



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
January 2010 Event and Activity Update

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP Dec 1-31 (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 8.72 inches. This compares to 2 inches in Nov. For all of 2009, the Park has received 66.54 inches of total rainfall. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

As the rain slows, southwest Georgia is enduring another rare weather system, an arctic blast. For the past eleven days the weather station shows the average high and low to be 45.3 and 24.2 degrees. These continuous cold days and nights can harm our certain sensitive crops and plants, but our cover seems to be doing okay. See below for the picture of the park taken on 01/12/2010 from our tower cam.

To see a view of us from the tower cam, to calculate the rainfall, and view the high and low temps go to www.striplingpark.org, on the left side under SIRP HOME you can click on 'Stripling Tower Cam' to view the park from your computer and to verify rainfall and temps click on "Links", then click on "Georgia Automated Environmental Network". Should you have any questions or suggestions regarding our website, please direct them to sirp@uga.edu.

Recent Activities at the Park:

December 10 - Meeting with Holder Ag Consulting and Morph2O on soil moisture sensors.

December 10 - Meeting with Mike CcCollum, Mainstreet Broadband, about wireless internet usage by farmers.

December 15 - Dr. Glen Ritchie brought Scott Stanislav (Texas A&M), a potential PhD student, by the Park for a recruiting trip.

December 16 - Golden Peanut insecticide training.

"Water" in the News:

To read the final report of the Governor's Water contingency Task Force,

1. Go to www.georgia.gov
2. Then, toward the bottom right, click on "Governor Sonny Perdue".
3. Then, in the center, click on "Newsroom".
4. Next, click on "Current Press Releases".
5. At bottom of list, you should be able to click on "Water Contingency Task Force".

According to WALB-TV, the task force "is pushing a strategy to conserve, capture, and control."

The task force appears to reject interbasin transfers.

2009 Park Visitors:

We are very pleased to report that in 2009 Stripling Park logged visits from **382 individuals**. Heather is very diligent to ask visitors to sign in – can't say the rest of the crew is as thorough (and I think you're aware that Heather is only with us part-time). So the 382 number certainly doesn't reflect every visitor to the park – I'm sure there were well over 400 visitors. This number includes meetings with folks directly involved with SIRP as well as the Park hosting meetings in our conference room for groups affiliated with the Park, including The Nature Conservancy, USDA-NRCS, Golden Peanut, The Irrigation Association (Ga Chapter), etc. We're pleased that the Park is becoming known regionally, if not nationally, as a major player in the area of agricultural irrigation management, as well as a friendly, cooperative place to hold meetings.

Field Activities:

The only field work we've accomplished lately has been soil samples. We pull samples for both nutrient analysis and for nematodes. We have been doing some maintenance and repairs to our Monosem planters to get them in top-notch shape for planting time.

Calvin will be meeting with interested researchers on January 28th in Tifton to discuss research plans and goals for the 2010 growing season. We expect the Park to have projects on all available land again this year.

Upcoming Events:

January 4 - Furlough Day

January 4-7 Beltwide Cotton Conferences (New Orleans)

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

January 21 - David Reckford and Little St. Simon's Island to visit SIRP

January 25 - 4H2O Meeting to discuss our 2nd annual 4H2O Summer Camp

January 27 - Georgia Cotton Conference (Tifton)

January 28 – Superintendents meeting with researchers, Tifton

January 28 – 2010 Ag Forecast breakfast, Tifton

Trivia:

2009 is marked as one of Georgia's wettest years.



Photo from Stripling Tower Cam on January 12, 2010