

The Peanut Research Foundation
2025 Report to the Georgia Peanut Commission

The Peanut Research Foundation (TPRF) board of directors approved 14 research projects for 2025. This compares to 8 in 2024 and 15 in 2023. Once again, our projects focus on capitalizing on the Peanut Genome Initiative for the genetic improvement of peanut. In addition to these 14 competitive grants, we continue to fund the Winter Nursery in Puerto Rico and the transfer of the Charles Simpson wild species collection to USDA out of our annual budget.

We continue to operate from voluntary donations from all segments of the peanut industry. In 2024, we completed a successful fundraising campaign raising approximately \$500,000 for research. We appreciate the continued support of the Georgia Peanut Commission.

The Foundation has promoted the transition of conventional breeding programs to utilize marker assisted selection (MAS). All of our most trusted breeding programs are now using MAS to some degree. The benefits are evident, but there is an issue with the cost of genotyping to support an extensive MAS program. For the first time this year, the Foundation has entered into an agreement with HudsonAlpha Institute to provide \$200,000 worth of genotyping credit to support funded research projects.

Chris Liebold (Smuckers) has been elected as the new chair of the Foundation while JR Cudd (grower from TX) is vice chair. Peggy Tsatsos (Mars Wrigley) is now the Foundation treasurer.

There is an ongoing discussion among the board regarding the direction of our research efforts in the future. There is a need for coordination of research efforts among the peanut research funding agencies. There is also a need for an industry-wide discussion regarding gene-editing research.

I have announced my intent to resign as Executive Director in June, 2025. The search for my successor has begun.

Steve Brown
Executive Director