

# Virginia-Carolinas Peanut News

Winter 2014

www.aboutpeanuts.com

VOL. 62 No. 1

## Virginia and North Carolina Peanut Growers Association seeks National Peanut Board nominees

The Virginia and North Carolina Peanut Growers Associations seek eligible peanut producers who are interested in serving on the National Peanut Board (NPB). The Virginia Peanut Growers Association will hold a nominations election to select two nominees each for member and alternate to the NPB during a meeting on February 6, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the Southeast 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. All eligible peanut producers are encouraged to participate. The North Carolina Peanut Growers Association will hold nominations election on February 14, 2014, 10:00 AM at the Moratoc Inn, Williamston, NC. Eligible producers are those who are engaged in the production and sale of peanuts and who own or share in the ownership and risk of loss of the crop.

John Crumpler, II of Suffolk is the current Virginia NPB member and Paul Rogers, III of Wakefield serves as the alternate. Both are completing their first term and can be re-nominated.

Cindy Belch, of Northampton County is the current NC representative on the NPB and Dan Ward of Bladen County serves as the alternate. Cindy and Dan are serving their 2<sup>nd</sup> term and cannot be re-nominated.

The term for the Virginia and North Carolina board members and alternates expires December 31, 2014.

USDA requires two nominees for each state for each position of member and alternate. The NPB will submit the Virginia and North

Carolina slate of nominees to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, who makes the appointments.

The National Peanut Board encourages inclusion of persons of any race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. NPB encourages all persons who qualify as peanut producers to attend the meeting and run for nomination.

It is USDA's policy that membership on industry-government boards and committees accurately reflect the diversity of individuals served by the programs.

### About the State Producer Groups

The Virginia and North Carolina Peanut Growers Associations represent peanut growers in the two states and carry out programs in the areas of research, promotion, and education on their behalf.

### About the National Peanut Board

National Peanut Board represents all USA peanut farmers and their families. The mission of the Board is to provide USA peanut growers with a receptive and growing market for their peanuts and the information and tools for improved efficiencies. Through research and marketing initiatives the Board is finding new ways to enhance production and increase consumer demand by promoting the great taste, nutrition and culinary versatility of USA-grown peanuts.

## Virginia Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting February 6, 2014

President Michael Drake is pleased to invite all producers and others with an interest in the Virginia peanut industry to the Virginia Peanut Growers Association's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be held on February 6, 2014 at the Southeastern 4-H Center in Wakefield, VA. The meeting is again being held in conjunction with the statewide peanut production meeting.



The day's events begin at 9:00 a.m. with the production meeting featuring the latest in research results. The Association's meeting will follow lunch. During the day there will be reports and updates on research, production, marketing, Association business, the announcement of county and state yield winners, and various speakers. The National Peanut Board will be on the program as will nominations for Virginia Peanut Board and Virginia Peanut Growers Association Board members.

## South Carolina Peanut Growers' Annual Meeting January 30, 2014

The Annual South Carolina State Peanut Growers' Meeting will be held at the Santee Convention Center in Santee, SC on January 30, 2014. Speakers scheduled include Dell Cotton, Executive Director of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association; Bob Parker, Executive Director for the National Peanut Board; Tyron Spearman, Editor for the Peanut Farm Market News; and Glenn Harris, Extension Fertility Specialist for UGA. The annual meeting is great source of information for peanut marketing updates and state peanut board funded promotion and research projects. The meeting will start at 9:00 am. Please contact Scott Monfort at 803-335-8531 if you have questions regarding the meeting or if you would like to be a sponsor. Three grand door prizes will be given out during the meeting worth an estimated \$10,000 each. The Santee Convention Center is located at 1737 Bass Drive/HWY 15 (Exit 98 on I95), Santee, SC 29142.

## NC Peanut Growers elect Ray Garner as President



Ray Garner is a peanut, cotton and soybean farmer from Halifax County. Garner, a NC State graduate also serves on the NC Farm Bureau State Board and as President of the Halifax County Farm Bureau. He attends Smith United Methodist Church and is on the Board of Halifax Academy. Ray, wife Janice and children Ray and Elizabeth are proud peanut farmers carrying on a family farm tradition.

# Learning From Our Experiences

Rick Brandenburg  
Entomology Extension Specialist  
North Carolina State University



For all of us, we typically are more successful if we learn from history and learn from our experiences. I know a lot of you reading this wishes our federal government would do that on occasion, but that's an article for another day. Farming is one of the classic occupations where we can learn from our experiences and get better and what we do each year, based upon what we have learned in previous years.

The past few years have been quite variable in regards to weather. Three growing seasons ago we had hot and dry weather for much of the summer. Two summers ago we had great weather with good rains and temperatures and last summer we had too much rain in many locations and at the wrong times. Such is farming. I doubt anyone can recall two or three summers in a row that we the same.

Peanut insect control has been pretty stable the past few years. Not many major outbreaks and tomato spotted wilt virus has been at relatively low levels. Before we get too confident about the absence of tomato spotted wilt virus, let me take a minute to remind you as to the reasons why we have less tomato spotted wilt virus in peanuts. Without a doubt, it does not seem to be as widespread as it was 10 years ago, but there are reasons why. One big factor in all of this is that farmers in the Virginia-Carolina area aggressively adopted strategies that reduce the likelihood of tomato spotted wilt virus problems. We have the tomato spotted wilt virus that lists the various practices such as planting date, plant populations, and variety selection and the impact on potential virus levels. You adopted these practices and for the most part have stuck with them and I think it has provided great benefits. We have also seen the benefit of new varieties that are not as susceptible to the virus.

Speaking of new varieties, I think we have really seen great benefits for insect

management from these new varieties. The new varieties are tough, they hold up under a lot of abuse, and insects simply don't seem to affect them as much. In recent years, the need to spray for caterpillars or "worms" has become much less common. This not only saves money, but also help reduce the likelihood of spider mite outbreaks later in the season.

We did see something happen this year that has become a bit more common. We have been a little concerned about corn earworm showing some levels of resistance to our pyrethroid insecticides, but not enough to encourage changes in product selection at this point. However, this year we saw several fields where control was not what we hoped for. This was not due to resistance, but rather the result of the fields being infested by budworms. Budworms are harder to control than corn earworms, so we saw lower levels of con-

trol in these fields and in one of our test sites. We are going to monitor this situation in the coming year to see if this was a unusual event or a trend. You will receive updates if we begin to see more budworms showing up in peanuts.

The past two years we have had plenty of rain and we know that rootworms like good soil moisture. In other words, the past two summer have been good years for corn rootworms survival and potential outbreaks in peanuts. If you did not apply a rootworm insecticide to a particular field this year and at harvest there were no signs of rootworm damage, then I think we can use that as a good sign that field is probably safe from attack in most year. Field history is a key component of the rootworm advisory, but we don't have a field history for some of our fields as they are always treated for rootworms on a preventive basis.

Finally, take a look at your early season insect control. Temik (aldicarb) is gone and while there were rumors of a generic product coming to the market, I have not heard any recent news about it. Phorate (Thimet and others) and acephate (Orthene and others) became the standards and not everyone has been happy with the results, but these two products do work well. Admire Pro and Cruiser seed treatment have emerged and while our results with Cruiser have been inconsistent thus far, Admire certainly shows promise. We will keep you updated on our work this coming year as we work to refine our at plant insect control options.

Take some time this winter to review your pest management options and what seemed to work and maybe even what seemed to not work. Make some evaluations, look at your options for next year, and make some good plans based on that experience to make 2014 a good year.

**Best wishes for the New Year.**

## Marianne Copelan

Executive Director Virginia-Carolinas Peanut Promotions



This year is full of new changes from gaining a new position with the South Carolina Peanut Board to moving into a new office building in downtown Columbia, SC. I also have expanded responsibilities and duties with my new position as Marketing Director for the Department of Agriculture in South Carolina. I am excited to take on dual roles within the VC and SC and to fulfill each role successfully.

It has been such a blessing to be able to work with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and to keep my office space with the VC in Nashville, NC. I have continued to travel throughout the VC region since gaining my new position with SC peanut growers. I have traveled to each state fair within the Virginia Carolinas, and have attended meetings within all three states.

Each state fair had a large number in at-

tendance and peanuts were definitely the snack of choice. At the Virginia State Fair many people loved our booth filled with brochures, peanuts, promotional items, and the peanut plants. Everyone appreciated our display filled with photos and labels of the peanut production process. In South Carolina, I held three cooking demonstrations on how to make "Peanut Butter Protein Balls." Richard Rentz, President of the South Carolina Peanut Board, came to participate as "Uncle Ag" to promote agriculture to consumers who visited our building. Many people enjoyed our booth, which included a display of peanut production and free packets of peanuts.

At the North Carolina State Fair, we held a recipe cooking contest with over 30 entries participating. The marketing team for the fair was outstanding. At our booth we gave away inshell peanuts, brochures, and promotional items. Buddy McNutty was at all three state fairs to take pictures with everyone. We gave away stickers of Buddy and little Buddy dolls for the children to take home and play with.

This year I formed new campaigns to promote peanuts with each state's ACC

football team. At Virginia Tech, we held a promotion using four rotating displays to play throughout each home game. We also created a rotating banner to display at [www.hokiesports.com](http://www.hokiesports.com) during the month of October to promote the retail shops listed on our website. At Clemson University, we created a peanut display that rotated on each scoreboard six times during each home game. We also produced a commercial that was on Tiger Talk Show Radio, prior to each game, promoting inshell peanuts. At N.C. State we produced a commercial with Wolf-Pack Sports to promote inshell peanuts to certain radio stations all over North Carolina. Web impressions were designed to promote our logo and peanuts that can be purchased on our website.

