



GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COMMISSION FOR PEANUTS

October 29, 2004

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Dear Researcher:

The Georgia Peanut Commission based in Tifton, Georgia is now seeking proposals on peanuts and peanut related research in cooperation with our colleges, universities, experiment stations, and USDA.

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The Commission does not underestimate the importance of peanut growers' investment in research. We feel the complimentary relationships and cooperation between federal/state funding and grower investments are extremely important.

Grower funds should not replace the need for federal/state funding. Rather, they should act as seed monies and help to make the funding more efficiently utilized.

Attached is a summary of our basic research needs. Please review this information and refer it to any faculty or staff members who may be interested in assisting Georgia's immense peanut industry.

We look for projects that place an emphasis on making a profit as we continue to be against the backdrop of a new marketing environment. Under the present National Peanut Program prices received by farmers in the market place are suppose to be set by worldwide supply and demand.

In effect, the competition in the world market has capped the prices received through the market. So, our ability to maintain a profit relies more and more on our science and technology's ability to maintain our advantage in quality, yield, grade, reduced cost and efficiency.

Member



Peanut Advisory Board

We look forward to receiving 20 copies of each two-page proposal you plan to submit for funding consideration by Monday, January 31, 2005.

Sincerely,

Joe Boddiford
Chairman, Research Committee

Emory M. Murphy
Asst. Executive Director

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Peanut Research Requests

November 1, 2004

The Georgia Peanut Commission is soliciting peanut research proposals by January 31, 2005. The Commission continues to look for new direction in our research efforts. There is a silver lining and we have made progress but our cost of production must continue to be reduced.

That grace period that we have alluded to before being thrown to wide open market forces is over. We now produce peanuts in a new environment, under a new National Peanut Program where prices received by farmers in the market place is suppose to be set by worldwide supply and demand. The bottom line, we can lose peanut production in Georgia if we cannot compete in the world market.

Our research committee continues to look for new and innovative ideas with options made available to the grower that directs their thinking and the information they use into a program that strives for maximum economic returns. This type of program should have the impact of production efficiency, which will allow farmers to make a profit on much lower priced peanuts.

It is understood that applying a measurement of economic return for justification will not fit with our research needs and objectives all the time. Placing an economic value on whether some hypothesis will or will not work may have no place for some applications. But, the eventual use of innovative technology and new data should meet appropriate thresholds and pass an economic litmus test.

We have existing technology to reduce production cost on every peanut farm in Georgia. We need to continue to identify these areas where our farmers are not using present technology and incorporate or transfer this technology that can help our farmers in this strategy.

Projects that have a systems approach that incorporates others disciplines through a cooperative effort seeking maximum economic yields are encouraged. A value-added approach that strives for maximum quality while taking into consideration the risk could become a new challenge. Such research efforts would be at an advantage in competing for funding.

Cooperation and communication between our peanut researchers and extension leaders is more important than ever. We seek to become compatible with the SE Peanut Research Initiative as we compliment that effort underway with funding from the National Peanut Board. We continue to strongly encourage the appropriate research/extension proposals to consider collaboration with the National Peanut Competitiveness Center in order to help evaluate project results by including established farm management economic principles.

The research committee continues to stress the following areas due to their particular importance that has been identified. However, approaching these areas by looking at the bottom line will continue to require some new and innovative thinking.

1. **Breeding:** continue studies on variety improvements that strive for maximum quality with the most efficient yield including the continued need for disease and aflatoxin resistance and drought tolerance; and, continued progress on biogenetic technology;
2. **Agronomics:** rethink our rotation systems, fertilization requirements, land preparation, tillage systems, cover crops, and in general all of our cultural practices with the goal of least cost and maximum production efficiency for maximum economic yields;
3. **TSWV:** continue studies on the control of the virus and its vectors that cause severe damage to the peanut plant and its fruit during the various growth stages which affect quality and yield. We need to continue looking at different options and strategies that will help our growers reduce TSWV, and continue to quantify yield losses and potential yield savings;
4. **Diseases:** continue studies on the control of white mold, leaf spot, rhizoctonia, CBR and other disease complexes, and put emphasis on quantifying the economic thresholds of diminishing returns and application costs vs. yield response-net profits;
5. **Insects:** continue studies on the control of LCB, corn rootworm, fall army worm, nematodes, spider mites, thrips, three corner alfalfa hopper, and other foliage feeders; again put emphasis on quantifying the economic thresholds of diminishing returns and application costs vs. yield response-net profits;
6. **Weeds:** continue studies on the control of beggarweed, Texas millet, nutgrass, coffee weed, gherkins, etc., and put emphasis on quantifying the economic thresholds of diminishing returns and application costs vs. yield response-net profit;
7. **Physiology:** continue studies to identify factors that will affect the maximum possible quality and yield, and incorporate such factors with other disciplines;
8. **Seeds:** continue to develop studies for measuring seed quality (including the elimination of seed transmitted CBR, Radiation Technology?) and especially with our varying size of seed from cultivars to cultivars continue to look at the amount of seed needed to achieve maximum economic yields;
9. **Economics:** continue basic analysis of economic, government, and trade policy issues concerning peanuts and the impact on our industry, rural economies, and consumers;
10. **Marketing:** continue grower marketing and pricing strategies or systems;
11. **Irrigation:** new studies on irrigation systems that incorporate agronomic systems, such as chemigation, minimum tillage and elimination of trips across the field.
12. **Mechanization:** continue studies on improving harvesting, drying systems, and harvest cleaning;
13. **Utilization:** continue looking at alternative uses and markets, i.e. non-edible (low grade) feed to livestock or even high oil production as a hydrocarbon energy replacement and especially food health-nutrition studies and new technologies to prepare and/or develop products.

The Commission anticipates providing approximately \$250,000 in financial support for this new research effort. The research committee in its selection of research projects to be funded will closely evaluate the level of funding requested.

The Commission's research funding should not replace other sources of funding. If possible, we would like for our research funding to act as "seed" money to generate other sources of funds to enlarge and expand on the scope of the research projects.

The Commission can only contract for funding on a year-to-year basis. If your project is considered a continuation of a previously funded project, please write your project file code on the top right corner of the first page. Otherwise, you'll need to write "New Proposal".

Depending on evaluation and funding requests, approximately 25 projects may be funded. Project selection will be completed so that funding should be approved in March and available in July 2004. Cooperators will be notified by the first of April.

A **2 page** proposal is requested and should contain the following information:

1. Title of project
2. Name, title, affiliation, & address of principal investigator(s)
3. Brief & concise statement of objectives
4. Rational & economic significance of project
5. Procedures & plan of investigation
6. Budget summary to include duration of project, contribution of investigator's institution, and proportion requested from the Commission under the following categories:
 - a. Salary
 - b. Wages
 - c. Supplies
 - d. Travel
 - e. Equipment (major items identified & justified)
 - f. Other costs

We hope that the **2-page** proposal will indicate how the proposed research would complement other research. The proposals should also clearly indicate how the proposed research would benefit the future profitability of peanut production to Georgia growers.

We request that **20copies** of the proposal be submitted to the Commission office by **January 31, 2005**. To expedite proposal preparation and submission, the Commission will accept proposals not officially endorsed by an institution's administration.

If you have any specific questions pertaining to our request for peanut research proposals, please contact:

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