 2007 KMC Combines.

As a result of continuous improvement, the KMC combine is the most efficient peanut harvest machine available. Because of our confidence in picking efficiency, a \$1000 demonstration discount is offered toward the purchase of 2007 model combines. Contact your local KMC dealer to arrange a demonstration on your farm.



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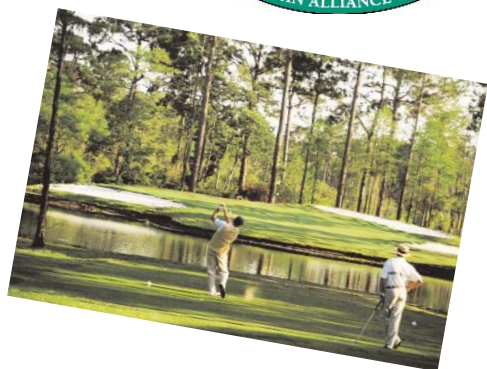
- Adjustable strippers adjust picking aggressiveness to a wide range of harvest conditions.
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2007 Southern Peanut Growers Conference



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Sunday, July 15

1:00 - 7:30 p.m. Registration Open, Edgewater Beach Resort Conference Center
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception

Monday, July 16

6:45 a.m. Registration Open, *Edgewater Conference Center*
6:45 a.m. Prayer Breakfast
8:00 a.m. **General Session I - Peanuts & Politics: The Farm Bill**
Congressmen Collin Peterson, Allen Boyd and Sanford Bishop

10:00 a.m. - noon Children's Program & Spouse Program

10:15 a.m. **General Session II - U.S. Agriculture & The Farm Bill**
Dana Brooks, American Farm Bureau
Panel: Sugar and Rice Commodity Representatives & Midwest Perspective

Noon Lunch Buffet

1:00 & 2:15 p.m. **Research Breakout Sessions** (*Each session repeats at 2:15 p.m.*)
Session A: Seed Variety Outlook Seminar
Session B: Herbicide Resistance in Peanuts
Session C: Burrower Bugs, Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper & Cut Worms: What's Next?

Evening on Your Own in Panama City Beach!

Tuesday, July 17

6:45 a.m. Registration Open, *Edgewater Conference Center*
7:00 a.m. Breakfast - Farm Press Peanut Profitability Award & Grower Panel

8:30 a.m. **General Session III - Tomorrow's Horizons**
Peanuts & Genetic Modification: Rich Wilson & Peggy Ozias-Akins
Peanuts & Biodiesel: Wilson Faircloth

10:00 a.m. - noon Children's Program & Spouse Program

10:30 a.m. **General Session IV - How Can I Grow Peanuts for a Profit?**
Panel Discussion

Noon Lunch on your own and afternoon free!
12:30 - 6 p.m. Golf Tournament, *Hombre Golf Course*
7:00 p.m. Reception, Dinner and Entertainment

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Edgewater Beach Resort Panama City Beach, Florida
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Company Name: _____ Farm # (required of peanut producers): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Spouse Name (if registering): _____ Child's Name(s) (if registering): _____

Namebadges are required at all conference functions. Only those registered for the conference will receive a namebadge.

Registration Rates: Full Package includes all meal functions, spouse program and children programs.

Number of Registrants	Registration: On or before		Subtotal
	Rates	After	
	June 29	June 30	
_____ U.S. Peanut Growers	\$125	\$175	_____
_____ Spouse	\$125	\$175	_____
_____ Children (per person)	\$125	\$175	_____
_____ General Registration: (Including media, government, research, grower representatives)	\$245	\$295	_____
_____ International Attendees	\$695	\$745	_____

Special Activities:

_____ Golf (per person) \$100 _____
includes green fees, cart rental and prizes

TOTAL amount enclosed (U.S. Dollars) \$ _____

Credit Card Information: (Check one) Amex Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Signature: _____

Fax registration form with credit card authorization to Tammy Pate at (229)386-3501.

Make checks payable to: Southern Peanut Growers Conference
Mail check with payment to: Tammy Pate - Georgia Peanut Commission
P.O. Box 967 Tifton, GA 31793

For More Information Contact:

ALABAMA PEANUT PRODUCERS ASSN. (334)792-6482
FLORIDA PEANUT PRODUCERS ASSN. (850)526-2590
GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION (229)386-3470

Registration deadline is June 29, 2007.

For on-site registration, add \$100 to original registration rate for each registrant.

Cancellation Policy: 100% On or before July 1
50% After July 2 and 0% after July 8

Hotel Reservations

must be made separately and directly with the Edgewater Beach Resort by calling:

1-800-874-8686

(When making your hotel reservations, ask for the Southern Peanut Growers Conference rate.)

Register for Special Activities

For our planning purposes, check the boxes of special activity events you plan to attend. Also, include the name and age of each child attending.