There have been many full page magazine advertisements placed in magazines such as The Local Palate, Virginia Living, Our State, and Garden & Gun. I am currently working on adding new trade shows within each state in the VC. I will continue to work with radio shows throughout each state, as well as airport flyers, and social media campaigns during the upcoming year.

## JORDAN SUGGESTS

**David Jordan**

Extension Peanut Specialist, NCSU



Growing peanuts was more challenging in 2013 than in 2012 for many people, and this became evident when looking at statewide yields in

North Carolina (4200 pounds/acre in 2012 and 3800 pounds per acre in 2013.) Most of this can be attributed to weather and the challenges it presented. During both years peanut growers were excellent managers, had access to improved genetics (Bailey in particular) that provided both high yields and disease resistance, established excellent rotations in most cases and had a complete set of crop protection materials and other inputs. Much of 2012 was near perfect for most growers while most growers during 2013 experienced low temperatures, excessive rain and in some cases late-season drought. What is remarkable to me is how well peanuts did in spite of the relatively tough conditions. I tend to be on the conservative side of yield estimates and thought our yields would have been lower, but the 2013 crop demonstrates how good Bailey is in many cases, at least right now, and how many little things contributed to yield. For example, good rotations took the pressure off in fields that were wet much of the time and would have been catastrophic with some of our older varieties. Peanuts are now grown in fields that are mostly well-drained and this certainly minimized the negative impact excess moisture on the crop. The good rotations we are now using also minimized disease which would have otherwise been devastating under our weather condition. And finally, in some fields where things seemed to me moving downhill, growers had a good arsenal of products to protect the crop. All of **these “good practices” created an atmosphere that helped us get out of what looked to be a relatively bleak future in June and early July.**

In essence, farmers gave the crop a chance, and as a rule, it did well. There are a number of things to consider going into 2014 and most people want to know what contracts **will be this spring. I’m sure Bob and Dell** will address supply and demand issues and this might provide an estimate of contracts. As always, the relationship of prices for corn, cotton, and soybean in particular will influence which crop is most profitable and will influence the attractiveness of peanuts. We have a series of tables in the production guide that provide income generated for combinations of cost of production, realistic yield potential, and contract price. Comparing these values with what corn, cotton and soybeans can generate is always important to do.

There are a number of things to consider once the big decision of planting peanuts has been made. Production guides from the 3 states in the V-C region can help you fine-tune your decisions. There is also an overall risk index found on the peanut website at NC State which will help you assess overall risk of practices. While we plan to do some modifications to the program and updates, this tool can help you make general comparisons of programs prior to planting.

Addressing fertility (with the exception of calcium, boron, and manganese) and tillage systems are important early spring activities given your rotations are already in place and most likely you have made a decision on varieties. Perhaps lime is the biggest consideration as we need fields to be at pH 6 or slightly higher. Getting this product out as soon as possible and having it distributed through the profile is important. In many fields yield of peanut will be the same in strip till and conventional till systems. However, we continue to run into situations where fields are fine-textured or have significant areas with this characteristic and in some cases our yields lag behind conventional tillage because of these areas. Over the years we have compared strip and conventional tillage and see a slight advantage to conventional tillage. But on good peanuts soils, those that are sandy, yields are dead even in most cases. For pea-

nuts, the key is to make sure fields are **“set up” for efficient digging and preventing greater than normal pod loss.** Finer-textured soils without beds are notorious for having greater pod loss in reduced tillage compared with conventional tillage, and our challenge in many fields is **the pockets of “heavier soils” in those fields.** Regardless, implementing a good burndown program for winter weeds and emerged summer weeds is critical. Interestingly, we can have dog fennel emerge in peanuts and in some cases we have horseweed that escapes glyphosate and is almost impossible to control once peanuts emerge. As with other crops, a timely application of 2,4-D in early spring will often take the pressure off of herbicides in the peanut crop. We also encourage residual herbicides prior to planting and certainly when the crop is planted in our reduced till systems. We simply need to start clean and we need to make sure our residuals get activated. This often means spreading a few applications out before, at, and following planting so that we catch a rainfall event for activation. Keep in mind that in **reduced tillage we can’t incorporate and till to get us started clean.** Paraquat is a good component in the mix, either before or at planting if needed and then as an early postemergence application once peanuts have emerged. The rate of paraquat is critical and once the peanuts emerge we have to cut that rate but it still can help us with our early season weed control issues.

We see tremendous yield increases with inoculants in new ground and more modest but significant increases in fields with a history of peanuts. As you make decision on inoculants, especially liquid sprays, there is the question of compatibility with other products. We have information in our production guide on this question, but generally adding insecticide or fungicide (Proline is the product labeled for this timing) is okay. We do worry when folks start adding fertilizers and other untested products to the mix. Use some caution with your in-furrow spray mixtures as replanting takes all the fun out of growing peanuts. I know Rick, Ames and Scott will hit on thrips control. The only comment I would make is that

seed treatments have been inconsistent compared with in-furrow sprays or granular materials applied in the seed furrow. Growers need to be ready with foliar insecticide sprays to clean of thrips problems, and this was especially apparent in 2013. Damage from thrips persisted well into June and in some of planting date work, we noted that the late May planted peanuts had just as much damage as the early May plantings.

**I’ve hit on a number of things to help get us thinking toward planting and early season management of peanut.** Good luck with the crop and let us know if we can help on some of your decisions. Like always, when you ask me a question you will get two or three directed back at you. As frustrating as this may seem, most of the time the answers are better once all the information is on the table and chewed on just a bit.

### Boiled Peanut Day

At the South Carolina State Farmers Market, the South Carolina Peanut board hosted, “Boiled Peanut Day” on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Richard Rentz, President of the South Carolina Peanut Board, picked and boiled green peanuts for everyone to enjoy while shopping at the farmers market.

We set up a table with our banner placed in the front; then on the table we had: recipe cards, brochures, and promotional materials to hand out. We had cups of green boiled peanuts for people to grab, so they could shop while eating boiled peanuts. Many people came from all over SC and other states to get fresh locally grown produce. Around 10-15 people asked about where they could purchase green peanuts, and how to boil peanuts. We specifically had handouts there for everyone to take on how to boil peanuts, and a boiled peanut hummus recipe card.

We received ample gratitude for our being there and providing boiled peanuts to everyone who visited our table. Richard Rentz and family did a wonderful job providing the boiled peanuts as well as being there to answer questions from everyone at the market. This was an ideal promotion for the South Carolina Peanut Board, and we look forward to doing it again next year!

# VIRGINIA PEANUT BOARD REPORT

July 2012 through June 2013

Wayne Barnes, Chairman



The Code of Virginia allows for an excise tax to be paid by the producer on every pound of peanuts sold. The excise tax rate is \$.30 per hundred or \$6.00 per ton. This rate was effective for the third of three years with the 2012 crop year. This money is used by the Virginia Peanut Board, through the Virginia Peanut Growers Association, to staff an office and conduct promotional activities on behalf of and to benefit Virginia's peanut growers. These promotional activities are done by the Association and in conjunction with other organizations.

The balance in the Peanut Fund at the Virginia Department of Taxation in Richmond as of June 30, 2012 was \$3,352.88. Revenue from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 was \$264,911.05. The Board drew down \$265,461.03. Interest earned was \$483.75. This will leave a Fund balance of \$614.10 after adjusting for annual administrative fees of \$2,672.55. The entire budget, showing revenues and disbursements of the Board, are attached to this report. The Virginia Peanut Board contributed \$1,879.00 to the American Peanut Council as Virginia's pro rata share of the Council's domestic promotion, export promotion, and market development. The American Peanut Council continues its efforts to promote peanut usage in export markets.

Export funds are matched by finds from the Foreign Agricultural Service through the Market Assistance Program and extensive market development programs target Europe, Canada, and Mexico, the largest consumers of US grown peanuts.

The Board has maintained its membership with the Council through the years since it is the main industry organization which brings together all segments, from growers to manufacturers. The Association alternates with the North Carolina and South Carolina Associations for a Board seat on either the APC Domestic or Export Board of Directors. Currently the Association's Executive Secretary serves on the APC Domestic Board. The American Peanut Council is also instrumental to our industry in its domestic efforts. They monitor media developments, food safety initiatives, and any other issues on behalf of its membership. Their handling of the peanut food safety incidents in our industry prevented bad situations from being much worse.

The industry also recognizes the important role played by the National Peanut Board in peanut promotion and education. The National Peanut Board is the producer check off entity which collects the assessment of 1% of the value of all peanuts sold by farmers. These funds paid by producers are then spent to promote the products made from the producers' peanuts. The National Peanut Board is the industry leader in searching out new uses for peanuts and peanut butter. They spend a great deal of time and resources on the allergy issue, making sure that a responsible plan is developed to deal with the issue in schools and other public places. The Virginia Peanut Growers Association, along with other state grower organizations and industry groups, partners with the National Peanut Board on market promotion and outreach efforts.

The National Peanut Board annually attempts, depending on their budget, to allocate funds to each producer state for a co-promotion project. Typically the three states comprising the V-C area (VA, NC, and SC) pool their funds together for one larger project than any of the three of them could individually accomplish. For 2012, the three states joined together for an ad centered on gourmet and inshell peanuts in the Garden and Gun October/November magazine. The ad directed consumers to the aboutpeanuts.com web site which then led them to retailers. Funds were also spent advertising on the web sites of two NASCAR tracks which we haven't done before.

