



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
December 2009 Event and Activity Update

Coca-Cola Meeting at SIRP:

On November 2, SIRP hosted the 2nd annual meeting with Coca-Cola representatives to discuss the "Coke Project" - a Nature Conservancy research and demonstration project funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation. The project's goal is agricultural water conservation in the Lower Flint River Basin through the use of on-farm remote soil moisture monitoring. David Reckford obtained the grant and has involved Rad Yager and Calvin Perry with implementation of the technology. In addition to remote soil moisture monitoring, the group discussed variable-rate irrigation and sod-based rotation.

Coca-Cola folks included Jon Radtke, Laura Vansant, Libby Wanamaker, Ben Jordan, Kirk Glaze and Rena Stricker. Other folks attending this meeting were James Tillman, Natasha Brown and Richard Barrett with USDA-NRCS; Hobby Stripling with USDA-FSA; Shannan Reese, Christi Lambert and Erin Vilines with The Nature Conservancy; Jerry Bailey with Digitel; Marty McLendon representing the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District; Craig Kvien and Joe West with UGA-Tifton.

GGIA (Georgia Green Irrigation Association):

On November 11-13, GGIA used SIRP's conference room to offer an official Irrigation Association training and certification exam. 13 folks attended the training (including 2 trainers) and 4 people took the exam.

USDA-NRCS Training:

On November 18, SIRP hosted a training workshop for 19 USDA-NRCS employees that will be working with the AIM project - a Flint District project to cost-share variable-rate irrigation and remote soil moisture monitoring systems. Calvin, Rad, and David Reckford were the presenters.

Researcher's Appreciation Lunch:

On November 19, SIRP hosted the Researcher's Appreciation Lunch. We had approximately 25 people in attendance. These individuals represent the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences either in research, as a technician, or grad student. We appreciate all of our scientists, and their workers who use our Park for their research projects.

Rainfall at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP between Nov 1-30 (according to our 'official' raingage) was just over 2 inches. This compares to 4 inches in Sept. and 4.87 inches in Oct. For

the year, the Park has received 57.82 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:

Dr. Sparks finished his fall tomato research project and the plants and beds have been removed. Dr. Harris brought down his 1-row classic old cotton picker to harvest his plots. See photo at end of newsletter. A custom cotton harvest crew was brought in to pick all remaining cotton at the Park. Cotton stalks have been mowed and cover crops have been sowed.

Award for Research:

The GACAA recently recognized Rad, Brad Mitchell, Mitchell May, and Joel Hudgens with the Vegetable Research and Demonstration Award for their project "Sweet Corn Irrigation Project 2009" which was conducted at SIRP.

"Water" in the News:

"Leaders Dispute Water Estimates":

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/112509/new_528643652.shtml

"Task Force: Water Issue Means \$26 Billion Loss":

<http://lagrangenews.com/bookmark/4731021>

"Perdue Gets Big Menu of Water Choices":

<http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2009/11/23/daily14.html?surround=lfm>

New Hire:

Please welcome Jamie Curles to the Park. He is a senior at Pelham High School and is working part-time at the Park in the afternoons.

Upcoming Events:

December 11 – Luncheon for SIRP Staff hosted by the Stripling Family (invitation only)

December 12 – SIRP Staff Christmas Party/Dinner at the Coleman Pond House, Colquitt Co.

December 21 – SIRP's Staff Christmas Goodies Day (10-12) - advisory committee members invited!

December 24 – Furlough Day

December 24-January 3 – Christmas Holiday **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

January 4 - Furlough Day

January 4-7 Beltwide Cotton Conferences (New Orleans)

January 7-10 - SE Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference (Savannah)

January 27 - Georgia Cotton Conference (Tifton)

Trivia:

Over 42,000 gallons of water are needed to grow and prepare the food for a typical Thanksgiving dinner for eight in the United States. This is enough to fill a 30 by 50 foot swimming pool.

(source: www.waterbank.com)

Photos of recent activities.



Attendees at recent meeting with Coca-Cola.



Classic 1-row cotton picker used to harvest research plots.



Attendees at recent USDA-NRCS training workshop.