Spouse Program:

- Monday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Tues., July 17, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Kids Program: Fun & Games on the Beach & More

- Monday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Tues., July 17, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Name of each child that will be attending and age:

Golf Tournament: includes green fees, cart rental and prizes

Name: _____

Handicap or Average Score: _____



From the *Mule* to the *Moon*

by J. Frank McGill

*A fifty-year collection of human interest experiences about
peanuts, people and places across five continents.*

Milk, Mules and Peanuts

There was never a day since my age of accountability on a 118-acre family farm in Tift County, Georgia, when milk, mules and peanuts were not an important part of my life. Of course, there were also cotton, tobacco, corn, beans, wheat, oats, sweet potatoes and sugar cane for syrup, used to sweeten tea cakes, my favorite treat. Hogs rounded our diversification, making us virtually self-sufficient except for coffee, tea and sugar.

Peanuts, cotton and tobacco were cash crops. Each spring my daddy would get a production loan from the bank to buy seed, fertilizer and other production items. Tobacco went to market first, usually during July, and the income from its sales went directly to the bank to pay on the loan. Then we sold peanuts and cotton in September and October and paid the remainder of the bank loan, plus the annual land payment. If we had favorable weather and made good crops, there would then be money for school clothes.

Excess milk and butter sold to regular customers in town paid for our weekly groceries. Each Saturday afternoon, rain or shine, hot or cold, my daddy and mama would deliver eight to ten pounds of butter to our faithful patrons who paid thirty-five cents per pound. Any money left over after groceries was for Sunday school and church. And so, there was little wonder my parents guarded butter production with their lives and taught us to do the same.

One night Mama and Daddy went down the road to visit one of our good neighbors. We were left at home to study our lessons. They told us to be sure and keep the churn turned by the fireplace. Mama always placed the cream that had been separated from the skim milk in the churn the night before she was to make butter and set it on the fireplace hearth. We were to rotate the churn about a fourth of a turn every half hour so that the fire would warm all sides. She said this made the cream rise and that, as a result, the butter would come easier the next day when she churned it. She usually tied a cotton sugar sack around the top of the churn to keep all foreign objects out of the cream.

While my parents visited the neighbors, we decided to turn the cat in for play. This is something that we were never to do at our house. Animals were strictly confined to the outdoors. Well, we played with the cat awhile and then went back to our books. Later, we glanced at the churn only to see that the cat had crawled over into the top of it and was lying suspended in the sugar sack just like it was her hammock. We were horrified! We did exactly what we should not have done—screamed at the top of our voices, scaring the cat. As she tried to leap from the top of the churn, the sack caved in. Down went the cat into the churn, cloth and all. We were in deep, deep trouble, fearing the consequences if our parents ever found out. And so, we pitched the cat out, threw the sugar sack into the fireplace and burned it up. We replaced it with a new sack, mopped up the cat tracks and said nothing.

It was twenty years before we ever told Mama what happened.

Even then, she couldn't bring herself around to laugh about it, and at the age of ninety still didn't appreciate its being told and would say, "Now ya'll hush, hush!"

Then there were mules, our beloved beasts of burden. Mules were always treated with reverence, respect and appreciation because they were so essential to our livelihood. My daddy would not tolerate treatment even bordering on their abuse. We dared not hitch up a mule to plow unless it had been adequately fed and watered. Another ground rule rigidly enforced was that a mule should be brushed with a curry comb before being harnessed, to rid its coat of any dirt or foreign material that could cause shoulder sores.

A good pair of well-tempered mules that would pull at the same gait was indeed a prized possession. On the contrary, an ornery, ill-tempered mule would try the patience of Job. If a man could tolerate such a mule without "cussing" he was considered more unusual than the mule.

My daddy was an excellent mule trader, and if he misjudged one, it was soon traded again. Maybe that's just one of the reasons why I never did hear him cuss. He developed his own theory about a mule's consumption and production efficiency. This was a very important economic factor, since more than 50 percent of all corn produced on our farm was fed to those mules during a twelve-month period. It was a fact generally accepted by most farmers that two mules of equal body weight, age and work load did not require the same amount of feed to maintain their body weight. My daddy's theory was that the diameter of the mule's anus was directly proportional to its feed requirement, and he sought a mule with, as traders commonly referred to it, a "hickory nut" rear end, meaning, of course, that the anus was small and firm like a hickory nut. As a young boy, I considered this theory very impressive and even profound since it came from a man who had been through only the seventh grade. Daddy also contended in a facetious way that mules could talk. When you pressed him further on this point, he would explain, "Just go by the crib door and ask Ol' Alice how many ears of corn she wants for dinner, and she will raise her tail and tell you, 'A-Feeww!'"

Today, I catch myself trying to check out Daddy's theory on the cars that pass me on I-75. After all, most of the old mule traders that lived long enough became automobile dealers. Sure enough, for the most part, the consumption and production efficiencies of many autos appear to be directly related to the diameter of their tail pipes. The small, gas-efficient compact cars' tail pipes are only about one inch in diameter, whereas the larger gas-guzzler's tail pipe is two or three inches in diameter. Neither of these theories has even the semblance of scientific validity in view of moon day technology, I am told.

