



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
April 2010 Event and Activity Update

Recent Activities at the Park:

- March 3 - Called Advisory Comm Meeting (to discuss recent proposed budget cuts)
- March 5 - Research Park Superintendents Meeting, Athens, Ga.
- March 8 – Furlough Day (The Park will be closed)
- March 9 - 4H20 Summer Camp Discussion Meeting, Albany
- March 23 - ACF Stakeholders Meeting @ SIRP
- March 25 - Visit by German Ag-Economics students
- April 1 - District FFA Forestry Competition @ SIRP

Recent Visitors:

During March, we had a number of visitors to SIRP, including Bob Kemerait (UGA, Plant Pathology), Mike Mills (Reinke Irrigation), Gordon Rogers (Flint Riverkeeper), Wendy-Lyn Bartels (SE Climate Consortium), Melissa Aquino and Steven Driewer (McCrometer), Wayne Smalley (Rivers Associates), and Zach Boone (Ag Technologies LLC).

In the News:

- EPD is releasing for public review and comment, a synopsis of each of three draft water resource assessments: groundwater availability, surface water availability and surface water quality (assimilative capacity). The next meeting of the Lower Flint water council will be June 15 in Colquitt.

Go to:

<http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/news/DraftWaterResourceAssessmentsforReviewandComment.php>

- A late congratulations to Advisory Committee member Marilyn Royal. Back in February, Marilyn accepted a grant for \$10,000 from the Georgia Work Ready Program to continue Work Ready efforts in Mitchell Co.
- You may have seen news stories in trade magazines about Valley Irrigation to offer variable rate irrigation. A few weeks ago, Valley and Computronics (parent company of FarmScan) announced an agreement to allow the development and distribution of VRI controls through over 460 Valley dealers worldwide. This is exciting news as this is the first time that one of the main line irrigation equipment companies has aligned itself with VRI controls. UGA and SIRP have helped develop VRI and continue to provide a 'lab' for testing new VRI control ideas.

Field Activities:

We finally got a break in the weather and we are hard at work in the field. Dr. Sparks' crew has planted tomatoes and bell pepper in the drip irrigation field. SIRP has planted field corn for research projects by Dinku Endale, Rad Yager, Gerrit Hoogenboom, and Wilson Faircloth. Plants are looking great at this point. At the moment, we're preparing plots for sweet corn study. Cover crops in cotton plots have been sprayed with glyphosate to burn-down the rye.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP from Mar. 1-31 (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 3.38 inches. This compares to 6.45 inches in Feb. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

State Budget:

There is no real news to provide you at this time regarding the state budget and its effects on SIRP's existence or operations. As I write this, the legislature has returned from a recess and is working on the budget. However, we don't know exactly when a final budget will be passed by both chambers of the General Assembly.

Donations:

Date	Donation	Quantity	Amount	From
3-Feb	Rock Lilliston Peanut	Truck Load		MCBOC
17-Feb	Combine	1	\$3,000	The Hart Family - Colquitt Co. Tony Smith, Crop Prod. Srv.-Arlington, Ga.
15-Mar	Field Corn Seed 28R10	4 bags	\$1000.00	Dr. Dinku Endale-USDA
15-Mar	Field Corn Seed 31P42	2 bags	\$518.00	Dr. Wilson Faircloth-USDA Dawson, Ga.
10-Mar	Fertilizer Pioneer 31D59 Corn	1.2 tons	\$621.00	Dr. Bob Kemerait-UGA
19-Mar	Seed	2 bags	\$500.00	Dr. Sparks
7-Apr	Bravo - Fungicide	2 quarts	\$50.00	Dr. Sparks
7-Apr	Macokcide-Fungicide	2 quarts	\$50.00	Mitchell County Correction Facility
31-Dec	Yard work	annually	\$1,200.00	

Upcoming Events:

April 12 - Tri-state Climate Working Group Meeting @ SIRP

April 13 – John Franklin’s ABAC irrigation class to visit

April 27 – Awards Program, Tifton

June 15-17 - 4-H2O Summer Camp

June 29 - SIRP Field Day 9-1 following will be the next Advisory Comm. Meeting

July 22 – IGEL Meeting

Trivia:

Archaeological investigation has identified evidence of irrigation in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Iran as far back as the 6th millennium BC, where barley was grown in areas where the natural rainfall was insufficient to support such a crop.

(Wikipedia) The History of Technology – Irrigation. Encyclopædia Britannica, 1994 edition

Photo of Recent Activities:



March 25th visit from German agricultural students and professors with UGA/Tifton Campus Researcher, George Vellidis. Calvin (back left) was showing the guests how VRI makes a center pivot system more precise with water application.