The Virginia Peanut Growers Association, using Virginia Peanut Board funds, continued its efforts in promotion and education in other areas as well. Nearly 80,000 of the regular Virginia sample bags were distributed to organizations upon request and to Washington legislative offices during the year. The Association, usually through Vir-

ginia-Carolina Peanut Promotions, had a presence at promotional functions such as the Virginia State Fair, the Pork, Peanut, and Pine Festival, the Richmond Folklife Festival, the VA Beach Rock & Roll Marathon, and other trade shows throughout the year. We continued our joint efforts in promotion with the North Carolina and South Carolina grower organizations through V-C Peanut Promotions at a cost of \$16,000 for the fiscal year based on 2011 crop planted acres. Since this arrangement is based on acreage from the previous crop year, the expense for Virginia will be \$20,000 for the 2013/2014 year figured at the rate of \$ 1.00 per acre. Marianne Copelan is now in her third year as head of V-C Peanut Promotions. She has brought new ideas and promotional efforts to the job, mostly through her varied capabilities in social media. The website has been revamped and continues to be changed. She has attended numerous promotional shows as she becomes familiar with the promotional efforts that preceded her and how she can build on these. She continues to search for new markets in which to make the presence of VC grown peanuts known.

The Peanut Production Contest was once again held for the 2012 crop. Trophies were provided by Colonial Farm Credit for the Virginia county winners and the state champion. The state winner was Kevin Monahan, Waverly, VA and his son Drew. The state average yield was 4,200 pounds per acre which beat the previous record of 4,000 pounds per acre set in 2011. Board funds were allocated to the Tidewater Agricultural Experiment Station for research projects in the amount of \$24,500. The projects were approved in March and will be completed during the 2013 crop year. A list of the research projects is attached to this report. The Association is also responsible for reviewing research proposals to be recommended for funding in Virginia by the National Peanut Board. In 2012, the National Peanut Board approved \$13,618 in research projects using funds allocated to Virginia based on production.

The Association once again provided funds for a weather hotline for use by Virginia and northeastern North Carolina producers. The expense was split evenly between the Virginia and the North Carolina grower associations. The Association is a joint publisher of the V-C Peanut News, issued three or four times during the fiscal year. The paper provides marketing, research, and promotional updates for growers in VA, NC, and SC. The paper is put together by Marianne and her staff and is printed by the Tidewater News in Franklin. The Association continues to help identify companies willing to add the Virginia-Carolina Grown logo to their product label. There are now four small processors using the logo on their product label. Acres in Virginia have somewhat stabilized in the last few years in the 15,000 to 20,000 range. This is certainly lower than before the program changed but the tendency seems higher than the low of 12,000 acres in 2009. USD A is forecasting 14,000 acres for 2013 which seems a bit lower than the general estimate of 16,000.

The annual Association budget is in the \$125,000 range. In early 2013, the Virginia General Assembly passed a renewal of the \$6 per ton excise tax. This will cover production from the 2013, 2014, and 2015 crops. Action will not be necessary again until January of 2016. The last two years of record production in terms of yield has allowed the Association to build up some reserves for those years when yields aren't so good. It is expected that our acreage will be in the 15,000 acre range for the foreseeable future, and the \$6 rate provides adequate funding for our administrative and promotional needs.

Discussions continue on new promotion and education programs that can be undertaken on behalf of and to benefit our producers and our Virginia industry.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 2013

Development of Peanut Cultivars with High Oleic Trait and Early Maturity - Dr. Balota - \$8,500

Extension Outreach and New Approaches to Control of Soilborne Diseases and Nematodes - Dr. Phipps - \$8,000

Regional Thrips Trials and Rootworm Management in Peanut - Dr. Herbert - \$8,000



**Thomas R. Cotton, Jr.**  
Executive Secretary VPGA

Now that we approach winter, it is a good opportunity to look back at the growing and sales season to find out how well it went. It appears that, for the most part, we in our area will find that we had a pretty good year. Yes, we had way too much rain in places. Yes, we had a hard freeze that came earlier than usual. Yes, for most of us it was a fairly cool growing season. While it may not have been a 2012 which was about perfect, really 2013 wasn't too bad. Our yields are good, our grades are very good, and we didn't seem to get out of hand in planting too many acres.

The marketing season was a different animal. First of all we were a bit slow getting started waiting for the peanuts to mature. Once we got started, you immediately found out that the way many of you sold your peanuts in the past would change this year. Here is where I want to take a minute to explain what went on:

On September 30, the industry was notified by USDA that the Secretary of Agriculture had determined that commodity loan payments would be subject to sequestration. Sequestration is a fancy word meaning that the payment will be reduced and the reduction amount will be a contribution to the federal budget deficit. In the case of peanuts, the loan rate is \$358.38 for Virginias and \$354.74 for Runners. The typical method for securing a loan is either through the county FSA office or through the DMA. Therefore, as of October 1, whenever a loan was obtained, the loan amount would be figured but before you were able to get the money, it would be reduced by 5.1%, the announced reduction amount for 2013.

If this wasn't enough to digest, the notice that day went on to say that loan making would be frozen for essentially two weeks to allow FSA software to be changed to accommodate the 5.1% reduction. To top it all off, October 1 was the day the government shut down. What a mess!

When the dust settled, loan making essentially shut down for a month. Different shellers handled the shutdown in different ways as it pertained to paying you for your production. If any of your peanuts went under loan, the amount you secured from the FSA office or the DMA was reduced by 5.1%. Again, it is the sheller's call to make, but I think most if not all made the grower whole and reimbursed him for the 5.1% loan reduction.

While we hope this scenario will never play out again as it did this year, sequestration at least for the time being is here to stay. There has already been an announcement that next season's loan reduction will be 7.2%. At least this time the figure will be known at the time peanuts are contracted.

If any of you have questions about this or how it affected your loan amount from the DMA, please let me know.

Before I close, just a word or two about the market. In November USDA forecast the US crop at 1,950,425 tons. US yield was forecast to be 3,787 pounds per acre, following the record 4,217 per acre US average of the year before.

As I write this on November 21, the graded US tonnage is already above the prediction by 25,000 tons and still climbing. The September forecast was 1,855,550. In some cases, little shelling of the 2013 crop has taken place as the 2012 crop was just finished.

At some point, producers everywhere are going to have to come to terms with planted acres. If average yields in a state, region, or nation are significantly higher year after year, then producing the same number of acres year after year will lead to an oversupply that will continue to put a damper on contract prices.

To me, we are looking at another similar year to this past one, and that is if the same number of acres are needed to supply demand. Demand, we hope, could be a real wild card as most news channels and newspapers are reporting on the newly released long term study which showed that eating nuts every day can have drastically good benefits to the body and life expectancy. This news is huge. Let's hope it has a strong uplift on demand so we can produce more peanuts at a price that proves profitable to all parties.

## North Carolina 2014 Peanut Production Meeting Schedule

|   |                        |               |
|---|------------------------|---------------|
| Chowan, Gates, Perquimans                             | Tuesday, February 4    | 6:00 p.m.     |
| V-C Peanut Advisory Committee meeting in Fayetteville | Wednesday, February 5  | 12:30 p.m.    |
| Virginia state peanut meeting                         | Thursday, February 6   | 9:00 a.m. (?) |
| Northampton   | Friday, February 7     | 8:30 a.m.     |
| Halifax   | Friday, February 7     | Noon          |
| Pitt  | Monday, February 10    | 6:00 p.m.     |
| Duplin/Sampson  | Tuesday, February 11   | 6:30 p.m.     |
| Edgecombe/Nash  | Wednesday, February 12 | Noon          |
| Martin/Washington                                     | Wednesday, February 12 | 5:00 p.m.     |
| Bertie/Hertford                                       | Monday, February 17    | 10 :00 a.m.   |
| Southeastern counties in Elizabethtown                | Tuesday, February 18   | 6:00 p.m.     |
| Wilson/Wayne/Johnston/others                          | Wednesday, February 19 | Noon          |

## Peanut Butter Cake

Lisa T. Page - North Carolina State Fair Contest Winner  
(Family Circle magazine 1979)

3/4 cup butter  
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter  
4 eggs  
1/2 cup buttermilk  
2 cups sugar  
3 tsp baking powder  
3 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/2 cup water

1. Let butter, peanut butter, eggs and buttermilk warm to room temperature for easy mixing. Grease and flower a 12 cup Bundt pan or a 10 inch tube pan. Preheat oven to 350°
2. Combine room temperature ingredients with remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Beat at a slow speed with electric miss for 30 sec, then a medium speed for 2 min., scraping side of bowl. Pour into prepared pan.
3. Bake in a moderate oven (350°) for 45 minutes, then lower heat to 325° and bake for 20 min longer, or until top springs back when lightly pressed with fingertip. Cook on wire rack 10 min. Turn out, cook completely before frosting.

Peanut Butter topping:  
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter  
1/4 cup dry roasted peanuts  
1 cup 10x confectioners' sugar  
4 to 5 tablespoons buttermilk

Combine in small bowl until smooth. Spoon over cake. Make one 12 cup Bundt cake, 12-16 servings

## Thomas R. Cotton, Jr. Manager PGCMA



I hope all of you had a successful harvest season leading to good crops once again this year. In the case of peanuts, the last USDA estimate predicted us at 3,700 pounds per acre. While this may be right, I will be surprised if we are not at or over 4,000 pounds per

acre for the third year in a row.

