



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
May 2010 Event and Activity Update

Recent Activities at the Park:

April 1 - District FFA Forestry Competition @ SIRP
April 12 - Tri-state Climate Working Group Meeting @ SIRP
April 13 – John Franklin’s ABAC irrigation class to visit
April 27 – Awards Program, Tifton
May 3 – AIM Project Meeting
May 6 – Flint District Meeting & NRCS AWEP Training

SIRP on Facebook:

Thanks to Dr. Ritchie’s suggestion, SIRP now has a Facebook page so check out our Facebook page today - it’s listed as "Stripling Irrigation Research Park". Of course you can still check out our Website - www.striplingpark.org.

Recent Visitors:

During April, we had a number of visitors to SIRP. Students from all over SWGA visited the park at the District FFA Forestry Competition. More students toured the park as an outside classroom learning experience with John Franklin from ABAC.

Water In the News:

"Businesses can play a lead role in Atlanta’s water management." Editorial in AJC.com.
<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/businesses-can-play-a-499265.html>.

"Gwinnett County opened the valves Wednesday on a \$72 million pipeline that will send some 40 million gallons of treated water a day back into Lake Lanier -- and return it cleaner than when it left." Story in AJC.com.
<http://www.ajc.com/news/gwinnett/gwinnett-opens-gates-on-520727.html>.

"Harvesting rainwater to ease Atlanta’s water woes." Letter to the Editor in AJC.com.
<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/harvesting-rainwater-to-ease-444310.html>.

"Residents and business owners in Sandy Springs must now have rain sensors on all new irrigation systems." Story in AJC.com.
<http://www.ajc.com/news/north-fulton/rain-sensors-now-required-473754.html>.

"Negotiated deal on tri-state water wars seems unlikely." Editorial in AJC.com.
<http://blogs.ajc.com/jay-bookman-blog/2010/05/11/negotiated-deal-on-tri-state-water-wars-seems-unlikely/>.

"Georgia river-water transfers necessary, top water official says." Story in Augusta Chronicle.
<http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2010-04-23/georgia-river-water-transfers-necessary-top-water-official-says>.

Field Activities:

Activities at the Park have been in full swing lately. We have been spraying, fertilizing and irrigating field corn and sweet corn plots as well as Dr. Sparks' vegetable plots (see photos below). We have also been preparing plots for cotton planting (bedding and stripping). Soon preparation will begin for the peanut and soybean plots.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP from April 1-30 (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 3.01 inches. This compares to 3.37 inches in Mar. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

State Budget:

The House and Senate passed a \$17.9 billion budget for the upcoming year (2011) that sharply cuts spending on education, including the University System which was cut \$227M from FY2010. On May 11, the USG approved its FY11 operating budget and it included tuition increases that have made the news. As of today, we have not learned of specific impacts this budget cut to the USG will have on SIRP. This cut was considerably less than the massive cut announced back on March 1 and which resulted in SIRP being on the list of facilities to be closed. We feel reasonably confident that SIRP will remain "open for business" but possibly with a reduced state budget.

We extend our thanks to everyone who participates, contributes, and supports SIRP. During these hard economic times, our park needs everyone's support. A special thanks to our board members, researchers, faculty and staff. Your hard work keeps our Park state of the art.

Personnel Update:

We want to welcome our newest addition to SIRP as of May 10, 2010– Russ Williams. Russ is SIRP's 2010 summer intern. He will also be working with the Mitchell County Cooperative Extension Service office. This collaborative position is funded by the Stripling Family Inc. We want to extend a special "Thanks" to the Striplings for their support.

Congratulations to SIRP Superintendent Calvin Perry. At the Tifton Campus Awards Program, Calvin was presented with a glass memento in recognition of his 20+ years with UGA. See photos below.

Congratulations to SIRP's 2010 High School graduates, Jamie Curles, Chance Tompkins, and Matt Brashers.

Upcoming Events:

May 19- Al Green and Friends

May 25- AIM Meeting

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:

George Washington Carver is considered the father of the peanut.

To read more about this intriguing history visit the Georgia Peanut Commission's kids' corner at

<http://www.gapeanuts.com>.

Photos of Recent Activities



Field Corn in "Camilla" Lateral; May 11, 2010



Dr. Glen Ritchie's cotton plots being planting under the VRI pivot, May 10



Dr. Sparks' tomatoes and peppers, May 11



Sweet corn research plots, May 11



Dean Angle honoring Calvin Perry for 20 years of dedicated service