



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
September 2010 Event and Activity Update

Recent Activities at the Park:

July 1 – Remote Soil Moisture Monitoring meeting
July 7 – Coca Cola sustainable agriculture meeting
August 3 – Mark Risse meeting
August 30 – S.E. Climate Consortium meeting
September 7 – David Reckford “Field to Market” webinar

Recent Visitors:

July 22 – IGEL class
August 18 – NRCS Field tour to local farm with VRI system
August 30 – Southeast Climate Consortium row crop meeting
September 3 – Dr. Kun-Piao Chang and grad student Yao-Tsung Chang, Taiwan
September 8 – James Adkins, Justin Day & Corey Whaley - Delaware Irrigation researchers

Personnel Update:

Candace Gray, new Administrative Associate I, started with us at SIRP on September 2. Candy, as she likes to be called, will be the point of contact for most folks calling or emailing SIRP. She has hit the ground running and is learning all the nuances of UGA policies and procedures. We’re very happy to have Candy join us.



SIRP on the Web:

<http://www.youtube.com/georgiafarmmonitor#p/u/33/CVNcfkZRJNw>
<http://southeastfarmpress.com/grains/tips-smarter-corn-irrigation>
http://www.cottonfarming.com/home/issues/2010-06/2010_JuneCF-VariableRate.html
<http://deltafarmpress.com/peanuts/drip-irrigation-working-row-crops>

Water In the News:

“Rainwater catchment promises help for Atlanta's water woes”
<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/rainwater-catchment-promises-help-608101.html>

“Atlanta's watershed commissioner resigns”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/atlantas-watershed-commissioner-resigns-608265.html>

“Judge seems startled at lack of progress in water-war talks”

<http://blogs.ajc.com/jay-bookman-blog/2010/07/30/judge-seems-startled-at-lack-of-progress-in-water-war-talks/>

EPD director Allen Barnes learns about Georgia ag irrigation.

<http://www.youtube.com/georgiafarmmonitor#p/u/14/ayiE6ShxrP0>

Field Activities:

Field corn dried down in early August such that harvest could take place. OVT's plot harvester was brought over to harvest the 2 “data rows” in 150 plots on the Park. (This saved us from hand harvesting). A local grower custom-harvested the remaining corn. Most of our grain was sold to the local FUEL ethanol plant. Peanuts and cotton have been irrigated, sprayed and monitored by the Park. These two crops are progressing nicely toward maturity.

In late July and early August, SIRP installed a fairly large subsurface drip irrigation project. We borrowed the tape installation rig from the USDA National Peanut Research Lab and Bell Irrigation was hired to connect all the plumbing. A similar study will be installed soon at the Midville research station.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP from August 1-31 (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 5.89 inches. This compares to 3.75 inches in July, and 3.36 inches in June. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net .

Upcoming Events:

September 10 – Glen Harris’ Tifton UGA soils class to visit

September 14 – NRCS Area 3 meeting

September 28 – Leadership Mitchell 2010 meeting

October 19-21 – Sunbelt EXPO in Moultrie

November 3 – USDA / NRCS to tour SIRP

Trivia:

What word is used to describe how much water vapor is in the air?

Answer: Humidity.

Photos of Recent Activities:



Installing SSDI drip tape – July 20, 2010.



OVT's plot grain combine – August 9, 2010.



NCRS Field Tour – August 18, 2010. NCRS Chief Dave White (center left in blue long-sleeve shirt) was briefed on soil moisture sensing and Variable-Rate Irrigation. Calvin Perry and Rad Yager represented SIRP.