On the promotion side, it seems that many of our events are during the second half of the year. This year was no exception. Beginning, in August, we again teamed up with the Richmond Squirrels for Peanut Night held at their ballpark in Richmond. This was our third consecutive year at this event and it seems to get better each time. Over 5,000 fans had the chance to get peanut samples and grab some of the giveaway items we had available courtesy of the National Peanut Board. We also improved on the number of jars of peanut butter brought by fans to be donated to the Central VA Food Bank. This year we had over 350 jars, and, if we continue with this promotion, it is my goal for us to reach 1,000 donated jars at one of these games. I want to thank our volunteers who come to this game each year and make it such a fun event. There are some pictures in another part of the paper for you to see (page 8).

On the fair circuit, we started with providing lots of brochures, peanuts and giveaway items for both the Southampton County and Isle of Wight County fairs. We had our own booth at the Virginia State Fair, which seemed to us to be a huge success this year. I am biased of course in judging this, but I felt our booth was one of the more popular in the commodity building. We had peanut plants, both potted and dug, and these prove to be a hit each year with attendees, many of whom have never seen a peanut plant before. I truly think we are able to educate folks about peanuts each year at that event.

We tried two new promotional opportunities this year. One involved signage on the small Virginia Tech scoreboard at Lane Stadium for home football games. The other is an ongoing effort with rotating signs at the Richmond International Airport. The signs are at the security and baggage claim areas and promote both inshells and gourmet peanuts.

If any of you have promotional ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

## SUTTER SEZ

Robert R. Sutter, Chief Executive Officer  
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association



At the December Board of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association, researchers from NC State requested funding for projects to be completed in 2014. A total of \$136,000 was allocated to eight projects. As in years past the major emphasis was placed on variety development, in addition to Entomology, Plant Pathology and Crop Science. It was very encouraging to see how all the researchers have worked as a team to improve yields and profitability.

I thought it would be interesting to look at how research funding has benefited North Carolina Peanut farmers. Since 1999 the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association has sent \$631,287 to North Carolina State University CALS for peanut research. During that same period the National Peanut Board funded research projects to the tune of \$1,190,000. All of this, \$1,821,287, came from North Carolina producers in the form of assessments.

What did the producer get for this money? We have been funding research at NCSU since 1954, a year after the association was started. I am using 1999 as a starting point because that is about the time that National Peanut Board money was added to the pot and increased work on variety development was possible.

In 1999, there were 121,208 acres of peanuts planted in North Carolina. The average yield that year was 2,414 pounds/acre. In 2002 NC averaged 2,300 pounds/acres on 122,000 acres. That was the last year of the Federal Peanut Program. By 2005 our acres were down to 97,000. Because the Price support program was eliminated in 2002, producers only planted acres sufficient to produce the pounds contracted in the spring.

After the elimination to the Peanut Price Support Program, the importance of yield per acre and quality became very important. In 1999 the support price for peanuts \$610 per ton. In 2003 without support, the offering price was \$495 per ton. Since that time peanut acres in North Carolina have bounced back and forth between 80,000 and 105,000, and price has been responsive to supply from one crop year to the next. For instance in 2011 acres were down in North Carolina and the nation and the quality of the crop in the Georgia, Florida, Alabama as well as Texas was very poor. There was concern that there would not be sufficient supplies to get processors through to the 2012 harvest. Consequently acres went way up nationally, and to 105,000 in North Carolina, mainly because the contract price offered was \$675. Then in addition to the increased acres we had the highest yields on record. So going into 2013, supplies were high which meant lower contract price offerings of \$525 per ton.

I know this sounds like a lot on information that may not have anything to with research, but the changes over the past decade have put more pressure on producers to be more efficient. It has become absolutely necessary to produce peanuts for fewer cents per pound. In 1999 the total per acre variable cost was \$507 per acre. In 2012 it was \$700. So you can see that the only way to keep pace with increasing costs was to produce more pounds of peanuts per acre.

So I return to the earlier question; what did the peanut producer get for the money sent to NCSU? The 1999 average yield per acre was 2,414. Fast forward to 2012 and the average yield was 4,200 pounds per acre. The state yield winner for 2012 was Smith Brothers of Chowan County. They had a yield of 6,378 pounds per acre on 585 acres.

How did we go from 2,414 pounds per acre in 1999 to 6,378 pounds 2012. I'm sure there are those at NC State that would say it is because of the education all these farmers received at State. There may be something to that but I am sure there is agreement on the peanut farm that it is because of the new varieties that have been developed by Dr. Tom Isleib. We recognize that this success is a result of a team of researchers. Dr. Jordan, the peanut specialist, Dr. Shew plant pathology, Dr. Brandenburg entomology and Dr. Stalker, wild species curator have all played a part in developing Perry, Bailey, and Sugg. These new varieties have excellent disease resistance and are high yielding. North Carolina Peanut Producers on average produced 1,786 more pounds per acre in 2012 than in 1999. At 35 cents per pound that comes to an additional \$625 per acre.

So yes research is important to NC Peanut Farmers. I would also like to point out that it is important to NC State also. Since 1994 royalties collected on varieties that were developed at NC State totals \$3,972,083. These royalties are paid by the producer when he buys seed. So when you add it up, producers have made a \$6 million investment in research in the past 20 years. And make no mistake we feel that we have received a great return on our investment. I know that North Carolinas peanut farmers are proud of NC STATE, CALS and the Peanut Research team.



**Tom Isleib**  
Department of Crop Science  
NCSU

Those of us on the peanut breeding project at NCSU made it safely through another harvest season: all the equipment held together with a bit of work, and no one was injured. The staffs at the various research stations we use are to be commended for their hard work and attention to detail. They are among those state employees that the public loves to vilify, but I can attest that they work long hours in some difficult conditions to benefit the crop producers of the state. I am pleased to report that despite the sloppy weather at the Peanut Belt Research Station (PBRs) in Lewiston during early October, no one even fell down in the mud although I myself had a couple of close calls, wobbling back and forth on the mud balls growing on my boot heels. Susan Copeland, Joyce Hollowell, Ed Hassell, and I paced up and down the fields in the slop making plant selections after which the part-time work-

ers hand-picked the darkening pods off the moldering plants and packed them into labeled mesh bags for drying.

We finished the rush to get some special selections shelled, seed packaged and gassed with ethylene, shipped to and planted at the winter nursery in Puerto Rico. We are in the process of hand-shelling the rest of the plant selections we harvested at PBRs and grading the yield plots we picked with a combine. We will be at it all winter, and they are some spectacularly dark peanuts. Of course, when you are looking for a disease-resistant plant, you do it in a field with lots of disease, so maybe the way to find a peanut resistant to pod darkening is to look among plants that have been severely challenged by rainy weather after digging. Maybe so, but the peanuts dug in early October at PBRs sure are dark. The peanuts inside seem okay, though; I suspect that there may be a shortage of pretty in-shell peanuts this year but not Virginia-type shelled goods. Who knows? If the jumbo pods are too dark to be sold in-shell, they will be shelled, and there might be a plentiful supply of super-extra-large kernels for the gourmet processors to cook. When life gives you lemons...

As we do regularly, we will use our colorimeter to measure pod brightness and hue on jumbo and fancy pods separated from each pod sample from each yield trial. This year's data on the dark pods from PBRs is going to have a deleterious effect on the average brightness scores of all the lines tested this year. We will have data on some of those lines from tests that were replicated at the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station (UCPRS) at Rocky Mount and the Border Belt Tobacco Research Station (BBTRS) at Whiteville where we dug and picked the plots before the rainy weather set in, so the brightness scores will be better. In fact, the pods from UCPRS are really bright and beautiful. Maybe after all there will be plenty of in-shells to go around this year if enough growers got their crops in before the wet weather set in or if they got caught before digging and therefore dug after the rain. The few peanuts we dug late at PBRs look much better than those dug early.

After the pods harvested from the yield plots were dried, we returned to the stations to weigh and record the plot yields. Those have been analyzed statistically although it will be weeks if not months before we have grade data to go with them. So far, yields look about normal: not spectacularly high on average, but about October 15 I would have been happy to know that we were going to be able to pick plots at PBRs at all. We have already identified some lines that will move forward in our disease resistance breeding program. There will be more that will graduate into our in-state yield trials, some graduating to the three-state Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation (PVQE) program, the area's official variety test coordinated by Dr. Maria Balota out of Virginia Tech's Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Suffolk, VA. Up to three that are in the PVQE trial for a second year and are candidates for release after a third year could graduate to the multiple-state Uniform Peanut Performance Test (UPPT) to see how they do nationally.

The early post-harvest period we are in now is for us a lot like Christmas Eve: we are expecting something good, but we really do not know exactly what. And we could be disappointed; you never know. Growers have been paid for their 2013 crop, so it is

pretty much in the books at this point, successful or not, but on the breeding program, the information on how things did in 2013 in our yield trials will be a long time coming in. I am very much looking forward to getting the PVQE data back from Dr. Balota to see how the NCSU lines performed region-wide; later I will get a look at the UPPT results for 2013.

