

# Texas Peanut Producers Board NEWSLETTER

## The Grand Opening

Texas A&M AgriLife and Texas Peanut Producers Board unveiled a new \$1 million shelling plant in Vernon, Texas, at the end of September. The new sheller is one-of-a-kind and will benefit not only Texas peanut farmers but the entire peanut industry.

According to a release from Texas A&M AgriLife, “the sheller has a 1-ton per hour capacity, can process lots as small as 250 pounds and offers the rare ability to process identity-preserved peanuts. Also, with design modifications built in by Bratney Corp., the new peanut sheller can reduce split-seed losses to less than 10%.”

This technology will allow Texas A&M AgriLife Foundation Seed to work with both food companies and farmers by using an identity-preserved production system that can deliver specific peanut types to end users. AgriLife can now breed peanuts that specifically target improved nutritional traits, which will benefit consumers and enhance the value of the peanut for farmers.

Shelly Nutt gave remarks at the sheller’s opening that expressed TPPB’s excitement about the impact the sheller will have on the Texas peanut industry.

“The board and I want to thank you, Dr. Stover, and Texas A&M University, for your support of this peanut shelling facility,” said Nutt. “Under the direction of Dr. Richard Vierling, this facility will give Texas’ peanut farmers access to a pure, high-quality source of varieties specifically suited for the environment in the southwest growing region. This peanut shelling plant is vitally important to being able to regain the respect of the seed industry and make TAMU varieties the industry standard in not only value-added traits but also in the quality of the product that is sold.”



Big moment: Cutting the ribbon for the new sheller.



Dr. Richard Vierling, director for the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon and Texas A&M AgriLife Foundation Seed, giving remarks.



The sheller has top-of-the-line technology and equipment.



# TPPB Welcomes Innovative Texas Chefs for Texas Peanuts Field Trip

*Story Courtesy of Wild Hive*

On Nov. 1, the Texas Peanut Producers Board (TPPB) hosted seven top-tier Texas chef innovators at Mimosa Farms in Dilley, Texas, for a Texas Peanuts Chef Field Trip. The field trip is part of a comprehensive Texas Peanuts for Texas Chefs program to raise the profile of Texas peanuts in the state by engaging and educating top-tier chef innovators in the state.

The Texas Peanuts for Texas Chefs program began with outreach during the first



The tour attendees out in the field.

wave of the pandemic, providing chefs with each type of Texas peanut and educational materials to introduce chefs to Texas peanuts. The initial outreach included an offer to provide additional Texas peanuts as chefs reopened their operations. This outreach was very well received and resulted in key chefs learning that Texas is a peanut production powerhouse, which they did not previously know. This latest field trip allowed TPPB to deepen relationships and appreciation among these chefs.

Dunia Borga of La Duni Baking Studio, Katherine Clapner of Dude, Sweet Chocolate, Eric Davidson of Cured, Randy Evans of H-E-B Restaurants, Kevin Fink of Emmer & Rye and other Austin-based restaurants, Nathan Heath of MaieB Hospitality, and Carlyle Watt of Mignette, all participated in the chef field day. They learned more about the TPPB and Texas peanut types and growing regions from Shelly Nutt, Charley Warnken and Ryan Warnken, and

got an insider view of how Texas peanuts are grown and harvested from Grayson Wilmeth, TPPB Chair, and his family. The chefs and attendees enjoyed a South Texas ranch-style lunch and took part in a tasting and shelling discussion by Wilco Peanut Co. before taking home their own field-picked peanuts for further innovation.



Grayson Wilmeth explaining the ins and outs of peanuts.

The TPPB saw an overwhelming response from the chefs who showed great interest in obtaining Texas peanuts for their operations and a willingness to share the quality of Texas peanuts with colleagues in the industry. These innovative top-tier Texas chefs are committed to sourcing products locally and are willing to pay more for a premium product like Texas peanuts. Several are ready to source Texas peanuts regularly and call them out on their menus.



Both the chefs and members of TPPB had a great time on the tour.

Overall, the field trip helped move forward TPPB's goal of positioning the Texas Peanut as a premium peanut with innovative Texas chefs to increase awareness, demand and consumer willingness to pay a premium price. Following this session, TPPB will be exploring next steps to advance this effort to move Texas peanuts from commodity to premium product.

# International Gastronomy Congress

TPPB participated in the global International Gastronomy Congress by providing raw Spanish Texas Peanuts to Chef Dunia Borga of the La Duni Baking Studio in Dallas. Being a native Texan and a session host, Chef Dunia took the opportunity during her session to discuss the four types of peanuts grown in Texas and she highlighted Texas farmers and how they make Texas Peanuts a high quality, unique ingredient.

The event was livestreamed on Facebook in addition to being on Zoom. During her virtual session, Chef



Snapshot: A screenshot from Chef Dunia's Zoom session.

Dunia made Texas Style Alfajores. Alfajores are a traditional South American dessert that feature two delicious cookies with dulce de leche sandwiched in between them. Chef Dunia put her own spin on them, sandwiching Texas peanut butter between two pecan cookies and then rolling the outside in Pica Pica Texas peanuts and pecans.



Left: The finished product - Texas Style Alfajores.



Right: Delicious Pika Pika Texas Peanuts.

