



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
April 2011 Event and Activity Update

From the Superintendent:

March has ushered in a busy time at Stripling Park! We have been disking conventional tillage plots, killing cover in conservation tillage plots, bedding and laying plastic mulch in our vegetable plots (or are tomatoes considered fruit?), applying Telone fumigant in a corn study, and planting field corn.

I attended a very good workshop by Senninger Irrigation back on March 3. They introduced some of their new products (sprinklers, regulators, flow meters, etc.). On March 3-4, several of the superintendents from the Research & Education Centers around the state converged on the Attapulgus center. We try to meet annually to share ideas, discuss policies and procedures that impact our jobs, and learn what the CAES administration is up to. Drs. Joe West and Bob Shulstad joined us.

Just like I stated last month, we continue to watch with great interest the happenings in Atlanta and Washington. Cuts in state or federal budgets will be felt by SIRP either directly or indirectly.

Here's a blurb I put in the monthly Georgia Cotton Newsletter:

Now is the time to check out center pivot irrigation systems so they will be in top form when it's time to begin irrigating our cotton fields. Check the tires for proper inflation and any abnormal wear and tear. Inspect and service gearboxes and drivelines. Bring your system up to proper operating pressure and note any leaks, blow-outs, etc. from sprinklers, boots, drop hoses, etc. Repair any substantial leaks. If your sprinklers and pressure regulators have some age on them, it would be a good investment to replace worn units with new ones. Sprinkler manufacturers have many new types of sprinklers available to help match your conditions, crops, soils, etc. A sprinkler uniformity test (catch-cup test) is always a good way to check out a system and fine tune the timer chart. Contact your local Extension Agent for more info. Make every drop count!

Finally, a hearty congratulations to Jay Hathorn, Ag Specialist at Stripling Park. Jay and wife Ashley welcomed their first child, Thomas McNeil Hathorn, into the world on Friday, March 18th at 6:57 pm. "Mack" weighed in at 7 lbs 4 oz. All are doing well. See photo below.

Potential Shut Down of Georgia's Weather Station Network:

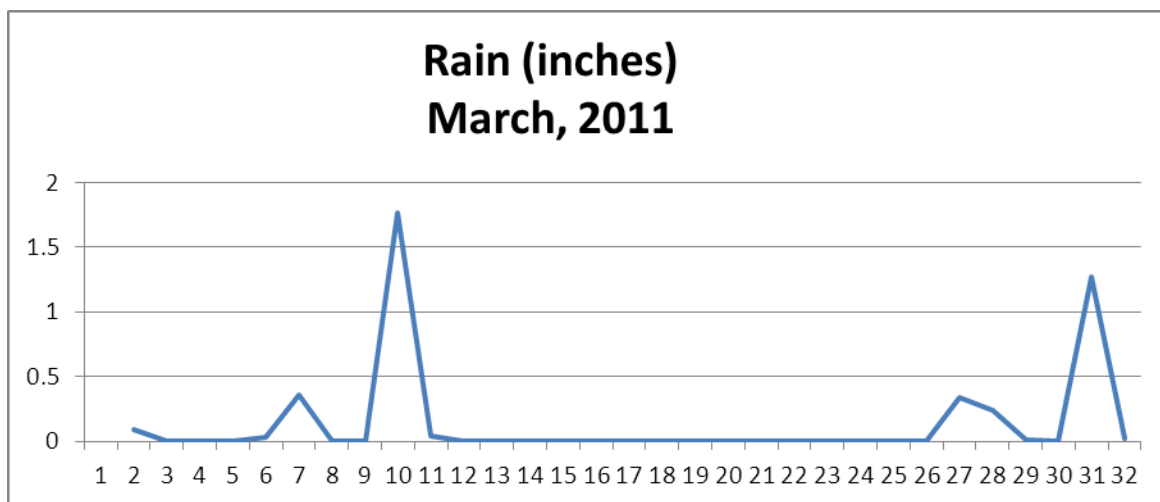
As we noted last month, there is a distinct possibility that UGA will have to shut down the Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network (also called 'the weather station network') unless a sustainable source of annual funding is established (\$300,000 per year). The CAES administration is continuing to work with many groups, including power companies and commodity commissions, to try to line up funding to keep the system up. To keep up with the latest developments, go to the AEMN web site: www.georgiaweather.net .

Recent Activities related to the Park:

Mar 3 – Senninger training in Tifton
Mar 3 & 4 – Superintendents' meeting in Attapulgus, GA
Mar 7 – 4H2O Planning Meeting at SIRP
Mar 8 – Calvin meets with Sunbelt Expo regarding VRI
Mar 9 – SSDI Planning Meeting at SIRP
Mar 10 – Student Shadows from Pelham High School
Mar 16-17 – Earthtec Solutions on-site training

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP during March (according to our 'official' rain gage) was **4.17** inches. This compares to 4.17 inches in February, 4.55 inches in January, and 0.76 inches in December. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net .



Water in the News:

Deal's water plans advance despite concerns.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/deals-water-plans-advance-906168.html>

Senate eyes Tennessee River basin for water supply

<http://www.ajc.com/news/senate-eyes-tennessee-river-882752.html>

Angle: Georgia farmers must adapt (*nice editorial by Dean Angle*)

<http://savannahnow.com/editorial/2011-03-14/angle-georgia-farmers-must-adapt>

Deal urges progress on water projects

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/deal-urges-progress-on-880952.html>

Tennessee border war resurfaces in water bills

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/tennessee-border-war-resurfaces-869095.html>

Deal encouraged by early talks in water dispute

<http://www.ajc.com/news/deal-encouraged-by-early-880617.html>

2010 Census Data:

As I'm sure all of you know, the census comes around every 10 years and tries to count everyone living in the US. This data is used in a variety of ways and usually a community wants to be growing rather than losing population.

Here's a couple of websites that gives a graph of how population has changed in Georgia. It isn't terribly encouraging that SW Georgia has lost population. The suburbs to the north of ATL have gained substantial population.

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/2010pop/ga_perchange_2010map.pdf

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/2010pop/ga_totalpop_2010map.pdf

I've including one of the graphs at the end of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Apr 11-13 – Calvin in Athens for Georgia Water Resources Conference

Jun 28 - 4-H2O Camp at SIRP

July 14 - IGEL meeting at SIRP

July 19 - Field Day at SIRP

Trivia:

A leaky faucet with a slow drip wastes 10–25 gallons of water. Let's calculate... 15 drips/minute = 3 gallons of water wasted/day = 65 gallons wasted/month = 788 gallons wasted/year!

Photos of Recent Activities:



Jay and new son Thomas McNeil Hathorn.



Laying plastic for the tomatoes.



Applying Telone.



Planting Telone Corn.



Killing cover crop.



Wind / Storm damage at back of farm.



Control burn.

2010 CENSUS RESULTS

Georgia

STATE POPULATION: 9,687,653

POPULATION CHANGE BY COUNTY: 2000-2010