## Price Risk Management Workshops

The Marketing Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services is planning a series of risk management workshops on "Managing Price Volatility/Identifying Macro Indicators". There is no charge for these workshops and the following topics will be covered: Introduction to Grain Hedging, Basis Trading, Cost of Carry, cotton Futures, Option Trading on Futures and Equities, and macro forces impacting the hedger. There will be an emphasis on the principles of options, spreading strategies, and using options to manage financial risk. Energy derivatives, traded at the CME/NYMEX, will be explained as well as trading strategies to manage your exposure to energy. **To register contact Nick Lassiter, NCDA (919) 707-3129.**

**Workshop 1: Wednesday, January 8, 2014,** Robeson County Agriculture Building (O.P. Owens Building), Lumberton, NC 28360, (910) 671-3276. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Workshop 2: Wednesday, January 22, 2014,** Wayne County Cooperative Extension, 208 W. Chestnut St., Goldsboro, NC 27533, (919) 731-1521. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Workshop 3: Friday, January 24, 2014,** McSwain Extension Education & Agriculture Center, 2420 Tramway Road, Sanford, NC, 27332 (919) 775-5624. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Workshop 4: Wednesday, February 12, 2014,** Northampton Cooperative Extension Center, 9495 N.C. 305 N., Jackson, NC 27845, (252) 534-2831, **9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, prior to a peanut production meeting.**

**Workshop 5: Thursday, February 13, 2014,** Halifax County Cooperative Extension Center (Auditorium), 359 Ferrell Lane, Halifax, NC 27839, (252) 583-5161, **9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.**

**Workshop 6: Tuesday, February 25, 2014,** Pitt County Cooperative Extension Center (Auditorium), 403 Government Circle, - Ste. 11, Greenville, NC 27834, (252) 902-1704. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Workshop 7: Tuesday, March 11, 2014,** Stanly Community College, Crutchfield Campus, (Rm. 138), 102 Stanly Pkwy, Locust, NC (704) 991-0251. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Workshop 8: Friday, March 14, 2014,** Carolina Farm Credit's (Administrative Office), 146 Victory Lane, Statesville, NC 28625 (800) 521-9952. **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

# Peanut Night in North Carolina and Virginia



The North Carolina Peanut Growers Association hosted Peanut Night on Friday, August 9, 2013 at the Durham Bulls Stadium. We printed ads in the local newspaper to ask everyone to bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to the local food banks. The Bulls had advertisements running on their web page for the entire month of August to promote peanut night.

The promotion began at 4:00 p.m. and ran for the entire night starting with radio advertisements, announcements during the game, items given away at our booth, fun peanut facts, and more. The gates opened at 4 pm, with people flooding in to visit our booth, take pictures with Buddy McNutty, and to find their seats. Our volunteers did an outstanding job, from wearing the costume to giving away promotional items to everyone. Our table consisted of providing recipe cards, peanut butter spreaders, buddy dolls, koozies, peanut packets, and nutritional brochures. We had our peanut plant diagram on display to show everyone how peanuts grow.

Promoting peanuts at this event was great due to all the interest in peanuts and moms enjoyed so many recipes. Many families and college students attended the Friday night game to snack on peanuts and watch baseball. This stadium engages with each fan using announcements, family friendly activities, children's races, mascot races, and more.

North Carolina Peanut Growers Association President, Ray Garner, was announced on the field for hosting such a great night and to personally thank the peanut growers for doing a great job. The Garner family came to volunteer to help promote locally grown peanuts to all the fans before the game started.



They worked the booth, gave away promotional items, and encouraged consumers to buy more peanuts. Nick Lassiter from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture came to volunteer and helped with the donations of peanut butter jars before the game. Bob Sutter and his grandchildren were a vast help in wearing the Buddy McNutty costume throughout the event; many of the fans enjoyed taking pictures with our peanut mascot. I personally want to thank our volunteers for doing such an out-

standing job promoting peanuts at the game.

This game was an overall success that brought over 7,000 fans to enjoy peanut night hosted by our growers. Bob and I were thoroughly impressed with the number of consumers who brought peanut butter donations, and who really appreciated the NC peanut growers.



The Virginia Peanut Growers Association hosted Peanut Night on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Richmond Squirrels stadium. Many radio advertisements were made to promote our event to local listeners around the area. Dell Cotton was interviewed during the game to promote Virginia grown peanuts and encourage consumers to purchase peanuts.

This is a great promotion for the peanut growers due to the outstanding number of people who attend this game on a week night. There were over 9,000 people who attended the game and enjoyed our peanut promotion before, during, and after the game. Many growers and their families came up to Richmond to help promote peanuts to consumers, and educate them on the peanuts grown in their state. We held a peanut butter donation drive to provide our peanut butter to the local food banks in Virginia. There were bins placed around the opening gates into the stadium and signs labeling the bins for the donated peanut butter jars. When the game started we checked every bin to see how many donated jars of peanut butter we had, and there were over 150 jars.



The Commissioner, Matt Lohr, came to throw the first pitch, and to meet and greet people who attended the game. Prior to throwing the first pitch, I came down on the field to take pictures and we were able to meet Alfonso Ribeiro, also known as: Carlton, from Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. It was such a pleasure to meet him and get to know him.

Buddy McNutty came to support the peanut growers and take pictures with all the families. Buddy walked around the stadium before the game taking pictures, giving hugs, and shaking hands with everyone. The National Peanut Board donated boxes of items to hand out to everyone at the game such as: t-shirts, stress relievers, tote bags, peanuts, brochures, etc. We are so grateful for their generosity in donating towards our event.

This event is always an overall success when it comes to promoting peanuts and having each volunteer enjoy their time while working. We look forward to promoting peanuts with the Richmond Squirrels each and every year!





# Variety Yield Data in the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Tests in 2013

**Maria Balota**

Pathology, Physiology and Weed Sciences Virginia Tech Tidewater AREC



In 2013, the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation (PVQE) tests included 36 cultivars and breeding lines: 10 commercial cultivars, 8 Virginia-type and 2 runners, one line, N08082oIJCT, to potentially be soon released, and 25 breeding lines from the North Carolina peanut breeding program lead by Dr. Tom Isleib; 3 of these lines were developed by Dr. Shyam Tallury, now peanut breeder at Clemson University. Among the commercial cultivars, Sullivan and Wynne were released in spring of 2013 by the North Carolina State University.

Year 2013 was indeed challenging for peanut production because of abundant rainfall and cooler weather across all five test locations in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In Suffolk, up to R3 growth stage (beginning pod) almost all varieties were less green with persistent Mn-like foliar deficiency symptoms. We noticed some were more resilient at getting their green color back than others, even after a second Mn application (Photo 1). It was, probably, more than Mn deficiency. For example, high nutrient demand by massive foliage growth of cultivars like Bailey and nutrient leaching due to excessive rainfall could have created multiple deficiencies within the vines.



**Photo 1.** Bailey (light green) and other PVQE entries on July 29 at the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Suffolk, VA. Frank Bryant, Agricultural Technician in the PVQE program, taking notes of leaf color.

But in the end, 2013 yields and crop values were comparable with those in 2012, when all 36 varieties in 2013 and 26 in 2012 were averaged (Table 1). The average highest yield of 5761 lb/A was obtained this year at the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station near Rocky Mount, NC, and the lowest so far, 3920 lb/A, at the Slade’s Farm near Williamston, NC. At the UCPR Station, Gregory, Wynn, and several other breeding lines exceeded 6300 lb/A pod yield, and exceeded Bailey by at least 100 lb/A. At the same location, Georgia 09B and a few lines yielded below 4800 lb/A.

We are still grading the PVQE samples from South Carolina and the second dig from the Slade’s Farm and we hope to have complete yield, grading, and pod color information available to the peanut industry by early January. This report will be available electronically at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/author/b/balota-maria-res.html> in January and as hard copies in February.

**Table 1.** Yield<sup>1</sup> and crop value<sup>2</sup> comparisons in the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Tests in 2012 and 2013

| Year | Digging time | Suffolk, VA |            | Williamston, NC |            | Rocky Mount, NC | Council, NC | Blackville, SC |
|------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
|      |              | Earl y dig  | Normal dig | Earl y dig      | Normal dig | Normal dig      | Normal dig  | Normal dig     |
| 2012 | lb/A         | 4754        | 5483       | 4740            | 4194       | 4531            | 5483        | 4037           |
|      | \$/A         | 817         | 911        | 814             | 726        | 694             | 920         | 660            |
| 2013 | lb/A         | 5266        | 5697       | 3920            | -          | 5761            | 4141        | -              |
|      | \$/A         | 818         | 928        | 605             | -          | 947             | 732         | -              |

<sup>1</sup>Yields are adjusted to 7% moisture and foreign material deducted

<sup>2</sup>Value is determined from the federal formula and includes the farmer stock grading factors

Indeed, differences due to location were great not only for yield but also for the grading factors and the general kernel appearance (Photo 2). For example, for samples coming from McDuffie’s Farm near Council, NC, skin discoloration was obvious for some varieties, this year. One could think they were from different varieties, but we have repeatedly seen that soil moisture and duration between digging and combining spent by vines in the field can make some varieties difficult to identify based on seed skin color.



**Photo 2.** Spain (left) and SPT 10-12oI (right) from Rocky Mount and Council in Bladen County, NC. Samples from two plots/replications at each location and from each variety are shown.

Yields of 10 commercial cultivars and line N08082oIJCT from the 2013 cropping season are presented in Table 2. Bailey was again a top yielding cultivar with yields ranging from 4146 to 6330 lb/A. It was closely followed (and at some locations exceeded) for

*Bolata continue from page 9*

yield and farmer stock value by the new releases, Sullivan and Wynne, and N08082oIJCT. The runners, Georgia 09B and Florida 07, were less yielding across locations under the conditions of this year when compared with the Virginia-type cultivars.

