

Peanut Research Foundation Report to the Georgia Peanut Commission

Steve Brown
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The Peanut Research Foundation appreciates the continued strong support of the Georgia Peanut Commission. The GPC has a long history of supporting research that benefits Georgia growers. The Foundation is unique in that it represents the collective wishes of the entire U.S. peanut industry including growers, shellers, manufacturers and allied industries. Our goal is to support research that benefits all segments of our industry. Our board of directors is a collection of representatives from all segments who make sure that goal is met. We are proud to have Donald Chase as the current Chair of our board.

As you know, our current initiative focuses on using new genomic tools to develop peanuts with traits beneficial to our industry. After successfully completing the original five-year Peanut Genome Initiative, our board of directors has now embarked on PGI-Phase II, a new initiative which puts those achievements to work to address real issues in the peanut industry. We are now embarking on the third year of that four-year initiative. Our 2021 annual report is in the final stages of completion and will be posted on our website soon. The highlights from 2021 include Dr. Corley Holbrook's continued success in developing an essentially leafspot immune cultivar with excellent yield and grade. After many years of marker-assisted breeding efforts, release of a cultivar is anticipated in one year. Leafspot resistance will result in significant reduction in production costs. Another highlight is Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins' discovery of markers for aflatoxin reduction. While we don't yet know the magnitude of that resistance, this is the first time genetic markers will be available for breeders to use in their programs. We are also supporting the operation of the winter nursery in Puerto Rico. This helps our breeders reach their goals sooner. The Foundation and the NPB continue to support the transfer of Dr. Charles Simpson's valuable wild species collection into the USDA collection in Griffin. The Foundation has also contributed to the NPB's successful efforts to leverage our private money through NIFA's matching funds program.

I hope you will see that continued support of the Peanut Research Foundation benefits Georgia growers. Donald Chase and I are available to answer any questions you may have. We respectfully request your continued support for this important research.