Mules had several qualities over and above those of horses which made them ideally suited for peanut and row crop farming. The product of a cross between a mare (female horse) and a jackass

(male donkey), the mule was a hybrid. As such, it possessed a vigor and stamina that greatly exceeded that of a horse of comparable size and weight. Mules also had much smaller feet than horses and would trample down far fewer crop plants as they walked between the rows pulling the tools for field cultivation. Mules were also more sure-footed than horses. Apparently, they took this feature from the jackass whose eye sockets are located slightly farther to the side of the curvature of the head. This feature enabled mules to see more precisely where to place their rear feet.

Growing peanuts with mule power was a contest of stamina for man and mule. We planted peanuts in eighteen-inch rows with seed spaced about six to eight inches apart. We used a single-stock Haiman plow with a six-inch shovel to lay off the rows. A mule-drawn Cole planter followed, which left the peanuts in a deep furrow. Just as soon as the peanuts began to emerge, if not before, we used a mule-drawn weeder to cave in the soil gradually over and around the peanut plants. Daddy's weeding instructions were always the same: "All I want to see after you run the weeder over these peanuts is just one leaflet on each peanut plant sticking out of the ground." The objective here was to cover and smother completely all weeds coming up around the young peanuts. We had to do this to control the weeds given that there were no chemical alternatives, but the peanuts were also covered, lowering (we later learned) their yield potential. The peanut plant, or at least part of it however, usually survived.

A day's plowing with a mule in a peanut field lasted from sunup 'til sundown. It took a man and mule a long work day to side cultivate three to four acres. I didn't know it then, but by quick calculation that translates into thirty-three to forty-four miles of walking per day for both man and mule, a real test of stamina. At the end of such a day, all we and the mule wanted was to head for the barn, something to eat and bed. No wonder we didn't get into much trouble.

My last peanut crop before leaving for WWII was harvested by German prisoners of war. Small compounds of German prisoners were located all over South Georgia, mostly at county work camps. The Germans were good workers, and although we appreciated their labor, we also feared them, hating the cause that Germany represented as much as they probably feared us, their conquerors. A mutual smile between us helped break the barrier. Although prisoners of war, they were given a taste of capitalism at



Weeding peanuts with a mule.

The 8N Ford Tractor with its quick 3 point hookup revolutionized southeast row crop agriculture during the late '40s.

work. We paid them seventy-five cents to one dollar per day for their efforts. We made this payment directly to the U.S. Army Custodian and not to the prisoners themselves. However, a record was kept of their income, and each received a percentage of this income upon his return to Germany after the war was over.

Some fifty years later, my wife and I overnights at Augsburg, Germany, on a return trip from Europe. That night I went down the street for my usual walk before bedtime. To my surprise, the streets were filled with World War II German soldiers all decked out in their uniforms. After a diligent search for someone who could speak English, I was told it was a reunion of soldiers who had been held prisoners of war in the U.S. As I looked each one in the eye, I couldn't help but think were you the one? Could you be the one that helped us stack peanuts back in Georgia during 1944?

The average peanut yield in Georgia under the mule system of farming during the mid '40s was 675 pounds per acre. However, we were able to make a decent profit because the market price in 1944 was a big \$140 per ton. If converted to 1997 dollars, it would be equivalent to \$1,226 per ton, but, again, per-acre production was low. Four years earlier, the market price was only \$60 per ton, but President Franklin D. Roosevelt had gone on national radio asking farmers to grow peanuts from fence row to fence row.

The extinction of the mule as a work animal on Georgia farms signaled an emerging social and technological change. Just as soon as World War II ended, and even somewhat earlier, Georgia peanut growers

began to move from mules to tractors. However, it was not without debate and frustration. Some prophets of doom fearing change - no matter how beneficial - believed that we would never give up the "cussed ol' mule." The first widespread use of tractors on Georgia peanut farms was to prepare the land, which required the greatest amount of man and mule power. Peanut growers would then fill in, plant, cultivate and harvest their peanuts with mule power. But with an increasing demand for labor that wasn't available within the booming economy that ensued after the end of World War II, peanut growers had no alternative but to shift from mules to tractors.

In 1941, the Georgia mule population was 314,000. By 1950, it had declined to 218,000, and by 1955, it dropped to 120,000. Tractor dealers took in thousands of mules as trade-in for farm tractors. Although during the mid '50s mules were still used to a limited extent for planting and cultivation, the mule system of farming was "gone with the wind."

New peanut technology was being ground out by out State and USDA Experiment Stations, particularly the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station of Tifton. In 1950, Georgia's average peanut yield was a record breaking 935 pounds per acre. Twenty-eight Georgia peanut growers were also induced into Georgia's Ton Per Acre Peanut Club sponsored by the Extension Service. At that time many peanut growers didn't believe these ton-per-acre yields were valid and were looked on with suspicion and doubt.

Technology was on the move! ◀

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