**Table 2.** Comparison of yield<sup>1</sup> of varieties tested in the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Tests across Virginia and North Carolina in 2013.

| Variety                               | Suffolk, VA         |             | Williamston, NC | Rocky Mount, NC | Council, NC |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                                       | Dug Sep. 18         | Dug Sep. 30 | Dug Sep. 19     | Dug Sep. 26     | Dug Sep. 26 |
|                                       | lb/A                |             |                 |                 |             |
| Bailey                                | 5647 a <sup>2</sup> | 6330 a      | 4406 a          | 6238 a          | 4146 a-d    |
| CHAMPS                                | 5568 a              | 5438 ab     | 3773 cd         | 5392 ab         | 4508 a-c    |
| Florida 07                            | 5359 a              | 5677 ab     | 3405 d          | 5266 ab         | 3544 de     |
| Georgia 09B                           | 4869 a              | 5443 ab     | 3412 d          | 4720 b          | 3745 c-e    |
| Gregory                               | 5308 a              | 5513 ab     | 3496 d          | 6319 a          | 4196 a-d    |
| <b>N08082oIJCT</b>                    | 5560 a              | 5625 ab     | 4178 a-c        | 6110 ab         | 4729 a      |
| Phillips                              | 5534 a              | 5600 ab     | 4203 a-c        | 5366 ab         | 4277 a-d    |
| Spain                                 | 4987 a              | 5022 b      | 4339 ab         | 5332 ab         | 3287 e      |
| Sugg                                  | 5416 a              | 6173 a      | 3882 b-d        | 5930 ab         | 3882 b-e    |
| <b>Sullivan</b>                       | 5499 a              | 6315 a      | 3827 cd         | 5471 ab         | 4661 ab     |
| <b>Wynne</b>                          | 5674 a              | 5513 ab     | 4114 a-c        | 6397 a          | 4685 a      |
| <b>Mean</b>                           | <b>5402</b>         | <b>5695</b> | <b>3912</b>     | <b>5685</b>     | <b>4151</b> |
| <b>LSD<sub>0.05</sub><sup>3</sup></b> | <b>870</b>          | <b>1010</b> | <b>486</b>      | <b>1423</b>     | <b>780</b>  |

<sup>1</sup>Yields are adjusted to 7% moisture and foreign material deducted

<sup>2</sup>Means sharing the same letter(s) are not statistically different at p = 0.005 based on Fisher's LSD

<sup>3</sup>Fisher's least significant difference at p = 0.005

## National Peanut Board Unveils New Brand Platform “The Perfectly Powerful Peanut”



National Peanut Board President and CEO Bob Parker unveiled the new brand platform, “The Perfectly Powerful Peanut” at the American Peanut Council’s Industry Luncheon on December 12, 2013 in Washington, DC.

Parker also introduced a new advertising campaign to the industry. Developed by the Atlanta-based marketing and advertising firm LBVD, the advertising campaign features visually distinctive artwork of actual peanut plants created by some of the world’s foremost botanical artists. The art serves as a backdrop for photographic portraits depicting those who benefit from peanuts and peanut butter.

Two actual peanut farmers, Jeffrey Pope of Virginia and Charles Hardin of Georgia are showcased in the advertising campaign. National Peanut Board will roll out this national media campaign in the first quarter of 2014.

# Happy New Year!



# More Options for Peanut Disease Control

## Dr. Barbara Shew

### Plant Pathologist NCSU



Twenty-five years ago, and for many years before that, the best option for leaf spot control was chlorothalonil. Chlorothalonil (Bravo) remains a work-horse for foliar disease control and fungicide resistance management, but starting with the introduction of the first sterol inhibitor (group 3) and strobilurin (group 11) fungicides, options for disease control have expanded considerably. Many of these fungicides are not only active against foliar diseases, but also southern stem rot and *Rhizoctonia*. Some also can be useful in managing CBR. Together with better rotations and improved cultivars, better fungicides have contributed to the yield increases we have seen in the past few years.

The peanut fungicide picture continues to change, giving growers more options than ever. Some of the newest fungicides available on peanut are members of group 7, the SDHIs, including Fontelis and Propulse (a mixture with group 3). This “new” group of fungicides actually includes some older products like carboxin (once common in seed treatments) and flutoloniil (found in Astisan and Convoy). Newer group 7 fungicides are sometimes referred to next generation SDHIs. Pending registration, another group 7 fungicide with the active ingredient solatenol, will be available in the near future.

This past summer, we conducted a disease control trial at the Peanut Belt Re-

search Station at Lewiston. The trial included several current standards, along with solatenol fungicide premixed with azoxystrobin (Abound) or propiconazole (Tilt). The fungicides were used in different application sequences and one treatment included solatenol fungicide banded at full emergence.

The irrigated field was last planted to peanut in 2010. Stem rot pressure was high and CBR pressure was low-moderate in 2010. The plot area was fumigated before planting. Peanuts were planted with CHAMPS on May 21. Except for disease control, standard production practices were used.

Fungicides were applied on a calendar-based schedule starting at beginning pod (R3) on July 17th (spray 1). Later, sprays were applied at about 2-week intervals on July 31 (spray 2), August 14 (spray 3), August 29 (spray 4), and September 12 (spray 5). No fungicide was applied to untreated controls. Fungicides were applied in a spray volume of 12.7 gallons per acre.

Most of the year was wetter and cooler than normal and the plots were in an area that tends to stay wet after rain. Even with these challenges, the plots in this trial were in excellent condition for most of the season. *Sclerotinia* blight was not observed and only a few scattered plants with CBR were noted. About 10% of the plants in the plots were yellow but did not have CBR. These plants also did not have obvious above-ground symptoms of TSW, but based on the appearance of pods, the lack of other diseases, and generally good root development, TSW was the most likely cause of this symptom.

By October 2, leaf spot was very high in the untreated control, reaching an average of 99% disease and nearly 75% defoliation (Table 1). All of the fungicide treatments reduced the incidence of leaves with leaf spot compared to the untreated control. All treatments also reduced defoliation, with defoliation slightly higher in the Fontelis treatment compared to the others.

Although stem rot pressure was fairly low, we were able to pick up differences

in incidence. Treatments with the solatenol + azoxystrobin premix gave very effective stem rot control, as did Fontelis or tebuconazole + Bravo.

The low yield of 2474±354 pounds/A in the untreated control was attributed to high leaf spot pressure in this trial. All fungicide treatments increased yield over the untreated control, with yields ranging from 3376±452 pounds/A (Topguard + Koverall) to 4060±429 pounds/A (solatenol + azoxystrobin premix, 3 block spray) (Table 1).

We continue to see excellent performance from the fungicides now available for disease control on peanut. The introduction of the next generation group 7 fungicides has the potential to increase flexibility in fungicide programs for disease control and resistance management. As we look at how these fungicides will fit into overall spray programs, it will be important to remember that Group 7 fungicides are themselves at moderate risk for losing effectiveness and should not be overused. As always, alternating or mixing chemistries reduces the risk of resistance development while also providing the broadest spectrum of activity against peanut diseases.

Table 1. Disease control with new peanut fungicides at Lewiston in 2013

| Fungicide and application sequence*                                    | Leaf spot | Defoliation | Stem rot | Yield   |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------|---------|
| No fungicide   | 99.0 a    | 73.1 a      | 6.5 ab   | 2474 d  |
| Abound 12 oz +Alto 5.5 oz (2,4)  | 3.1 b     | 20.6 c      | 5.3 ab   | 3659 c  |
| Solatenol+propiconazole premix<br>13.7 oz (2,4)                        | 7.6 b     | 19.4 c      | 7.5 a    | 3512 bc |
| Solatenol+azoxystrobin premix<br>7.14 oz (2,4)                         | 5.4 b     | 18.8 c      | 2.3 ab   | 3782 c  |
| Solatenol Emergence/<br>Solatenol+azoxystrobin premix<br>7.14 oz (2,3) | 6.0 b     | 14.4 c      | 0.0 b    | 3862 c  |
| Solatenol+azoxystrobin premix<br>7.14 oz (2,3,4)                       | 6.4 b     | 18.1 c      | 3.8 ab   | 4060 a  |
| Provost 8 oz (2,3,4)   | 17.1 b    | 21.3 c      | 5.3 ab   | 3607 c  |
| Fontelis 16 oz (2,3,4)   | 20.6 b    | 29.4 b      | 0.0 b    | 3983 ab |
| Topguard 14 oz + Koverall 2 lb(2,3,4)                                  | 17.6 b    | 21.3 c      | 4.3 ab   | 3376 c  |
| Tebuconazole 7.2 oz + Bravo<br>16 oz (2,3,4)                           | 1.0 b     | 13.8 c      | 1.0 ab   | 3710 c  |
| MSD  | 8.6       | 7.5         | 7.2      | 502     |

\*Application at sprays 2-4 are indicated. When only two spray numbers are given, Tilt Bravo was used for the remaining spray. Tilt Bravo (1.5 pt/A) was applied for spray 1 and Bravo (1.5 pt/A) for spray 5 in all fungicide treatments.

# WELCOME TO THE FAIR



**The North Carolina State Fair** began Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and ran until Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The North Carolina Peanut Growers Association always holds a cooking contest on the first day of the fair. This year the contest consisted of people making, "Peanut Desserts". We had over 30 entries, and our first place winner made a Peanut Butter Bundt Cake. All of the entries were delicious and you could really taste the peanut flavor. Buddy McNutty came to the fair for the first 3 days to encourage consumers to eat more peanuts. People enjoyed taking their picture with Buddy McNutty and were given a sticker after visiting the mascot.

Bob Sutter and Buddy McNutty appeared at the opening ceremonies of the state fair, where the State Ag Commissioner, Steve Troxler, made an announcement, then cut the ribbon to officially open the fair. At the booth we gave away in-shell peanuts from Golden Grove, recipe cards, educational brochures, promotional items, and etc. This year we had a record breaking number of teachers who signed up for teachers kits, over 140 sign ups!

**The South Carolina State Fair** began Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and ran until Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The peanut board held a booth at the fair starting Monday, October 14 through Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. I held three cooking demonstrations during our time at the fair to inspire consumers to purchase peanuts and peanut butter. The recipe I made at each of the cooking demos was called "Peanut Butter Protein Balls" and every seat was taken. I gave away door prizes and educated consumers on peanuts grown in South Carolina.