# Peanut Spotlight

## Two Texas Peanut Farmers Appointed to Serve on National Peanut Board

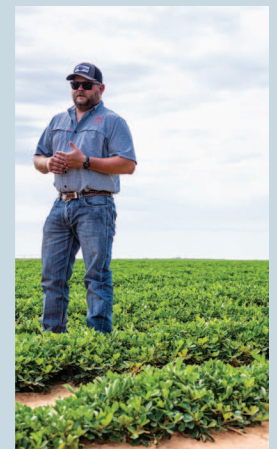
The USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack, recently appointed four members and four alternates to serve on the National Peanut Board. Those appointed will serve three-year terms, from Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2024.

Jeff Roper of Lubbock, Texas, is one of the new board members. Roper previously served as an alternate on the board. Mason Becker of Brownfield, Texas, is a newly appointed alternate to the board.

**Jeffery Roper** owns and operates Jeffery Roper Farms and produces organic peanuts, cotton, organic milo, and organic wheat and native grasses. He currently serves as vice chairman for TPPB and has been a member of the American Peanut Council Export Board since 2012, having held various officer roles.



**Mason Becker** is president and owner of Arid Acres, Inc. Uniquely, Becker grows all four types of peanuts—runners, Virginias, Valencia and Spanish—and produces both organic and conventional peanuts. He also farms cotton, wheat and other crops. Becker is a current board member of Western Peanut Growers Association and Southwest Council of Agribusiness.





## Upcoming TPPB Election

When you opened up this envelope, you might have noticed that we've included ballots along with the newsletter. The ballots are for the upcoming election TPPB is holding. We want to make sure you are aware that YOU have the opportunity to choose farmers to represent you on the board.

For this election, there is a total of three board seats open: two seats in Voting Region One and one seat for an At Large board member.

Voting Region One consists of Andrews, Bailey, Brewster, Castro, Cochran, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Ector, El Paso, Gaines, Glasscock, Hale, Hartley, Hockley, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Lamb, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Moore, Oldham, Parmer, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Reeves, Sherman, Swisher, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties. If you live in Voting Region One and produce or cause to be produced peanuts, you may vote for 2 (TWO) nominees on the blue Voting Region One ballot AND 1 (ONE) nominee on the green At Large ballot.

For the At Large seat, if you live anywhere in Texas and produce or cause to be produced peanuts, you may vote for 1 (ONE) nominee on the green At Large ballot.

We encourage each eligible producer to take this opportunity to use their voice to elect fellow farmers they think will represent Texas Peanut Producers well. The election begins on Jan. 8, 2022, and completed ballots must be **postmarked no later than Jan. 22, 2022**, to be counted. If you have any questions, please reach out to Shelly Nutt.

## Texas Peanut Highlights

2021 was a big year for Texas peanuts. Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, TPPB and other industry members persevered and made the best of it. Here's a few of our favorite highlights from the year.



Watch the road! TPPB partnered with Southern Ag Carriers and National Peanut Board to put decals on five trailers that traveled all over the country.



Shelly Nutt and Dr. Bill McCutchen, Center Director for Texas A&M AgriLife Center at Stephenville at American Peanut Council's 2021 Peanut Congress.



Dr. Charles Simpson received the American Peanut Council's Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to the peanut industry.

Overall, Texas had a good peanut year with above average yields and grades.



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# Texas Peanut Producers Board

# NEWSLETTER

## A New Peanut Sheller is Coming to Texas

A new peanut sheller is coming to Vernon, Texas. Texas A&M AgriLife Foundation Seed, a branch of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, is in the midst of finishing the sheller, which is set to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 2, 2021.

Dr. Richard Vierling, the manager of Texas Foundation Seed, said the sheller will provide multiple benefits to AgriLife and the peanut industry.

“It will be useful in plant breeding,” Vierling said. “We are going to be able to test varieties early on for their shelling abilities. When a breeder is getting ready to release new varieties, we are going to be able to do a better job processing that seed and making sure that it is genetically pure and do a good job not damaging the seed. Lastly, it is going to be available to companies for specialty processing.”



Shelling Facility in Vernon, Texas

Vierling said that identity preservation is another great benefit the sheller will provide. Food manufacturers can choose to participate in identity preservation peanut production and contract with farmers to produce a specific variety.

Vierling said this is a good opportunity for producers to participate in identity preservation production, which can end up being more profitable than just commodity production.

“The opportunity for identity preserved production will have benefits all along the chain – from the seed supplier company, to the producer, to the food company – they can all grab benefits from identity preservation,” Vierling said.

Overall, Vierling said the sheller will be able to be used throughout the entire life of the breeding process. He said AgriLife is now better equipped to breed for shelling and they will be able to begin looking at the processing characteristics of a variety, which will help increase efficiency across the industry and increase the number of acres in Texas.

“So, we can start breeding for both the farmer and the peanut shellers and the food companies,” Vierling said. “So, you know, that’s big. That is going to change the way we do our breeding.”

## 2020 Harvest Update

While most of 2020 was unusual and challenging, the same can be said for the 2020 harvest. Kelton Coleman, a farmer from Lamesa, gave us an inside scoop on how his 2020 harvest went.

“[2020 harvest] was especially challenging because we had an early freeze,” Coleman said. “That killed the peanuts, so we had to go ahead and dig everything earlier than normal, so that hurt yields and grades. This past year our yields were off probably 30 percent.”

In 2020, Coleman planted about 120 acres of conventional Virginia, 120 acres of conventional Valencia, 1,200 acres of organic Valencia and 600 acres of organic Spanish. Out of those four types, Coleman said the organic Spanish did the best.

