



PEANUT FARM MARKET NEWS 2015

A Peanut Hotline Service of The Spearman Agency, Tyron Spearman, Editor
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PEANUT MARKETING NEWS – September 28, 2015 – Tyron Spearman, Editor (125)

RAINS THREATEN SE/VC PEANUT CROP - The entire Southeast peanut belt plus Virginia-Carolina have been covered with clouds for weeks with little sunshine for drying peanuts. Today, flood watches are being issued from Mobile, Alabama to South Carolina as a low pressure area in the Northern Gulf of Mexico is pushing rain into the Georgia, Florida and Alabama peanut growing regions. Rains are predicted Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then a cold front is predicted to clear skies and temps drop to the mid-50's. For peanut and cotton farmers, this is not good harvest weather and farmers are concerned as these conditions increase cost of drying the peanut crop and older peanuts are sure to be lost in harvesting.

READY ROAST NUT COMPANY OPENS SUNLAND PLANT - Great news in Portales, New Mexico. **Ready Roast Nut**

Company officials announced plans Monday to create up to 200 jobs at the site of the former Sunland Peanut company. Sunland's bankruptcy and permanent closure followed a temporary shutdown after a salmonella outbreak caused by the company's products in fall 2012. "Today is a great day for Portales and Roosevelt County. We couldn't be more thrilled," stated Portales Mayor Sharon King.

The local peanut plant sold to **Golden Boy Foods Ltd. for \$26 million in March 2014**. Ready Roast owner **Thomas Finn** said his California-based company had done business with Sunland in the past, so they were aware of the bankruptcy when it happened. He said his company also works closely with Golden Boy Foods, so **he and partners Ann Billek and Tyler Angle were able to purchase the business from Golden Boy, a sale that was finalized about three months ago. No mention of the purchase price.**

"We do plan on doing things differently," Finn told officials gathered at the plant on Monday. "We supply major food manufacturers in the world. We're the largest supplier to the ice cream industry of dice roasted almonds." Finn said his two partners are food industry veterans with Billek being a food scientist that has developed many new peanuts and peanut products with major food manufacturers. **Ready Roast**, which was established in 2006, has three facilities in California and employs over 500 people, according to Finn. Officials said the New Mexico location will begin by employing between **50 to 75 people with up to 200 employees during harvest season.**

"We believe in the Valencia peanut ... and we hope to do good things here," Finn said. **Jim Lucero**, who worked for Coca-Cola Bottling Company for 20 years and worked for Sunland for a short time after its 2012 product recall, will operate the New Mexico location, according to Finn.

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, said, "When you invest in businesses like this, you are investing in 200 families, because you are giving 200 families jobs. That's what we want," I'm proud to have Ready Roast as a partner in our diversification efforts. We want to do all we can to make sure they are successful. That is why we have worked so hard to make our business climate friendlier for businesses like **Ready Roast.**"

PLAINS PEANUT FESTIVAL - Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn Carter were their usual smiling selves as they greeted thousands Saturday at the Plains Peanut Festival. President Carter said, "**He was probably holding the title of the longest time in the peanut business...81 years.**" **As he recalled boiling peanuts and walking from Archer to Plains to sell the bagged peanuts for \$.05 per bag.** President Carter addressed the dinner on Friday night talking about the Carter Center and efforts to eradicate diseases where the U.S. is not working and working around the world for **fair and democratic elections**. President Carter also taught Sunday School on Sunday. The Former President, now 90, has confirmed that he is taking cancer treatments.

The Plains Better Hometown Program has united with the community to help sponsor the Festival. Attending the Festival from Mars were **Mack and Tammy Phillips and Victor Mehren & his wife DeeDee, all from Albany. Also from Mars was Anne-Marie DeLorenzo from Hackettstown, New Jersey.**

The National Peanut Board was represented by Georgia member **John Harrell and his wife Deena** of Whigham, GA and Board Chairman **Bob White and his wife Pat** from Clarendon, Texas. National Peanut Board mascot, Buddy McNutty, was featured in the parade. Representing American Blanching Company was **Jack Warden and his wife Joni**. Representing Golden Peanut and Tree Nut was **Greg Mills and his wife Lesa**. From the ADM team was **Jimmy Dorsett, Beth Holzman, Shannon Herzfeld and Mary Blum**. Also helping to sponsor was **Joy Carter** from the Georgia Peanut Commission, Tyron Spearman from the National Peanut Buying Points Association, and John Powell from American Peanut Shellers Association. The peanut nation paid tribute to Jan Williams of Plains, the chairperson of the Festival for the 19th year.

Grand Marshalls of the Peanut Parade was Mr. Peanut and the Planters Nut Mobile and the Carter children, Amy and Jeff.

FOR SALE - Colony Peanut and Storage, Inc has a used LMC 8448 Cleaner and Dust collector cyclone for sale. Cleaner is in good working condition and operated during the '14 season. Contact Justin at Colony Peanut and Storage, Inc (229) 423 5602

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