We gave away sample packets of peanuts, recipe cards, promotional items, and Buddy dolls to everyone who came and visited our booth. Kindergarten day was held during our days at the fair, and we had many teachers sign up for teachers-kits. We gave away many Buddy McNutty comic books to the teachers to take back to their classrooms. Buddy McNutty also made an appearance every day at the fair; he appeared on WIS news, walked around the building and the fair to promote peanuts. Richard Rentz was "Uncle Ag" one day during the fair; he was there for people who had any agricultural questions, or peanut related questions. He was asked many questions during his time at the fair as "Uncle Ag."



**The Virginia State Fair** began Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and ran until Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the second year the Virginia Farm Bureau has sponsored the fair, and they've done an outstanding job the past two years. Many middle and high school classes visited the Meadow Pavilion building to learn about agriculture in Virginia. We had tons of students ask us questions, about what type peanuts we grow, where they are grown, and how many acres we grow. Several of the teachers signed up for our teachers-kits, and mentioned how much they appreciated the kit to use in their classroom.



Buddy McNutty made an appearance for four days at the state fair starting the first weekend and into the week. Two of the four days the classes visited our building and enjoyed taking pictures of Buddy in front of our booth. The students enjoyed our booth from the peanut production pictures, peanut plants, and educational information. Numerous teachers were appreciative of the commodities that had a booth at the fair.



# Scott Monfort

## Peanut Specialist Clemson University



Growers were met with many obstacles during this production year. I can't recall a season where

growers received 25 to 45 inches of rain from June to August without the help of a hurricane. The excessive rain caused many issues from drowning parts of fields to increased problems with disease, weeds, and fertility. Growers had to fight to apply any and everything during these rainy periods sometimes not applying them at all. The good news is growers won the fight against Mother Nature and still produced an average to above average peanut crop. Based on the November acreage reports from FSA, South Carolina growers planted 79,785 acres of peanuts in 2013 in which 62,550 acres were Virginias and 17,236 were runners.

As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 125,631 tons (95% of total production) have been graded by the state inspection service. Considering abandonment of about 3.5%, growers yielded an average of 3,434 pounds per acre. Although yields were slightly down from last year (about 100 to 200 pounds per acre), higher grades helped make up some of the difference for many growers. What a great ending for such a tough season!

Like many of the producers in the state, I am glad to see 2013 in the rearview mirror. Growers will have an opportunity to obtain all of the latest updates from peanut industry and extension representatives for the upcoming growing season at the State Peanut Meeting in Santee (January 30<sup>th</sup>) and county production meetings starting in February. I strongly encourage growers to attend these meetings. The information provided may aid management decisions and perhaps offer some cost-saving options. Contact your county agent for more details regarding times and dates.

In the meantime, there are a few important items growers need to consider in the initial planning stage for 2014.

Determine which fields will have peanuts. Take soil samples now to determine fertility levels and pH. Then, make the needed adjustments prior to planting. Levels of rainfall this extreme have the potential to leach potassium (K) from sandier fields. Therefore, soil test levels may come back low in K particularly for crops other than peanut. Low potassium is generally not an issue for peanut in fields where other crops have been grown and fertilized, however, conservatively, if levels are below 60 lbs/ac, pre-plant potash should be added. Refer to the fertility section of the 2013 Money Maker for soil test levels and rates.

For the fields that have a history of zinc issues, you may want to zone sample by soil type or divide the field up into smaller areas to better determine your problem.

Fields planned for runners with low pH and adequate calcium levels (greater than 600 lb/ac), elimination or reduction in the amount of gypsum needed at the early pegging stage may be possible. Applying a Hi-Cal or dolomitic lime will increase pH prior to planting as well as take care of calcium needs for the peanut crop. Two for the price of one. Eliminating a gypsum application may save a good deal of money. This may be more risky on a Virginia type peanut. Please contact me if you have questions.

Keep in touch with your peanut buying point regarding potential contracts and go ahead and determine which varieties you are interested in planting.

Determine variety early and plan a planting strategy (which field, planting date, etc)

Once you determine fields of interest re-examine field history and decide what problems you had with select disease, weeds, etc.

Once you have history, choose a variety that displays the best disease management and yield characteristics for your field or farm.

Again, try to attend the State Peanut Meeting and your County Production meeting for the latest information regarding peanut production.

| 2013 Runner Variety Trial Results, Blackville, SC |        |       |        |     |        |        |        |   |        |   |                |    |        |     |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|---|--------|---|----------------|----|--------|-----|
| Description                                       | Loan   |       | Yield  |     | TSMK   |        | OK     |   | VALUE  |   | Stem Splitting |    | TSWV   |     |
| Rating Date                                       | Loan   |       | Yield  |     | TSMK   |        | OK     |   | VALUE  |   | Stem Splitting |    | TSWV   |     |
| Rating Type                                       | VALUE  | Yield | TSMK   | OK  | VALUE  | Rating |        |   |        |   |                |    |        |     |
| Rating Unit                                       | \$/AC  | LB/AC | %      | %   | \$/TON | 0-5    |        |   |        |   |                |    |        |     |
| Treatment   |        |       |        |     |        |        |        |   |        |   |                |    |        |     |
| Name  |        |       |        |     |        |        |        |   |        |   |                |    |        |     |
| Ga 06G  | 841    | a     | 4588   | ab  | 75.0   | a      | 3.3    | a | 365    | a | 0.3            | c  | 1.3    | c   |
| Ga 12Y CM + thimet                                | 828    | a     | 4758   | a   | 71.3   | a      | 4.5    | a | 348    | a | 2.8            | a  | 2.7    | bc  |
| Florun 107  | 819    | a     | 4596   | ab  | 73.8   | a      | 2.8    | a | 358    | a | 0.5            | c  | 2.3    | bc  |
| Ga 07W  | 798    | a     | 4539   | abc | 74.0   | a      | 3.0    | a | 354    | a | 2.0            | ab | 1.7    | c   |
| Ga 12Y  | 784    | a     | 4521   | abc | 72.0   | a      | 3.3    | a | 350    | a | 2.7            | a  | 2.7    | bc  |
| Ga 09B  | 777    | a     | 4221   | cd  | 73.3   | a      | 3.3    | a | 355    | a | 1.0            | c  | 7.3    | a   |
| Fla 07  | 765    | a     | 4294   | bcd | 72.8   | a      | 2.5    | a | 351    | a | 0.7            | c  | 4.7    | abc |
| Ga Greener  | 723    | a     | 4103   | d   | 72.8   | a      | 3.5    | a | 352    | a | 1.2            | bc | 2.3    | bc  |
| TufRunner 727                                     | 722    | a     | 4149   | d   | 74.0   | a      | 2.8    | a | 359    | a | 1.2            | bc | 5.3    | ab  |
| LSD (P=.05)                                       | 83.5   |       | 358.5  |     | 2.74   |        | 2.33   |   | 11.1   |   | 0.86           |    | 3.65   |     |
| Standard Deviation                                | 56.0   |       | 274.7  |     | 1.87   |        | 1.60   |   | 7.6    |   | 0.74           |    | 2.82   |     |
| CV  | 7.13   |       | 6.22   |     | 2.56   |        | 49.95  |   | 2.15   |   | 53.94          |    | 83.79  |     |
| Replicate F                                       | 1.788  |       | 1.388  |     | 0.514  |        | 1.262  |   | 0.688  |   | 0.786          |    | 0.917  |     |
| Replicate Prob(F)                                 | 0.1876 |       | 0.2678 |     | 0.6766 |        | 0.3098 |   | 0.5683 |   | 0.5656         |    | 0.4659 |     |
| Treatment F                                       | 2.346  |       | 3.533  |     | 1.490  |        | 0.535  |   | 1.838  |   | 9.288          |    | 2.463  |     |
| Treatment Prob(F)                                 | 0.0664 |       | 0.0077 |     | 0.2127 |        | 0.8188 |   | 0.1189 |   | 0.0001         |    | 0.0333 |     |

All varieties except Ga 12Y CM had been treated with Dynasty PD seed treatment, Ga 12Y CM seed were treated with Cruiser Maxx Peanut seed treatment. Thimet was applied to all.