“The Spanish seemed to handle the variations in temperature and weather better than the rest,” Coleman said. “...The organic Spanish yielded about 3,500 pounds, whereas the organic Valencia yielded about 2,500 pounds.”

For this upcoming planting season, Coleman said he will probably focus more on Spanish because they tend to adapt to weather and rainfall conditions better than other varieties.

“With no rainfall [we have to irrigate more] and our irrigation water has a lot of minerals in it, and those minerals build up in the soil when there is no rainfall to leech them and Spanish tend to handle higher pH in the soil better than other varieties do.”



Pictures of Kelton Coleman's 2020 Harvest

Kelton, thank you for taking the time to talk to us about harvest. We would love to hear how your 2020 harvest went and we would love to see pictures, too. If you're interested, please email [kylie@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:kylie@texaspeanutboard.com).

## Intern Update

Exciting things are happening for TPPB's interns! Campbell Williams, our intern for the past year, graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's in agricultural communications in December. She has done great work at TPPB – whether it was writing newsletter stories or creating social media posts, Campbell completed the task efficiently and made sure it was well done. Campbell, good luck in all of your future endeavors – we know you will do great.

With that being said, a new Marketing and Communications Intern has been hired. Hi, everyone, my name is Kylie Harlan, and I am

a senior agricultural communications major at Texas Tech. A little about me – I am originally from Sherman, Texas. I did not grow up directly involved in agriculture but after joining FFA my freshman year of high school, I became interested in the industry and have not looked back.

Through my courses at school, extracurriculars and previous jobs, I have learned a lot about agriculture, and I look forward to learning even more through this internship.

At TPPB, I assist in the behind-the-scenes work with the newsletter, social media and other marketing/communication tasks. Feel free to email me at [kylie@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:kylie@texaspeanutboard.com) if you have a newsletter story, social media post or anything in between. I would love to chat!

## Chef Camp

*Written By: Guest Columnist, JEAN LONIE, Coordinator for International Marketing, Texas Department of Agriculture*

Part of our work at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is to help promote the outstanding products grown here in the Lone Star State – and we are always excited to get to highlight Texas peanuts (and our peanut producers!). Through initiatives like the GO TEXAN program, we can promote Texas



Past Intern, Campbell Williams



Current Intern, Kylie Harlan



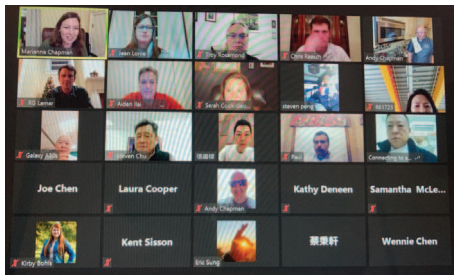
products to consumers here in Texas and now, thanks to online shopping, across the country. What you may not know is that we also work hard to promote products like Texas peanuts to partners and consumers around the world.

In December, TDA was able to work with TPPB to feature your products as part of an international “Chef Camp” held for culinary executives at resorts in India and Taiwan. As a lead-up to the event, coordinators visited a Texas peanut farm and worked with a retail/wholesale partner who purchases, adds value to, and sells, Texas peanuts. The participants in this program do a lot more than oversee daily menus for their multiple restaurants and food service entities; they are key purchasers of food and beverage products across multi-national resorts. During this call, Texas peanuts were introduced not only as an ingredient for meals, but also as a top-tier product for the multiple lounges and bars at the resorts, and as an ideal room drop/welcome gift for VIP guests and other special visitors. An added bonus the chefs picked up on right away was that with the ability to package products in individual serving sizes, they can easily provide these treats to guests while adhering to their resort’s COVID-19 guidelines!

Whether we are promoting your products to these high-end resorts, exploring the potential for global retail sales or finding new partners interested in importing your products in bulk, we look forward to continuing our work with TPPB to take Texas peanuts worldwide!



Doron Ilai, President and Founder of austiNuts, located in Manor, Texas



Ilai introduced Texas peanuts to the Indian and Taiwanese participants.

## TPPB Spotlight

### One of TPPB’s Own is Honored

TPPB’s longtime research consultant, Bob Whitney, was awarded the Norman Borlaug award by the Texas Plant Protection Association. Congratulations, Bob!



Texas Plant Protection Association 2020 Norman Borlaug Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Bob Whitney, center, by TPPA Board Chairman Ray Smith, left, and Scott Nolte, TPPA board member and chair of the TPPA Awards Committee. Picture courtesy of Texas Plant Protection Association.

### Texas Peanut Farmers Give Back

Texas’ peanut farmers donated over 32k jars of HEB peanut butter, made with high quality Texas peanuts, to food banks across the state.



## TPPB Seeks National Peanut Board Nominees

If you are wanting to get involved at the national level, now is the time. TPPB will be accepting nominations for two Texas nominees on the National Peanut Board. Both NPB member and alternate positions are available. Elections will be held March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CST at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 11708 US-70, Vernon, Texas 76384. All eligible producers are encouraged to participate in this opportunity. Eligible producers are those who are engaged in the production and sale of peanuts and who own or share the ownership and risk loss of the crop.

Currently, Peter Froese Jr. of Seminole is the National Peanut Board member and Jeff Roper of Lubbock is serving as the alternate. The current term for the Texas board member and alternate expires Dec. 31, 2021.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please reach out to Shelly. We hope you will consider participating in this opportunity!

