



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park October 2009 Event and Activity Update

On September 3rd, Bridges Sinyard, Ag staffer with Sen. Chambliss' Washington office, was hosted by Calvin and Rad from SIRP and David Reckford with the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District. The group visited the T. Brim farm in Terrell Co. and the SIRP facility.

On September 10th, the SIRP Advisory Committee met at the Park. Calvin gave an update on SIRP activities, Rad discussed our work on subsurface drip irrigation and also discussed the development of educational opportunities. Marty McLendon had a meeting conflict and could not attend so Calvin led a discussion on the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District AWEF project. The committee had a lengthy discussion dealing with the state budget impacts on the Park. Dr. Joe West called in as he was traveling west toward Louisiana.

Other recent meetings include Sept 10 - Zimmatic Irrigation, Sept 14 - Aquaspy, Sept 16 - National Peanut Research Lab, Sept 22 - UGA Precision Ag Team & David Reckford, Oct 1 - Leica Geosystems, and Oct 6 - NRCS.

Stripling Park on TV Program:

On September 28, a videographer and the host, Jason Shoultz, from the TV program America's Heartland spent the day at SIRP and at the Glen Cox farm collecting video and background information for a segment on our work on ag water conservation. The show will air sometime next spring.

New Internet at SIRP:

On September 29, the SGRITA group connected SIRP into their wireless broadband internet system with a point-to-point connection to the tower located on SIRP property. The line has been verified and should be put online soon.

Rainfall at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP between Sept 1 and today (according to our 'official' raingage) was just over **4 inches**. This compares to 1.64 inches in June, 5 inches in July and 9 inches in September. For the year, the Park has received 48.77 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:

Peanut plot harvest is in full swing at the Park. Dr. Hook's peanut irrigation scheduling study, Dr. Faircloth's biodiesel and low input vs. high input peanut study, and Dr. Beasley's peanut irrigation vs. dryland study have each required staggered digging dates.

Dr. Ritchie's cotton plots have been defoliated and are progressing well. Dr. Sparks' tomatoes are doing well also.

Upcoming Events:

October 20-22 - Sunbelt Expo (Moultrie)

October 30- Furlough Day #1

November 2- Coca-Cola Water Project Meeting (SIRP)

November 11-13 – Georgia Green Industry Association Training (SIRP)

"Water" in the News:

Just like last month, water continues to grab headlines as Georgia, Florida and Alabama continue the tri-state 'water wars'.

Here's a link to a recent story on water in Georgia:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-officials-stick-with-156409.html>

Hardy Jackson, writer for the Mobile (AL) Press-Register has an interesting solution to the water war between FL, AL and GA:

<http://www.alabamarivers.org/press-room/headlines/one-way-to-settle-the-water-war>

As you know, Atlanta and north Georgia experienced severe flooding recently. To help "local, family farms", a fund has been established to help many of these farmers. You can learn more at: <http://www.slowfoodatlanta.org/>

Be sure to check out SIRP's web site at www.striplingpark.org. We are continuing to update the material on the site and have plans to make it more useful to our clientele. Dr. Jim Hook makes our updates.

Trivia: Did you know a full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower saves water by using 10-25 gallons?

Photos of recent activities.

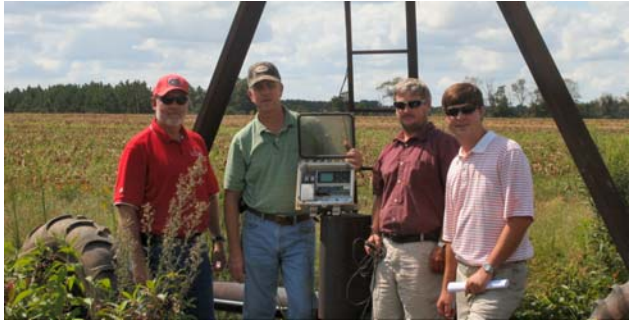


Figure 1. Calvin Perry, Rad Yager, T. Brim, and Bridges Sinyard discuss variable-rate irrigation.



Figure 2. Dr. Wilson Faircloth measuring peanut maturity.



Figure 4. Ivey Griner digging peanuts in Dr. Hook's test area.



Figure 3. Jay Hathorn has the fun job of bagging peanuts.



Figure 5. Dr. Faircloth's USDA crew using small peanut 'combine' to harvest plots.