



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park September 2009 Event and Activity Update

Kerry Harrison, recently retired as Extension Engineer with the University of Georgia Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, has been selected by the Irrigation Association as the 2009 Irrigation Association Person of the Year. This international level award recognizes Kerry's outstanding contributions toward the acceptance of sound irrigation practices. Kerry has been instrumental in the design and operational setup of the Stripling Irrigation Research Park.

"Water" in the News:

It seems that "water" is making the news just about every day this summer. With the ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson, much attention has suddenly been given to water resources in the state of Georgia. We believe that our work here at Stripling Park is helping our farmers be as efficient as possible when they irrigate their crops - making every drop count.

The third round of meetings of the Georgia regional water councils will be September 14-25. The Lower Flint - Ochlocknee council will be on September 15 at the McClendon Barn near Leary at 9am. The website for the council is www.flintochlockonee.org.

Other websites of interest include:

www.conservewatergeorgia.net

www.georgiawaterplanning.org

ga.water.usgs.gov

Rainfall at SIRP:

In south Georgia, when most farmers get together, one of the first questions seems to always be - "How much rain did you get?" Stripling Park has been "blessed" lately by numerous rainfall events. I put "blessed" in quotes as the rains have certainly helped our farmer friends in the area, but have not been kind to irrigation research trials.

The total amount of rainfall received in August (according to our 'official' raingage) was just over **9 inches**. This compares to 1.64 inches in June and just over 5 inches in July. For the year, the Park has received 43.89 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' fall tomato crop is progressing well. The plants have now been staked and SIRP staff are maintaining the drip irrigation intervals and keeping the crop properly sprayed with fungicides.

Our field corn studies have now been harvested. Hand harvested yields were measured in the Newton lateral irrigation study area as well as the SDI (subsurface drip irrigation) study area. In the Newton lateral study (Jim Hook and Dinku Endale), yields ranged from 144 bu/ac to 24 bu/ac, depending on tillage and irrigation. We'll have more on these results later. The SDI (Rad Yager, Scott Tubbs) corn yields were not as we had hoped with yields ranging from about 100 bu/ac to 80 bu/ac. We are waiting on some load data to determine our average yield on our 11 ac of production corn. We hope it will be 150+ bu/ac.



Cotton and peanut plots are progressing well. Rainfall has idled our irrigation systems in these plots.

Upcoming Events:

September 3rd - Senator Saxby Chambliss Staffers to visit SIRP
September 7th - Labor Day Holiday
September 10th - SIRP Advisory Committee Meeting at 11 am
September 15-17 - Georgia Peanut Tour
October 20-22 - Sunbelt Expo, Moultrie

You may have heard about UGA employees being furloughed. This is certainly going to happen per Board of Regents and UGA administration directives. We are likely to close the Park on the furlough dates. The following are the dates given:

October 30, 2009
November 25, 2009
December 24, 2009
January 4, 2010
March 8, 2010
April 30, 2010

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.

Trivia: Did you know there are 14 different river basins in the state of Georgia?