## 2020 Peanut Report

### Acreeage by Type

According to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) records from 2020, Texas planted 185,828.4 acres of peanuts for all four types. Of these types, 41% (76,056.4 acres) were Runner, 29% (54,882.2 acres) were Virginia, 16% (28,893.0 acres) were Spanish, and 14% (25,996.9 acres) were Valencia.

To the right, you will see figures for each of the four regions of Texas.

Plains		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	48,468.3	32.0
Spanish	22,972.0	15.0
Valencia	25,264.4	17.0
Virginia	54,683.7	36.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,388.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Panhandle		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	10,193.9	62.0
Spanish	5,543.1	33.0
Valencia	588.6	4.0
Virginia	193.5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,519.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

South		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	14,680.3	99.0
Spanish	187.5	1.0
Valencia	0.0	0.0
Virginia	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,867.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Central & Other		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	2,713.8	89.0
Spanish	190.3	6.0
Valencia	143.9	5.0
Virginia	5.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,053.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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*Special Edition: Honoring Dr. Charles Simpson*

## A Lifetime of Dedication Recognized

For over 50 years, Charles Simpson, Ph.D., has dedicated his life to bettering the peanut industry. His work has taken him all over, from the jungles of South America to most recently, New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend the 2021 U.S.A. Peanut Congress. At this past Peanut Congress, Simpson was awarded for his hard work, receiving the peanut industry's highest honor, the American Peanut Council's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Simpson is a peanut germplasm explorer and breeder for Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Stephenville, Texas, as well as a professor emeritus in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Soil and Crop Sciences plant breeding program. Although he officially retired from these roles in 2003, he has spent nearly 20 years "volunteering" his time in various ways, such as helping to preserve and utilize the wild peanut collection, mentoring students and colleagues and providing advice to industry partners, according to a release from Texas A&M AgriLife Research.

From 1980 to 2004, Simpson made 28 expeditions to countries in South America to



Dr. Simpson at the 2021 U.S.A. Peanut Congress.

collect wild and cultivated peanut germplasms. According to the release, Simpson and his colleagues collected over 1,800 wild peanut accessions, over 5,500 cultivated landraces and over 500 Rhizomatous accessions. His findings have contributed to the large *Arachis* germplasm collection that is housed at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research facility in Stephenville.

The wild species collection has allowed Simpson and others to improve the cultivated peanut that we all know. Perhaps one of the most notable improvements is when Simpson's program released the first root knot nematode-resistant peanut cultivar using resistance found in wild peanut species. This innovation was groundbreaking for peanut farmers throughout Texas and even the world due to serious threat of root knot nematode throughout the state.

Simpson has dedicated his life's work to the peanut industry. His findings and innovations have tremendously impacted the industry and will continue to do so for years to come. Simpson is very deserving of this award and is an incredible resource for the Texas Peanuts team. Thank you, Dr. Simpson for 54 years of service to improve the industry that impacts us all.



Dr. Simpson has been involved in the peanut industry since he was young.

# New Endowment Honors Dr. Charles Simpson

Texas A&M Foundation has created an endowment to preserve the history of the Texas peanut industry as well as ensure the industry's future. The Dr. Charles Simpson Endowed Peanut Program honors Simpson's many years of hard work and dedication to the peanut industry. The endowment is designed to increase support of the many programs that sustain and improve the industry such as fellowships, teaching, research, industry service and professional development activities. It will also be used to protect the irreplaceable wild germplasm collection Simpson spent his life assembling.



Dr. Simpson on a wild peanut expedition in Bolivia.

His work has positively and dramatically influenced the international peanut industry.



Dr. Simpson on an expedition.

Texas A&M AgriLife houses one of the most complete wild peanut germplasm collections in the world, with more than 1,500 accessions and 76 of the 83 described species. For more than 50 years, this collection has proved to be vital for researchers in creating improved varieties and germplasm lines

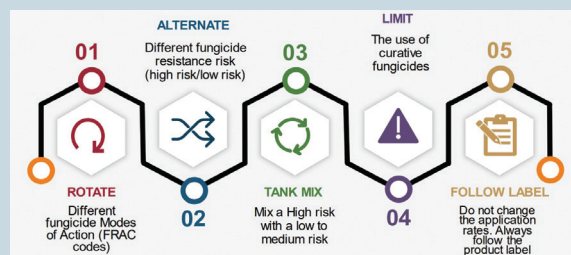
If you are interested in donating to the endowment, please scan the QR code or visit [give.am/SimpsonPeanutEndowment](https://give.am/SimpsonPeanutEndowment) to donate.



# All Things Peanut

## Texas Peanut Disease Control Products List

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has provided recommendations for Texas Peanut Disease Control Products for 2021. Below is a graphic depicting some of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's recommendations. The full report includes tables that detail findings for seed treatments and registered fungicides for use in peanuts - please visit the "research" tab on our website to view the entire list of findings and recommendations.



## Texas Peanut Variety Trials

The 2020 variety report is up! Variety selection is the most important decision made during the year. Unlike herbicide or fungicide decisions that can be adjusted during the season to address specific conditions and pests, variety selection is made only once, and variety selection dictates the management of a field for the entire season. The resources provided can help you make an informed decision in choosing the variety that is best for your operation.

Visit [www.texaspeanuts.com/research](http://www.texaspeanuts.com/research) to see the full reports.



# Peanuts: The New Superfood?

At the March 2021 meeting of the Texas Peanut Producers Board, the board approved funding for an incredibly innovative research project with Texas A&M AgriLife Research. The premise behind the project is this: turning peanuts into a recognized “superfood,” using the wild species collection.