| 2013 Virginia Variety Trial Results, Blackville, SC |        |       |        |      |        |        |        |     |        |   |        |    |                |     |        |     |
|---|--------|-------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|---|--------|----|----------------|-----|--------|-----|
| Description   | Loan   |       | Yield  |      | ELK    |        | TSMK   |     | OK     |   | VALUE  |    | Stem Splitting |     | TSWV   |     |
| Rating Date   | Loan   |       | Yield  |      | ELK    |        | TSMK   |     | OK     |   | VALUE  |    | Stem Splitting |     | TSWV   |     |
| Rating Type   | VALUE  | Yield | ELK    | TSMK | OK     | VALUE  | Rating |     |        |   |        |    |                |     |        |     |
| Rating Unit   | \$/AC  | LB/AC | %      | %    | %      | \$/TON | 0-5    |     |        |   |        |    |                |     |        |     |
| Treatment   |        |       |        |      |        |        |        |     |        |   |        |    |                |     |        |     |
| Name  |        |       |        |      |        |        |        |     |        |   |        |    |                |     |        |     |
| Bailey CM + Thimet                                  | 89     | a     | 4924   | a    | 47.0   | ab     | 73.0   | a   | 2.0    | b | 375    | a  | 0.8            | bcd | 1.3    | d   |
| Bailey  | 88     | a     | 4781   | ab   | 46.5   | ab     | 71.5   | ab  | 2.0    | b | 366    | ab | 1.0            | a-d | 2.7    | cd  |
| CHAMPS  | 88     | a     | 4739   | abc  | 50.3   | a      | 73.0   | a   | 2.5    | b | 378    | a  | 0.3            | cd  | 3.0    | bcd |
| N08082oIJCT   | 85     | ab    | 4531   | bcd  | 48.8   | a      | 73.5   | a   | 2.3    | b | 379    | a  | 1.5            | ab  | 5.3    | bc  |
| N08075oICT  | 84     | ab    | 4486   | bcd  | 51.0   | a      | 72.3   | a   | 2.5    | b | 373    | a  | 1.0            | a-d | 2.7    | cd  |
| N08081oJJC  | 82     | ab    | 4645   | abc  | 49.5   | a      | 70.0   | abc | 3.0    | a | 363    | ab | 2.0            | a   | 6.7    | ab  |
| Sugg  | 77     | b     | 4261   | def  | 38.3   | c      | 71.3   | abc | 3.3    | a | 367    | ab | 2.0            | a   | 4.7    | bcd |
| NC-V11  | 77     | b     | 4384   | cde  | 46.3   | ab     | 67.5   | cd  | 4.3    | a | 347    | bc | 1.3            | abc | 9.3    | a   |
| Spain   | 67     | c     | 3919   | f    | 41.8   | bc     | 68.0   | bcd | 3.3    | a | 350    | bc | 0.5            | bcd | 5.7    | abc |
| Ga 11J  | 66     | c     | 4078   | ef   | 46.3   | ab     | 64.3   | d   | 4.0    | a | 334    | c  | 0.2            | d   | 2.0    | cd  |
| LSD (P=.05)   | 82.1   |       | 375.3  |      | 5.55   |        | 3.94   |     | 1.29   |   | 19.8   |    | 1.02           |     | 3.94   |     |
| Standard Deviation                                  | 62.2   |       | 289.7  |      | 4.27   |        | 3.03   |     | 0.99   |   | 15.2   |    | 0.88           |     | 3.08   |     |
| CV  | 7.69   |       | 6.47   |      | 9.17   |        | 4.3    |     | 34.21  |   | 4.19   |    | 82.21          |     | 71.15  |     |
| Replicate F   | 0.483  |       | 0.359  |      | 1.157  |        | 0.958  |     | 0.359  |   | 0.881  |    | 2.272          |     | 0.994  |     |
| Replicate Prob(F)                                   | 0.7482 |       | 0.8357 |      | 0.3523 |        | 0.4472 |     | 0.8355 |   | 0.4888 |    | 0.0633         |     | 0.4236 |     |
| Treatment F   | 9.041  |       | 6.075  |      | 4.246  |        | 4.890  |     | 3.189  |   | 4.903  |    | 3.237          |     | 3.221  |     |
| Treatment Prob(F)                                   | 0.0001 |       | 0.0001 |      | 0.0018 |        | 0.0007 |     | 0.0099 |   | 0.0007 |    | 0.0041         |     | 0.0058 |     |

All varieties except Bailey CM had been treated with Dynasty PD seed treatment, Bailey CM seed were treated with Cruiser Maxx Peanut seed treatment. Thimet was applied to all.

## Fall ACC Football Advertising

This past summer was spent conducting ideas on new ways to promote peanuts within the Virginia Carolinas. Southerner's love football and practically everyone listens or watches football teams play every Saturday every fall. I came up with the idea of promoting peanuts with each ACC football team within the Virginia Carolinas.



I began this promotion with Virginia Tech and introducing myself to their marketing representative and we began to collaborate ideas to one another. We came up with having rotating displays to play in the stadium six times of each home game. We also held some online advertising on their Hokie website. Dell Cotton and his staff contributed ideas for each of the displays to play for each game. We had four rotating displays that consisted of promoting locally grown peanuts, our website, and a heart healthy message.

NC State was next on my list for preparing for my football marketing efforts. Bob Sutter introduced me to a marketing representative, which we held many conversations on how to increase peanut sales in the state of North Carolina. We concluded with creating a radio advertisement that would air throughout the entire state of North Carolina 120 times throughout the entire football season. This commercial aired on many different stations but kept the same nutritional and informational message. We also created a web impression box to increase our traffic on our aboutpeanuts.com website. This web impression box ran during the months of September, October, and November.

The last but not least my final marketing efforts were provided to Clemson University. I used the same marketing representative from Virginia Tech to promote peanuts within South Carolina. We decided for Clemson University to increase peanut sales to have a display of our SC peanut board logo that would rotate in the stadium 6 times on the score-board each home game. We also decided to create a commercial that would promote South Carolina locally grown peanuts on the Tiger Talk Show Radio network. This commercial ran before every home game multiple times so many consumers could hear our message about peanuts during the tailgating season.

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# Influence of Soil Moisture on Peanut Germination



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A year or so ago, a couple of peanut growers asked me questions about peanut germination and soil moisture. Finally, this spring and summer we attempted to address this issue in a greenhouse germination test at the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (TAREC) in Suffolk, VA. We tested twelve cultivars including three with the “high oleic” characteristic that are being released in 2013, N08075oIJCT, N08081oIJC, and N08082oIJCT. Three water regimes were imposed, one in each of the three 9-ft long, 3-ft wide, and 6-in depth boxes as shown in Figure 1; they were: excessive moisture, plants were heavily irrigated every day; moderate moisture, plants were irrigated twice or 3 times a week to keep the soil visibly moist; and water stress, soil had traces of water at planting and was very little irrigated (once or twice in a month) to maintain a low moisture profile. We measured the soil moisture of each water regime and

they were in average 310 mg water per gram of soil for the excessive moisture regime; 290 for the moderate water; and 170 for the water stress. We replicated 3 times each cultivar within the same box/water regime and counted the number of emerged seedlings from a total of 15 seeds planted from each variety (Figure 2). With the exception of Spain, seed of all other cultivars was produced under similar conditions in one of my field trials in 2012 at TAREC. Statistics show significant differences among the water regimes and cultivars (Figure 2). Differences among cultivars were significant under all water regimes, but greater under moderate and stress conditions than under excessive moisture. Spain showed germination problems in medium and stress water regimes, but this could have been related to the conditions in which seed was produced and stored. Georgia 09B and Florida 07 also showed less germination across water regimes than the other varieties even



Figure 1. Germination set up in the greenhouse at Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Suffolk, VA. Close left side shows peanut planted and grown in excessive soil moisture; far right side shows peanut planted and emerged in “just right” or moderate soil moisture; and close right shows peanut planted in dry soil with approximately half amount of water as in the other treatments.

though their seed was produced under similar conditions and management practices with the other cultivars. Gregory and Phillips had the greatest germination and emergence regardless soil moisture. This simple experiment shows that 1) soil water content has a significant influence on peanut seed germination and emergence; 2) significant differences for germination exist among varieties regardless soil moisture; and 3) because conditions in which seed is produced and stored can affect germination, for correct comparisons of varieties seed produced under similar growing conditions should be used in germination tests.

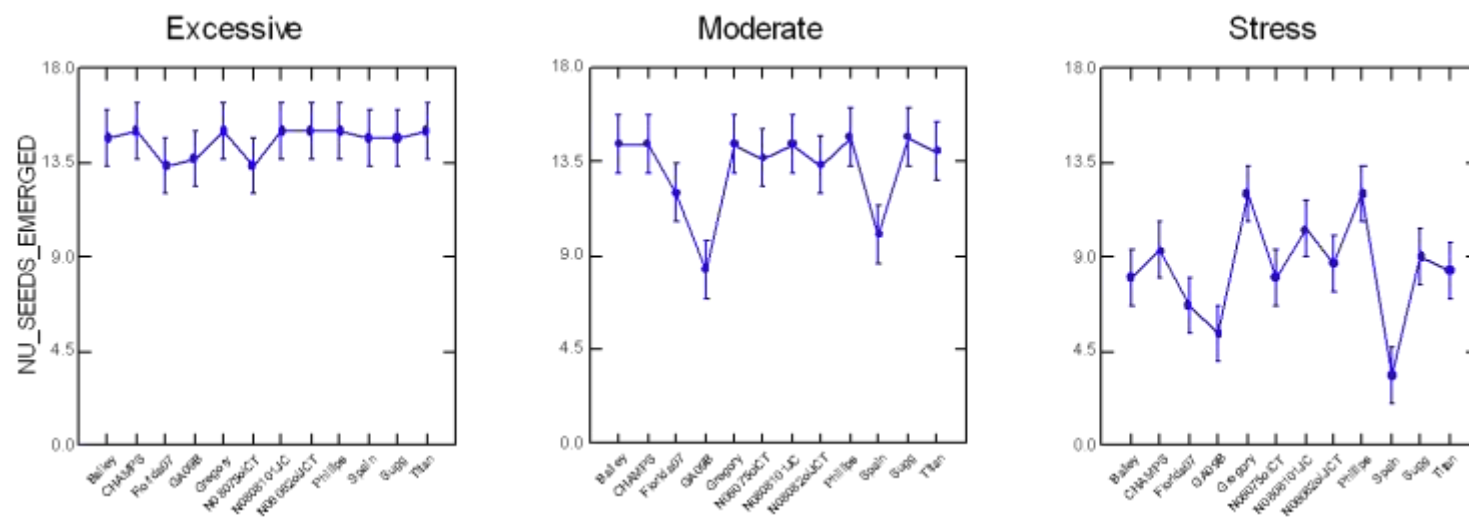


Figure 2. Average number of seedlings emerged from a maximum of 45 seeds planted from each of 12 peanut varieties.

