



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park August 2009 Event and Activity Update

IGEL Meeting:

The IGEL group visited SIRP on July 23. IGEL (Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership) is made up of a diverse group of individuals who all have environmental issues in common. They came to SIRP to learn more about irrigation water conservation. Calvin gave the group a bus-window tour of the park. The group then heard from Rad, Joe West, David Reckford, and a farmer panel (James Lee Adams, Murray Campbell, and Jimmy Webb). The IGEL group divided into four teams and visited four area farms before regrouping at CoveyRise Plantation for dinner.



Rainfall at SIRP:

During the entire month of June, the Park's official weather station recorded only 1.64 inches of rainfall. The total amount of rainfall received in July was just over 5 inches. We more than tripled the rainfall amounts in July from June. For the year, the Park has received 34.85 inches of total rainfall. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

Field Activities:

Summer vegetable research projects have completed and plots have been removed. Fall vegetable plots have been fumigated, plastic and drip tape laid. Corn is rapidly approaching the end of irrigation. Peanuts and Cotton are in peak water demand. Dr. Glen Ritchie's work on remote sensing of cotton under water stress makes use of a **small blimp** that carries a digital camera aloft to take images of the cotton canopy from 400 ft. above the field. The blimp is always an eye-catcher to those that haven't seen it before.



Irrigation Research Activities:

Calvin and Rad installed the first modular VRI system on a pivot in Terrell County. The VRI system will be used to create research plots in the farmer-owned corn field. The field study is part of a project on remote soil moisture monitoring funded by COCA-COLA foundation and is a joint project with UGA and THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.



Staff Appreciation Lunch:

SIRP staff and families enjoyed a self funded hamburger lunch to give farewell to our part-time staff that will be leaving in the next several weeks to return to school. We say good-bye and we appreciate your hard work to our three student workers – Chance Tompkins, Ward Cole and Shaun Jones. These young men have been super helpful to the Park and will certainly be missed. Chance will be back at Baconton Charter School for his senior year, Shaun returns to Darton College, and Ward will be finishing up at UGA-Tifton.

Past Events/Meetings:

Calvin Perry, Dr. Joe West, Donnie Smith (new Ag Innovation Center director) and Marilyn Royal met recently to discuss how SIRP can play a role in local economic development.

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

August 6- Governor Perdue's meeting on water issues in Albany (by invitation only)
August 10- Staff from Senators Isakson to visit SIRP
August 18- Cotton Inc. visitors will come to tour SIRP
August 19- Field Day at the Southeast Research and Education Center near Midville, Ga.
August 25- Field Day at the Southwest Research and Education Center near Plains, Ga.
August 27- Calvin will be presenting at the 2009 Georgia Environmental Conference in Savannah, Ga.

Trivia:

How much of the earth's surface is water?

Answer: 70%

(98% of the earth's water is in the oceans and is therefore, undrinkable)