**Minutes**

**Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Advisory Committee ZOOM Meeting**

**May 6, 2020**

[**https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/7578076538**](https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/7578076538)**; 757-807-6538**

The agenda was:

9:00-9:30 Universities: COVID-19 regulations that may affect the 2020 PVQE and other news (Drs. Monks, Duncan, Fisher, and Langston)

9:30-10:00 2020 PVQE: plans, personnel, budget (Dr. Balota)

10:00-10:30 NCSU breeding: (Dr. Dunne)

* *Lines included in the 2020 PVQE testing*
* *2020 releases*

10:30-11:30 Additional discussions on the topics above.

Participants were:

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| Participant | Business or Organization |
| Maria Balota | VT – TAREC - PVQE |
| David Monks | NC State Univ. |
| Loren Fischer | NC State Univ. |
| Susan Duncan | VT – CALS Administration |
| David Langston | TAREC Director |
| Jeff Dunne | NC State Univ. |
| Dan Anco | Clemson Univ. |
| Dawson Rascoe | Severn Peanut Co. |
| Bob Sutter | NCPGA |
| Dell Cotton | VPGA |

Welcome and introductions were made by Maria Balota. Drs. Monks, Duncan and Fisher talked about COVID regulations at the Virginia Tech and North Carolina State University, in particular classes in the fall (not clear if there will be classes in-person or online), field work and travel regulations. For example, no off-state travel was allowed by the Governor of Virginia. Dan Anco made an update on the situation at Clemson.

Maria Balota presented the 2020 PVQE situation. She made a PowerPoint presentation showing that PVQE plots will certainly be planted in 2020 in Suffolk, Rocky Mount, e.g. cooperators at the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station agreed to plant the PVQE trials themselves; usually planting is performed by Balota’s crew at this location, and Blacksville, SC, where Dan Anco plants and maintains the trials each year. The two other locations in NC, at Taylor Slade and Dan McDuffie farms, were of concern for not being planted in 2020 because of travel restrictions. Mr. Dawson Rascoe with Severn Peanut offered help with planting at these two locations. Next, Balota showed the PVQE personnel changes in 2020 due to Doug Redd leaving for another job and Frank Bryant disability following a complicated back surgery procedure. These positions, e.g. major technical assistance with field work of the PVQE, and a 1500-hour new employee were employed. The 1500 hr. employee was needed to replace the other part time employees that left. The only carried over employee from 2019 was Dr. Brice Cazenave, a research associate. In total of four people, the 2020 crew was needed to plant, maintain and harvest the PVQE tests at all but Blackville location, run rain exclusion test in Suffolk and perform grade and other quality analysis on pod samples from all locations, analyze the data and prepare the two PVQE reports, and maintain the PVQE database. Finally, and in connection with the new personnel team, the 2020 proposed budget was presented and justified. The only unanswered question was relative to additional funding up to $40,000 to come from the royalties collected by the NC Seed Foundation for certified seed. The committee members advised Balota to clarify on these new funds and inform the committee.

Jeff Dunne, peanut breeder, was next presenting the list of the 2020 PVQE entries and justifying their selection, e.g. based on previous data shown in the PVQE and his in-the-house tests in NC. The list consisted of 26 new breeding lines; 6 checks will be added to round the number to 30 PVQE entries in 2020. The seed has been sent to SC and Suffolk by ground FedEx, but coronavirus complicated the delivery in Suffolk. After over a month, the seed was delivered at the Tidewater AREC but the bags were busted and seed of some entries could not be totally recovered. At the time of the meeting, the entries needing additional seed to be sent were known; one of them, N14017, was not to be replaced because no additional seed was available. Next, Dunne talked about the line, N14023, that he plans on releasing in 2020, e.g. this line will further be presented at the 2021 hopefully in-person PVQE meeting. This line showed consistent high yields over years and locations, it has been tested in the PVQE trials for 3 years, and has good leaf spot resistance. There were discussions about the name and Dr. Dunne said that he prefers to go back to the “NC” numbering of his future cultivars. Therefore, the new cultivar will be released as ‘NC-20’, e.g. the last to mark the 2020 year of its release.

Discussions were around the proposed release, which appear to have high yields even in total absence of a fungicide program; replacement of Frank Bryant if he will not be able to return to work; SC Peanut Board commitment for other 2 years with $15,000 each year; and concerns with the American Peanut Shellers not funding the entire requested of funds as originally committed, based on the past 2 years of funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.