A food can reach superfood status when it contains all the necessary recommended daily allowances of the essential amino acids that are necessary to serve as building blocks for the body’s nutritional needs. Peanuts are already highly nutritious, containing lots of protein and oleic acid.

They also contain adequate daily recommendations of seven of the nine essential amino acids required to be considered a complete protein source.

By utilizing the wild species collection and different innovative scanning technologies, researchers will look for genes in that contain increased levels of the needed amino acids, so they can make the cultivated peanut a superfood. By using Raman Spectroscopy technology, researchers will be able to profile the essential amino acid content of the wild species collection. The technology is noninvasive and nondestructive, so this will be able to be done while preserving the invaluable collection. After identifying the genes associated with the desired essential amino acid content, researchers will be able to introgress the genes into the cultivated peanut



An look inside the greenhouse in Stephenville, Texas, where the Wild Species Collection is housed.

using a few different technologies, thus helping the cultivated peanut achieve superfood status.

This innovation could prove to be helpful in overcoming the growing challenge of feeding and providing proper nutrition to the world’s population. Much of the population is already nutrient deficient and the population itself is projected to grow by two billion in the next 30 years, meaning that it is likely we will have even more nutrient deficient people. By becoming a superfood, peanuts could have a huge impact on decreasing malnutrition in the United States and the world.



Another look inside the greenhouse.

## Texas Peanut Leadership Academy Graduates

Congratulations to Texas’ most recent graduates of the Peanut Leadership Academy! These 3 individuals were a part of Class XII. Pictured below, from left to right, with TPPB Executive Director Shelly Nutt, is Rustin Knight from Terry County, Benny Teichroeb from Gaines County, and the Texas National Peanut Board candidate, Lexi Floyd, from Terry County. Applications are currently being accepted for the next class of Peanut Leadership Academy participants. For more information and the application, visit the blog section on our website. Applications are due by October 1, 2021.





# Crop Updates From Across the State

In this segment, we are featuring some of our wonderful producers that have sent us photos of their 2021 peanut crop. We would love to see how your crop is coming along. Please send photos and information to [kylie@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:kylie@texaspeanutboard.com), or share with us on our social media!



Valencia peanuts in Terry County. Shared by Lahey Farms.



Left: Georgia 14N Runners 32 days after planting, located in South Texas. Shared by Bill Slomchinski.



Right: OLin Spanish peanuts 54 days after planting, located in South Texas. Shared by Ryan Warnken.



Left: TamRun 16 in Dillee, Texas. Right: GA09B Runner in Dillee, Texas. Shared by Grayson Wilmeth.



Virginia Wynn peanuts near Plains, Texas. These peanuts are in a 120 acre irrigated field. Shared by Oobree Martens.



ACI-o8o Runners in Gray County. First peanuts ever grown in McLean, Texas. Shared by Smith Farms.



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## Board Approves First Phase of Marketing Strategy

Texas Peanuts are a premium product and deserve a premium position amongst culinary innovators, specifically top-level chefs in Texas.

The global pandemic has provided the U.S. industry with an increase in peanut butter sales, but the Texas Peanut Producers Board is looking to go beyond peanut butter to encourage a better understanding of and appreciation for Texas Peanuts as a premium product.

Phase one, of a five-phase process, is re-introducing the product to culinary innovators in Texas—top-level chefs and culinary experts. We will distribute a premium peanut care package to the most influential 20 top chefs and culinary experts in key Texas markets (Austin, Houston, DFW, and San Antonio). Each care package will provide information about our Texas Peanut story and what makes our peanuts premium. With it, we will include a coupon for 20 lbs. of Texas Peanuts whenever they are ready for it, as they begin to open their business.

Texas Peanut Producers Board is partnering with Wild Hive, a marketing and communications firm with expertise in food and agriculture based out of Austin, Texas.

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

### Farming amongst Global Pandemic

The resilience of farmers is proven in our ability to constantly adapt our operation for success. COVID-19 has proved, and still is, proving to be a time of endless problem solving and perseverance.

There are a variety of outside influences that enable farms to operate efficiently. For me, this is where the impact of COVID-19 is hurting the most. The issues surrounding immigration are proving agricultural workers are an essential part of our infrastructure. Supply chain delays introduce challenges for repairing equipment, acquiring chemicals, and necessary drivers to pick up and deliver harvested crops. As peanut harvest approaches, I suspect there will be issues with the ability to staff buying points with enough personnel and the ability to have peanuts graded.

Farmers all over the world have been put to the test to cope with the turbulence of COVID-19. Fortunately, we are well seasoned in overcoming obstacles. Too much rain, not enough rain, wind, hail, and poor commodity prices are on the short list of obstacles we encounter. Every year we pivot a few times before finding our path towards harvesting a crop. This year, we have pivoted a dozen

times and we're just half way there.

I once heard a saying, 'If it were easy, everyone would do it.'

**Grayson Wilmeth**



## A Virtual Peanut Industry

Many parts of the peanut industry have turned to a virtual reality. Research conferences, board meetings, and annual conventions have been executed from the comfort of our homes.

American Peanut Research and Education Society had their 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference pre-recorded on July 14. Members of the Texas Peanut Producers Board and peanut producers contributed a recorded panel discussion titled, "Production, Challenges and Strategies: a Grower Perspective." Their 53<sup>rd</sup> annual conference is scheduled to be in Dallas in 2021.



