

# The Peanut Research Foundation

## 2026 Report to the Georgia Peanut Commission

The purpose of The Peanut Research Foundation (TPRF) is to fund innovative research that enhances viability and drives consumption of US peanuts through genetics, production or processing practices.

- We are particularly interested in proposals that utilize modern genetic technology to develop improved peanut cultivars that expand upon the Peanut Genome Initiative.
- While we will consider proposals that examine how gene editing can solve industry challenges, researchers should be aware that any cultivar labeled as “gene edited” may not be readily accepted by the industry due to consumer preference.
- We are interested in groundbreaking research improving precision ag practices, post-harvest handling and storage practices, AI/Machine learning, and other relevant evolving technologies.

TPRF receives all of its funding from voluntary donations from all segments of the peanut industry. In 2025, we completed a successful fundraising campaign raising approximately \$400,000 for research. Additionally, the HudsonAlpha Institute has provided an additional \$200,000 worth of genotyping credit that can be awarded to support funded research projects.

In 2025, TPRF received 30 grant proposals for funding in 2026. Of these, our board of directors approved 12 research projects for funding. Total funding for these 12 projects will be \$514,000.

As in recent years, our projects primarily focus on capitalizing on the Peanut Genome Initiative for the genetic improvement of peanut. In addition to these 12 competitive grants, TPRF will 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.

Keith S. Rucker  
Executive Director – The Peanut Research Foundation