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Farmers given opportunity to share state peanut production situation with national board

SAN ANTONIO (April 24, 2013) – Delegates of the [National Peanut Board](#) took the opportunity during their last quarterly board meeting April 9-10 in San Antonio, Texas, to host a Grower Summit with the [Texas Peanut Producers Board](#); enabling them to learn about the challenges and triumphs of the state’s peanut production firsthand.

The purpose of the Grower Summit was to promote open dialogue about the challenges and opportunities peanut farmers face and to help foster dialogue between growers. Farmers attending the summit noted the benefits this fresh perspective offers the board on a national level.

“Texas is unique in that it is still a prominent part of the peanut industry, yet it grows the crop under rather different circumstances than farmers in the Southeast where the majority of the U.S. production is,” [TPPB Chairman Larry Don Womack](#) of DeLeon, Texas, said. “Having a summit like this allows us to not only visit with delegates not as familiar with our state’s production and issues, but also show them directly what peanut farming looks like in Texas.”

NPB Chairman Vic Jordan, a peanut farmer from Rayville, La., concurred with Womack’s thoughts.

“These meetings are extremely instructive and helpful for board members,” Jordan said. “Many of the issues confronting peanut farmers in Texas are very different from those in other parts of the country, but we share many of the same challenges. We really appreciate the opportunity to get the perspective of these Texas peanut farmers.”

Womack said one of the more interesting discussions of the group centered on genomics research.

“Every growing region focuses on research specific to their region, but the genomics project is one area of research that will benefit us all,” Womack said. “Texas is a large geographical area and we have farmers growing different types in different areas of our state. Some grow Virginias and runners just like farmers in the Southeast or in the Virginia-Carolinas, while others grow Spanish and Valencias. It was helpful to talk about similarities and differences in disease control with growers from other regions.”

Following the meeting, Grayson Wilmeth, a TPPB director and farmer from Dilley, Texas, hosted the boards for a tour of his farm. The group also joined the South Texas Peanut Growers Association for its annual meeting in Pearsall, Texas. The meeting had nearly 100 people in attendance.

“It’s good for both our state and national boards to have the opportunity to visit with farmers at these events,” [TPPB Executive Director Shelly Nutt](#) said. “It gives farmers the chance to visit with their farmer leaders with these organizations, while also enabling us to share what the checkoff programs are doing at local and national levels.”

Anne-Marie DeLorenzo with M&M Mars, Inc. also discussed market trends from a manufacturer’s point of view at the summit. At the conclusion of the meeting, members of both boards toured the [Culinary Institute of America in San Antonio](#) to gain a better understanding of how peanuts impact the food industry.

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The Texas Peanut Producers Board is a statewide board funded by a voluntary checkoff program. TPPB is responsible for coordinating peanut research, promotion and marketing programs. For more information, visit www.TexasPeanutBoard.com.