

## *Vidalia Onion Research Facility to be Supported*

The Vidalia Onion Committee agreed at its November 19 meeting to commit to funding \$200,000 of approximately \$850,000 cost to construct the Vidalia Onion Research Laboratory to be built in Tifton, Georgia at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station. The Committee will remit \$40,000 this fiscal year as the first payment of a five-year annual commitment. Pending further approvals, construction is slated to begin in early 1993 and be complete for research work on the 1994 harvest.

The 17,600-square-foot laboratory will be devoted to research on many aspects of Vidalia Onions. This facility will serve 14 research and extension faculty members from five disciplines. These include horticulture, food science, agricultural economics, plant pathology, and biological and agricultural engineering. Such a facility will enable researchers to do many different types of research that are now simply impossible to accomplish. A committee composed of researchers, University of Georgia administration and a Vidalia Onion Committee representative will meet annually to determine research projects to be conducted at the Vidalia Onion Research Laboratory.

Dr. Gale Buchanan estimates that The University of Georgia will commit approximately \$1 million annually to conducting research that will be carried out in the Vidalia Onion Research Laboratory. Dr. Buchanan stated that a report will be made annually to the Vidalia Onion Committee on the Laboratory.

The facility will have fourteen 8x8x8 foot controlled atmosphere storage cells. There will be four, 10x10 foot temperature and humidity rooms, an office, a control room for storage cells, a product preparation and grading area and five shelf life rooms with associated storage areas.

The shelf life, cold rooms and controlled atmosphere cells will be used for short, intermediate and long-term storage of onions. The shelf life room will be used for evaluating short-term storage under air conditioned temperatures of onions coming directly from the field. Other storage procedures will be used for intermediate storage and will house small containers storage research. The CA cells will be used for long term storage research. There will also be room for storage of gas cylinders, nitrogen generation and refrigeration equipment.

## *Burton Honored* (From Page 2)

Tifton 9 Pensacola bahiagrass, Coastcross-1 bermudagrass, and Tiflawn and Tifway bermudagrasses for turf. His work continues to develop grasses that not only are beneficial to the Coastal Plain, but all over the world.

"The good teaching from the mothers in my life and my father have led me to like to work," Burton said. "They taught me to appreciate the Army motto: "Be All That You Can Be."

And that Glenn Burton is and has been. But he doesn't take all the credit.

"About half of our time across the years has been spent learning how to fertilize and manage our improved varieties to help them succeed on the farm," he said. "Without that research and the time we spent answering questions from the farmers and producers, our findings never would have gone far beyond the bounds of the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. For that I am eternally grateful."