Shelly Nutt TPPB executive director, Jeff Roper vice president, Ryan Warken producer, Otis Johnson board member, Larry Womack board member, Michael Newhouse board member.

While some events have had the luxury of being accomplished online, there are still events that have been postponed or canceled entirely. Texas Peanuts Producers Board was a sponsor for the International Food Bloggers Conference in November 2020, it has been cancelled and postponed to 2021.

We will evaluate a sponsorship when the time comes. In addition to the Food Bloggers Conference, we have cancelled our annual Influencers Tour and the West of Texas Tour. In years before, both were held in the fall in West Texas and were proven as effective ways to promote high quality Texas Peanuts. We hope our new partnership with Wild Hive, promoting peanuts to influential, high end Texas chefs, will be a suitable replacement for these tours.

While many industries have turned to the ease of the internet from the safety of their home office, farmers have remained active on the farm. Thank you for your undivided attention to your crops.

### Summer 2020 Crop Update by JR Cudd, TPPB Secretary/ Treasurer

My peanut crops in Gaines, Terry and Dawson Counties have caught a few rains, and temperatures have dropped. Unfortunately, Yoakum County has had very little rainfall.

While my fields are looking good as a whole, some peanuts are still showing heat stress, even with heavy irrigation.



As far as yielding, 98-99-14 and 09B are proving well under heavy irrigation. With lower temperatures, the last part we need is consistent rainfall.



# TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD NEWSLETTER

## TPPB to Sponsor International Food Bloggeres Conference



Today's consumers are passionate about what they eat and where their food comes from. Fortunately, farmers have always had these same passions. TPPB thinks it is time to join forces to promote peanuts.

Food bloggers can serve as a middle man between farmers and consumers. Bloggers spend their time researching, testing, writing, rewriting, and promoting different foods. TPPB want to communicate to consumers through people they trust-- food bloggers.

The conference will take place in El Paso Nov. 12-15 2020. We hope to use this opportunity to market our peanuts and recruit more bloggers to be a part of our annual Influencers Tour held in Lubbock.

## TPPB Office has Replanted

In an effort to reduce overhead costs, The Board has closed its office in Lubbock and opened a mailbox in McKinney. Executive Director Shelly Nutt will be working from the road, or maybe in a peanut field-- depending on the day.

Texas peanut farmers have faced several droughts in recent years and in turn, reduced the number of harvested acres. we are forced to reduce the overall budget. Eliminating office rent and utility bills enables the board to redirect those funds into research projects, educational campaigns, or promotional activities.

Mail can be sent to 1821 N. Lake Forest Drive, Ste 700-323, McKinney, Texas 75071.

[www.texaspeanuts.com](http://www.texaspeanuts.com) // Newsletter

## 2020 Biennial Election Results

The Texas Peanut Producers Board re-elected two board directors during elections held in January 2020. Elected directors will serve a six year term.

Louis Grissom of Seminole was re-elected for his At Large position and Larry Don Womack of DeLeon was re-elected in Voting Region Three.

The voting period was from Jan. 9-23, 2020. A canvassing committee counted ballots on Feb. 3 and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) ratified the election. The two board members will be sworn in on Apr. 2, 2020 during TPPB's spring remote board meeting.

We recieved a record number of participation in voting numbers. Thank you to those who took time to vote.



Larry Don Womack, left;  
Louis Grissom, top.



# 2019 Peanut Report

Written by Bob Whitney  
Peanut Specialist  
Texas Peanut Producers Board

## Acreage by Type

According to Farm Service Agency (FSA) records from Dec. 1, 2019, Texas planted 158,436.89 acres of peanuts for all four types. Of these types, 38% or 59,790.15 acres were Runner, 19% or 30,582.12 acres were Spanish, 13% or 20,319.97 acres were Valencia, and 30% or 47,724.58 acres were Virginia.

## Acreage by Variety

Each of the individual totals were combined for a total pounds per variety. Once the total pounds were determined, Dr. Johnny Cason and Emi Kimura helped provide estimated weight per seed. Using four seed per foot and 36" row spacing a total number of acres planted was determined.

South Plains		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	32,557	26.6%
Spanish	22,832	18.7%
Valencia	20,143	16.5%
Virginia	46,811	38.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,343</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

South Texas		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	14,856	98.37%
Spanish	110	.73%
Valencia	76	.50%
Virginia	60	.40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,102</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Central Texas		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	3,032	91.2%
Spanish	289	8.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,321</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Panhandle		
Type	Acres	%
Runner	8,950	52.0%
Spanish	7,350	42.5%
Valencia	101	0.5%
Virginia	853	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,253</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

South Plains being that area south and west of Lubbock; Panhandle being counties located east or west of Hwy 287 from Vernon to Clarendon; Central Texas being counties located around Comanche County; South Texas being counties south of San Antonio.

