Request for Pre-Proposals
Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative
National Peanut Board Research Funding FY 2016
Deadline: September 25, 2015

Background
The National Peanut Board was formed in the spring of 2000 to manage the national peanut check-off monies. The federal order that established the National Peanut Board allows for up to 20% of the check-off monies to be allocated to state and regional research. The Southeast peanut grower leadership, the state check-off executives and the Land Grant Colleges Agricultural Deans then met to discuss how to optimize the use of these funds in addressing Southeast peanut research issues. This group decided that the most effective program would be possible through coordination of efforts and maximization of available talent in the Southeast ignoring geographic boundaries.

A Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative Committee was formed and charged to develop the research proposal for submission to the National Peanut Board. The three state check-off executives are members of this committee (Alabama- Caleb Bristow, Florida- Ken Barton, Georgia- Don Koehler). The three Land Grant College Deans selected two individuals to represent their respective state on this committee. The individuals and their email address and phone numbers are as follows:

Alabama:
John Beasley  jpb0035@auburn.edu  334-844-4100
Kira Bowen  bowenkl@auburn.edu  334-844-1953

Florida:
Barry Tillman  btillman@ufl.edu  850-482-9904
Diane Rowland  dlrowland@ufl.edu  352-273-3408

Georgia:
Stanley Fletcher  smf@uga.edu  770-228-7231 x127
Eric Prostko  eprostko@uga.edu  229-386-3328

Final proposals will be submitted to the National Peanut Board through the state check-off organizations by their November/December 2015 deadline. The committee has developed a multi-year regional strategy plan as their charge. This same research initiative and strategic plan will continue for this coming year. The committee welcomes input and pre-proposals from all interested individuals and groups from the Southeast United States. The committee strongly supports the concept that regional research efforts be carried out, in multi-disciplinary teams, in the following areas (in no particular order of priority):

Genomics and Biotechnology
This year the committee continues to seek to conform to the Strategic Plan that has already been developed by the industry in consultation with several scientists for the Peanut Genomic Initiative which address the following areas: Genetic Tools and Breeding Methods, Plant
Transformation Technology, Genomic Sequencing & Gene Discovery, Functional Genomics & Proteomics, Immunology of Peanut Proteins, and Bioinformatics.

A large amount of background material, prior research and additional planning has already been fleshed out by the industry and the many scientists that have been involved in this initiative. It is our intentions here to not recreate or redirect the efforts and progress already initiated but to help facilitate the process of the plan.

Breeding
Primary emphasis should be on development of cultivars with resistance to nematodes, aflatoxin contamination, tomato-spotted wilt virus, and other plant diseases, including leaf spot and white mold. Cultivars must have suitable end use characteristics. Pre-proposals can include support required to achieve the development of new varieties with suitable post-harvest characteristics.

Management Index
Efforts are needed toward the development and improvements of disease and pest risk indexes, similar to the current TSWV risk index. Such efforts would include studying the factors that comprise such an index, validation of the index, and studies on improved crop management. Genetic investigations aimed at controlling or eliminating TSWV and other disease infections of peanuts are needed.

Cultivar Utilization and Management
Efforts are needed on improving usage of currently available cultivars, and other previous releases. Any of these cultivars may fulfill needs in new cultural practices; re-examination of the economic benefits of these cultivars may also be needed. Pre-proposals are desired on ways to produce these cultivars more economically. Included in this area should be an effort using adaptive research farms to further develop economically feasible production systems for our changing environment.

Water Use Management and Quality
It is necessary to develop a system for re-fitting current irrigation systems to maximize water use efficiency. Efforts are needed toward determining water harvest potential and storage systems, including efficiency and needs, as well as finding new water sources. Irrigation systems for peanuts and rotational crops need to be evaluated and their impact determined.

An investigation into systems, application, and economics in an effort to move irrigation to optimal efficiency in southern cropping systems is necessary. Plant physiological and economic thresholds for irrigation, including timing of early irrigation to replenish sub-soil moisture, might be emphasized.

Efforts are needed on water quality, particularly with a focus on watershed issues and GPS in peanut irrigation and production.

General Economics and Competitiveness
Changes in the National Peanut Program and cost of fertilizers, pest control, and fuel reinforce the need for information to understand the cost of producing peanuts today by peanut farmers. Efforts are also needed on marketing alternatives and improving the understanding of the economics in a changing global economy.
Other
Efforts continue to be needed on improving all management practices including pest (pathogens, weed, etc.) management, plant populations and spacing, tillage, and precision agriculture, as well as on the interacting effects of these practices. This year we must exclude value-added, product development and any other food science related research to the call for proposals. The committee would like to encourage the submission of proposals dealing with mechanized technology (i.e. robots, sensory technologies, etc.).

Note attached addendum to this call for proposals from the National Peanut Board.

Proposal Format for Funding Cycle 2016
Please see the attached.

Important: Your proposal is limited to three (3) pages- Items I-VII are limited to two (2) pages in MS Word (PDFs will not be accepted). Your budget (Item VIII) is limited to one (1) page and will need to be on a separate sheet in MS Excel.

