A Report to the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peanuts
on

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension County Agent Programs

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Funding was provided for 2013-2014 from the Georgia Peanut Commission to support peanut related programming by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension County Extension Agents. The funding was utilized to support four specific programs. Those programs were:

1) County Extension Agent travel to the annual meeting of the American Peanut Research and Education Society (APRES)

2) On-Farm Applied Research and Demonstrations

3) The Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents (GACAA) Peanut Education for Excellence program

4) Printing of the *2013 Georgia Peanut Production Update* guide

County Extension Agent travel to the APRES meeting – Ten University of Georgia County Extension Agents representing peanut producing counties in Georgia were selected to attend the 2013 American Peanut Research and Education Society (APRES) annual meeting held July 9-11 at Brasstown Valley Resort near Young Harris, GA. The GPC provided funding to cover travel to the meeting for five of the 10 county agents.

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

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

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

County Extension Agents from Georgia attending the 2013 APRES meeting in Georgia and funded by the GPC were:
Phillip Edwards – GACAA winner
Mark Crosby – Emanuel County (Georgia winner of Peanut Education for Excellence, presentation)
Mark von Waldner – Atkinson County
Brian Tankersley – Tift County

Wade Parker – Jenkins County

On-Farm Applied Research and Demonstrations – County Extension Agents in seven counties received funding support of $500 each to conduct on-farm applied research and demonstrations in peanut production. These County Agents conducted trials in the areas of cultivar evaluation, disease management, and burrower bug management. Each of the County Agents will submit an individual report, as specified in the requirements for receiving the funds. The reports will be a part of the entire package of reports. Funding to support these county-based trials is extremely important as the County Agents demonstrate the most economically productive peanut production strategies for producers. Sincere appreciation is expressed to the GPC for their continuing support of these trials.

Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents (GACAA) Peanut Education for Excellence program – Each year the GPC provides $2,550 in funding to support the GACAA awards program for excellence in peanut programming at the county level. In 2013, four County Extension Agents were recognized for outstanding programming in peanut production in their counties. The 2013 winners were:
1st Place – Bill Tyson, Effingham County ($500 cash award)
2nd Place –Brian Cresswell, Early County ($400 cash award)
3rd Place – Mark Crosby, Emanuel County ($300 cash award)
4th Place – Phillip Edwards, Irwin County ($200 cash award)

As the first place winner, Bill Tyson will receive funding as a part of this grant to cover his travel expenses to the 2014 APRES meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The rest of the funds were to cover the cost of the plaques and the cash awards.

Printing of the *2014 Georgia Peanut Production Update* – Funding in the amount of $6,000 was allocated to cover the cost to print the *2014 Georgia Peanut Production Update*, an annual production guide distributed to peanut producers during the winter meetings. In 2013, 2,500 copies of the guide were printed for distribution. Printing costs have escalated and the original allocation of $6,000 was insufficient to cover the cost to print the 2,500 copies. In past years, 3,000 copies were printed. That number was reduced to 2,500 in order to stay within budget. The cost to print the 2,500 copies came to $7,500. I requested, and was approved, to take the $1,500 residual from the On-Farm Applied Research and Demonstration allocation and apply it to the $6,000 allocated for the printing cost. It was very much appreciated as it allowed us to print enough copies to put at least one copy in to each producer's hands during the winter peanut production meetings.

Sincere appreciation is expressed on behalf of the UGA Peanut Team for the funding allocated to support UGA County Extension Agent peanut related programming.