Type	Variety	Acres Planted
Virginia	GA11J	3,416
Virginia	Wynne	20,893
Virginia	Sullivan	1,753
Virginia	ACI 442	6,542
Virginia	Florida Fancy	281
Virginia	Gregory	1,498
Virginia	Bailey	0
Virginia	Bailey II	263
Virginia	Emery	225
Virginia	Contender	0
Virginia	ACI 351	5,655
Virginia	SJ20	10
Virginia	Jupiter	1,387
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>41,923</b>

Type	Variety	Acres Planted
Runner	Georgia 09B	61,152
Runner	ACI789	406
Runner	IPG QR-14	0
Runner	Lariat	3,741
Runner	Webb	0
Runner	Tamrun OL11	664
Runner	ACI 080	688
Runner	GA-16HO	1,225
Runner	GA-14N	223
Runner	Tamrun OL01	0
Runner	Georgia-13M	539
Runner	AG18	54
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>68,692</b>

Type	Variety	Acres Planted
Valencia	IPG 274	0
Valencia	ACI 433	469
Valencia	Valencia A	1,055
Valencia	VT 10	0
Valencia	TamVal OL 14	178
Valencia	Valencia 101	7,076
Valencia	Valencia 102	304
Valencia	Valencia 308	5,654
Valencia	Valencia 309	2,025
Valencia	Valencia 310	353
Valencia	Valencia C	5,217
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>22,331</b>

Type	Variety	Acres Planted
Spanish	ACI 236	1,876
Spanish	AT 9899	10,765
Spanish	Schubert	1,178
Spanish	Tamnut OL06	583
Spanish	OLe'	3,751
Spanish	ACI Span17	16,504
Spanish	OLin	1,635
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>36,292</b>

The peanut entities that contributed to this report were Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, Birdsong Peanuts, Severn Peanut (Hampton Farms), Algrano Peanuts, Trico Peanut, and Wilco Peanuts. We also received seed numbers from Texas Foundation Seed.



# TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD NEWSLETTER

## Peanut Influencers Tour 2019

Texas Peanut Producers Board (TPPB) hosted the fourth annual Influencers Tour August 5-7. The tour's purpose was to shed light to the high-quality peanuts of Texas. TPPB work to show celebrity chefs, dietitians, and nutritionist networks, and social media influencers the value of peanuts.

The variety of "influencers" provided a broad network for consumers to learn more about peanuts, how they are grown, and how they are used in everyday life. The tour attendees had a picnic in a peanut field, highlighting the full circle of peanut production, from the field to the plate.

The Board hopes the tour brings attention to the Texas peanut industry and it has thus far. There will be a story in the Houston Chronicle, Beekman 1802 Almanac, and Food and Wine magazines. If you are interested in photos from the tour, use #texaspeanuttour2019 on Instagram.

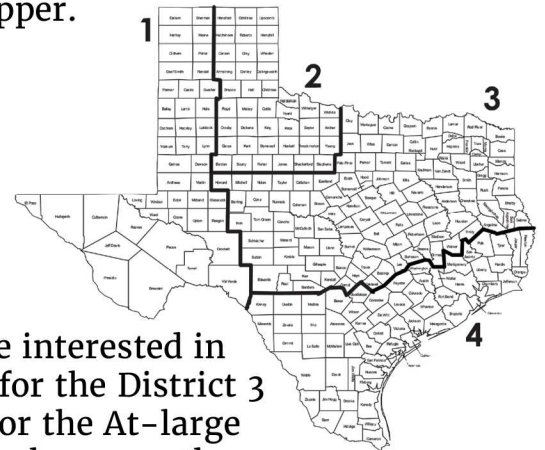


Mason Becker, peanut farmer, shared his operation with influencers, showing them how peanuts are grown.

## Producer Election Spring 2020

Larry Don Womack from DeLeon, TX, representing District 3 and current TPPB promotions committee chair, is seeking re-election in spring 2020. Louis Grissom from Seminole, TX is seeking re-election for his At-large position.

To be qualified to vote, the voter must be engaged in the business of producing peanuts or causing peanuts to be produced for commercial purposes. This includes the owner of the farm on which the peanuts are grown and the owner's tenant or sharecropper.



If you are interested in running for the District 3 position or the At-large position, please see the nomination form attached.



### WHO REPRESENTS YOU ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL?

**PETER FROESE JR.**  
Texas Representative for  
National Peanut Board

- Owns and operates Froese Land and Cattle in Seminole, Texas.
- Produced peanuts for 29 years.
- Member of the Western Peanut Growers Association, Texas Peanut Producer Board, and Texas Farm Bureau.



# 2019 Crop Update

Written by Emi Kimura  
State Extension Peanut Specialist

Much of peanut planting in Texas was delayed due to the wetter than normal May and June. After the mid-June rain, the hot and dry conditions continued across Texas (Table 1). The dry condition continued until early September, where some areas in south TX is rated as extreme drought (D3), while some areas in the Rolling Plains, west and central Texas are rated as moderate (D1) to severe drought (D2) (Figure 1). Weeks of temperatures over 100 °F accumulated heat unit (DD56) to enhance maturity of late planted peanuts. Peanuts require approximately 2400–2700 under stress-free conditions. The fields planted before May 30th have reached the heat unit in the range of 2425 in west Texas to 3077 in the south Texas (Table 2). As peanuts are indeterminate crop, growers will still need to wait at least 75–80% of pods are matured before digging. It is a good idea to check color changes in mesocarp to decide optimum digging time for maximizing the yield potential.

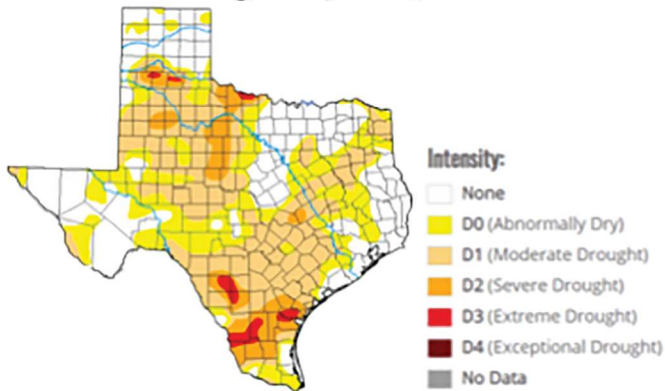


Figure 1. Drought monitor for SW region on September 3, 2019.