Based on the policy of the National Peanut Board and the state check-off organizations, no indirect cost, overhead or administrative cost expenses are allowed. National Peanut Board also has a policy of no equipment expenses will be allowed. The committee also expects additional land resources will be required to conduct some of the proposed research. Please indicate in the pre-proposal what additional land resources will be needed beyond the current level of land resources currently being used.

Submission Procedure
The deadline for submission is September 25, 2015. Electronic submission is required in MS Word and MS Excel formats respectively (PDFs will not be accepted). Email proposals to joypurvis@gapeanuts.com and Cc: jamison@gapeanuts.com. Make sure an electronic return receipt of any proposal is initiated & verified. Pre-proposals received after this date will not be considered. Submit ten (10) copies of pre-proposal if not submitted electronically to:

Joy Purvis (NPB-SPRI)
Georgia Peanut Commission
P.O. Box 967
Tifton, GA 31793-0967

Review
Pre-proposals will be evaluated on application to production research, reducing cost of production and growers needs; regionalism of approach and application to southeastern peanuts; economic impact of research initiatives; and degree to which team is interdisciplinary. The committee may recommend development of a full proposal with a team of other investigators if pre-proposals indicate mutual interests. At that time final funding will be established and other needs and consideration will be addressed on a project-by-project basis. Full proposals are likely to have a submission deadline in mid to late November 2015 and will also need to be concise.

(See addendum below)
ADDENDUM TO THE CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The National Peanut Board changed the Production Research Funding Process (PRFP), three years ago which is addressed and explained below. However, the National Peanut Board says the one thing that has not changed is the Board’s commitment to funding production research at the maximum level allowed under the Peanut Order. As farmers, they remain adamant that investment in production research brings significant returns by improving peanut production through cost input reduction, increased yields and higher quality.

The National Peanut Board has requested that the SPRI Committee provide all appropriate materials and communicate this needed information to all researchers participating in the PRFP.

Changes:

A. The NPB wants to begin a discussion of production research in a more global way for the future.

B. Consistent format for submitted proposals. NPB operates under strict governance from United States Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS). NPB is audited by USDA’s Compliance Division as well as by outside independent financial auditors. These audit processes expect continuous improvement in documentation and controls to ensure there is never a question surrounding the use of farmer investor funds. To that end, NPB has been asked to put in place and require a uniform research proposal format; thus ensuring, across the entire peanut belt, all projects have the same level of detail and information. Attached is the new form/format that is required for all research proposals in order to be considered by the National Peanut Board for approval. The NPB says the format has been independently reviewed by several peanut researchers who indicate that this new format will not place any undue burden upon them, but is reflective of what is required in most funding applications that they submit. All parts of the format must be addressed, or if not applicable, marked N/A. While many of the proposals submitted in previous years have addressed these various elements, we are being asked to ensure NPB is fully compliant with recommended guidelines and require that all research projects provide uniform information for consideration. The format will supply additional information for the SPRI committee to review when evaluating potential projects and provide a more efficient method for NPB to meet the USDA required reviews and evaluations.

Production Research Funding Process

- The Board will issue a Request for Proposals letter to the state certified peanut producer organizations (CPPOs) seeking research proposals once the Board has set the budget and USDA has approved. The Request for Proposals letter will specify the state’s new pro-rata share of production research dollars as well as any carry-forward dollars resulting from unallocated prior year funds or cancelled and closed projects from prior years. The RFP will include the required format and information needed to ensure consistency of proposals as well as all of the invoicing requirements. If the Board has specific goals or objectives it wants the proposals to consider, then it will also state that in the RFP letter.

- The Board will set a deadline for proposals as well as an opportunity for the CPPOs to meet with the Board. Those dates will be included in the initial RFP communication to the CPPOs.
The CPPOs solicit proposals from research institutions that follow the required format and that achieve the goals and objectives set forth by the Board. The CPPOs will submit a prioritized list of proposals to the Board no later than the due date listed on the Request for Proposals letter. The Board may solicit its own proposals for various types of research.

Unless the Board receives notification from the CPPO within 60 days of receipt of the RFP letters objecting to a continuation of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an additional year, the existing MOU remains in force. Likewise, the Research Institution Agreements (RIA) with each research institution, for which one or more projects were approved, remain in force unless a CPPO objects. Should a CPPO object to the RIA with their state research institution(s), CPPO must notify the Board in writing within the 60-day time frame and before submitting proposals.

The NPB Research Committee will review all the submitted proposals prior to the Research Committee meeting with the CPPOs.

At the Research Committee meeting with the CPPOs and/or their state research chairperson and/or state board chairman, CPPOs talk with NPB about why the proposed projects were selected. The NPB Research Committee asks any questions that may help clarify or better define the proposal and how the proposals meet the criteria set by the Board.

The NPB executive board will take action on the proposals from the Research Committee recommendations. Once a decision has been reached, NPB will notify CPPOs of the decision made for each project and the CPPOs will pass word along to the appropriate personnel at the research institutions including award notification letters, project agreements, etc. during the spring of 2016.