Location	May 1	May 15	May 30	June 15
West TX	2799	2676	2425	2153
South Texas	3788	3516	3077	2626
Central TX	3043	2900	2606	2300
Rolling Plains TX	2786	2692	2469	2197
SW OK	3137	3014	2741	2396

\*Peanut requires approximately 2400-2700 to reach optimum maturity depending on the type of peanut.

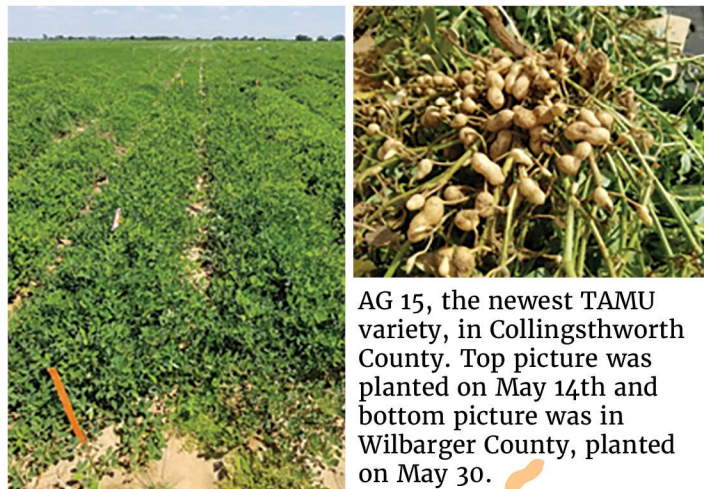
Disease pressures are on average or lower than typical years in Texas due to the dry condition. Development of the

Sclerotinia blight is favored by moderate temperatures with high humidity; however, our growing condition was dryer than normal year, which reduced the incidence of the diseases. However, growers with history of Sclerotinia blight, leaf spots, pod rot (photo 1) and other economically important peanut diseases are highly encouraged to scout the fields and soil surface to make necessary fungicide applications to prevent any potential damages on peanut growth and ultimately to the yields.



Photo 1. Scoring of pod rot symptoms based on severity (Peanut progress, TAMU AgriLife Extension, 2014.)

We have planted a state-wide peanut variety trial across Texas. Locations include Seminole, Brownfield, Pearsall, Comanche, Vernon, and Quail. AG 18 is a newest variety from Texas A&M AgriLife (Photo 1). AG 18 is a high-yielding, high-oleic runner type variety. Maturity is similar to GA09B. AG18 is moderately resistant to sclerotinia and susceptible to leaf spot. Contender is a newer variety from Oklahoma. It is a large-seeded high-oleic Virginia type peanut with enhanced pod size distribution. It has some resistant to sclerotinia blight and excellent resistant to pod rot and southern blight. Variety trial results will be available at <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/peanuts/>.



AG 15, the newest TAMU variety, in Collingthworth County. Top picture was planted on May 14th and bottom picture was in Wilbarger County, planted on May 30.



## \$100 thousand to help peanut research

The Board presented Texas A&M University Peanut Research Breeding Team a check for \$100 thousand at the August board meeting. The money will be used to advance breeding research done in Stephenville. Southwest Peanut Shellers Association disbanded in 2015 and gave TPPB money with instruction to use it for, “research that would be for the good of all Texas peanut farmers.” We are honored to pass the funds to the team working to help our industry.



L-R: Jeff Carlisle of Birdsong Peanut, Clint White research committee chair, Bill Rogers of Wilco, Kyle Hord of Golden Peanut, Otis Johnson TPPB chairman, Dr. Bill McCutchen Stephenville Center director, Peanut Breeding Team members Brian Bennett, Dr. Mark Burow, and Dr. John Cason.

## Syngenta Peanut Leadership Academy

Peanut farmers take on the role of feeding our country, but also being advocates for agriculture. TPPB is sponsoring Rustin Knight from Brownfield and Benny Teichroeb of Seminole and the National Peanut Board is sponsoring Lexi Floyd of Brownfield to attend the Syngenta Peanut Leadership Academy (PLA.) Lexi, Bennie and Rustin met with the other members of their leadership class in Lubbock in August. They toured both

conventional and organic peanut fields, the Birdsong shelling facility, and learned the importance of communicating with the media as a farmer.

The West Texas tour was the third of five sessions in the two-year program. If you grow peanuts in Texas and are interested in participating in Peanut Leadership Academy, contact Shelly Nutt.



Keegan Treadaway, National Peanut Board staff, with Mikaela Massey of Florida and Lexi Floyd (with Channing) of Texas, who took part in the Syngenta Peanut Leadership Academy.

## STAY UP TO DATE

We hope you are enjoying this newsletter, but if you prefer a digital version, email [shelly@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:shelly@texaspeanutboard.com) to be added to the email list.

TPPB has a new communications intern from Texas Tech, Campbell Williams. Campbell is a junior ag communications major, originally from Lindsay, TX.

If you have a story for the newsletter email [intern@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:intern@texaspeanutboard.com).

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