



Stripling Irrigation Research Park  
February 2011 Event and Activity Update

***From the Superintendent:***

January is always a month for meetings and conferences as well as grant proposal, paper and report writing. This past month was no exception. We are very fortunate to be supported by a number of commodity funded research grants, either directly through Calvin's projects or through the research scientists that conduct projects at SIRP. But with those grants come the requirement to prepare reports to the funding agencies to describe the results of the work.

Congratulations to Willard Mims, SIRP Advisory Committee member, for receiving the Donalsonville/Seminole County Chamber of Commerce Ag Person of the Year. Mr. Mims is involved in many community and ag organizations.

Two recent items cause us at SIRP to pause and re-think / re-group. First, Dr. Glen Ritchie, UGA cotton physiologist in Crop & Soil Sciences Dept., Tifton, announced that he is going to be leaving UGA to become a Red Raider at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. As many of you know, Dr. Ritchie had many projects ongoing at SIRP and his departure will definitely be felt. We will miss him, his projects, and his general involvement in SIRP. Fortunately, Dr. Guy Collins, new cotton extension specialist and assistant professor at UGA will be tasked with carrying on some of Dr. Ritchie's projects. We're glad to report that 'most' of Dr. Ritchie's activities at SIRP will continue under Guy and Dr. Ritchie's technician, Lola Sexton.

The second item occurred last week. As most of you in the Bulldog Nation already know, UGA VIII, new mascot for the Bulldogs, died in his sleep at the Seiler's home in Savannah. UGA VIII was interred last Saturday in the Sanford Stadium mausoleum – the final resting place for the bulldog mascots. We will miss that spunky pup but look forward to UGA IX assuming the 'collar'. Until then, Russ will be the fill-in. On hand at the burial was Dr. Amanda Perry, daughter of Louie Perry, a supporter of SIRP and chair of the Georgia Cotton Commission.

We continue to watch with great interest the happenings in Atlanta and Washington. At the moment, the level of state budget cuts to the research and extension activities in the College are not known. Let's hope the cuts aren't too bad.

Finally, a vendor that has become a friend of Stripling Park, Al Wheaton, was recently featured in the video section of GrowingGeorgia.com. Take a look at the interview in which Al talks about "communicating with your crops."

<http://growinggeorgia.com/videos/1300-al-wheaton-tells-how-to-communicate-with-your-crops>

**Recent Activities related to the Park:**

- Jan 3 – New Year’s holiday – SIRP closed
- Jan 4-7 – Beltwide Cotton Conference – Atlanta, GA. Calvin, Glen Ritchie, and Scott Tubbs all made presentations related to research activities at SIRP.
- Jan 6-9 – SE Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference (Savannah). Rad presented a poster “Irrigation scheduling tools for Georgia vegetables”.
- Jan 11 – Andrew Avery Insurance (Bainbridge) – Appreciation Luncheon
- Jan 14 – Visit from Ben Tarbutton, Leadership Georgia director and member of USG Board of Regents.
- Jan 17 – Martin Luther King holiday – SIRP closed
- Jan 19 – Calvin & Rad present at Corn Short Course – Tifton, GA
- Jan 19 – Calvin presents at Crop Advisor’s Meeting – Perry, GA
- Jan 20 – Peanut Short Course – Albany, GA
- Jan 25 – GA Ag Forecast – Tifton, GA
- Jan 25 – USDA/NRCS Irrigation Water Management Training at SIRP
- Jan 26 – Calvin presents at GA Cotton Production Workshop – Tifton, GA
- Jan 28 – Calvin to visit Schaapman Dairy for potential VRI, near Abbeville, GA
- Jan 31 – Corn Update at Mitchell County Ag Center in Camilla, GA

**Field Activities:**

As you might expect, field activities have been fairly quiet at SIRP. We have sprayed herbicide over the entire farm to control winter annual weeds. We are getting ready to do some irrigation system (pivot and lateral) maintenance – new sprinklers, regulators, solenoid valves, solenoid wiring, etc. We also will be re-installing some subsurface drip (SSDI) tape lines damaged by mice (we think) over the last few months. We showed a photo of the damage in last month’s newsletter.

Speaking of SSDI – here’s a table from Calvin’s Beltwide paper showing yields from last year’s study:

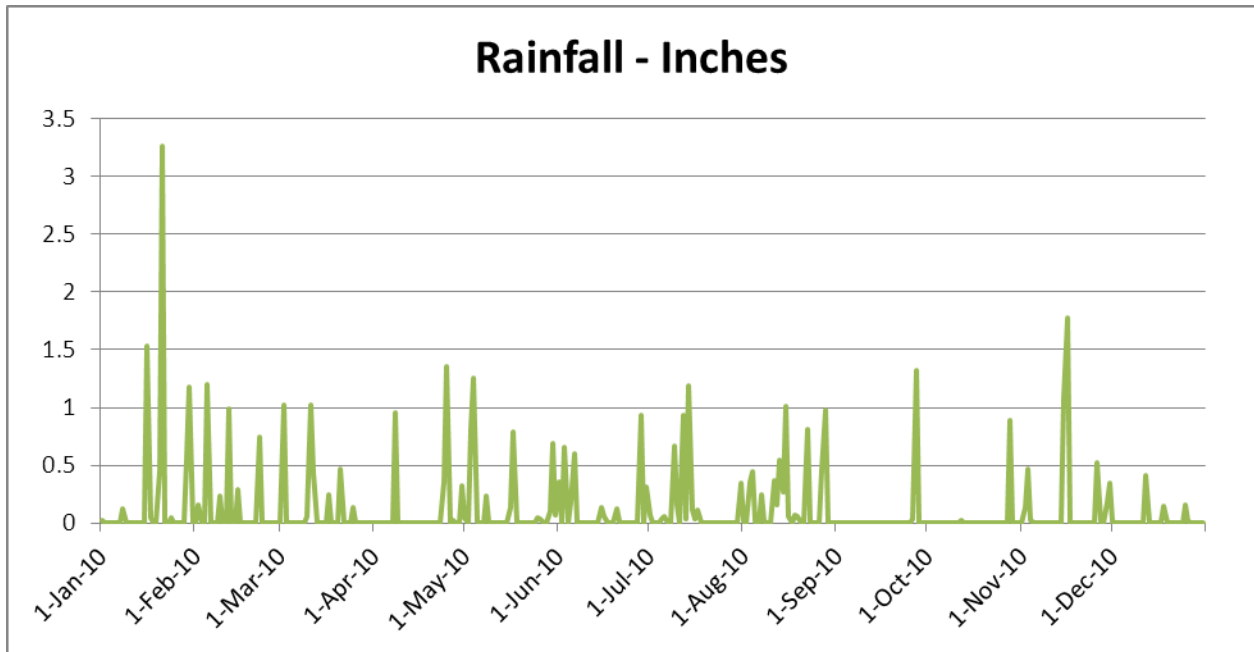
Irrigation Method	Avg Lint Yield (lb/ac)	
	Full	Deficit
SSDI Deep	1491	1340
SSDI Shallow	1548	1253
OVRHD	1387	1154
Dryland	1031	1031

These results were across all 4 varieties planted in the SSDI (FM 1740, DP912, DP949, and DP1050).

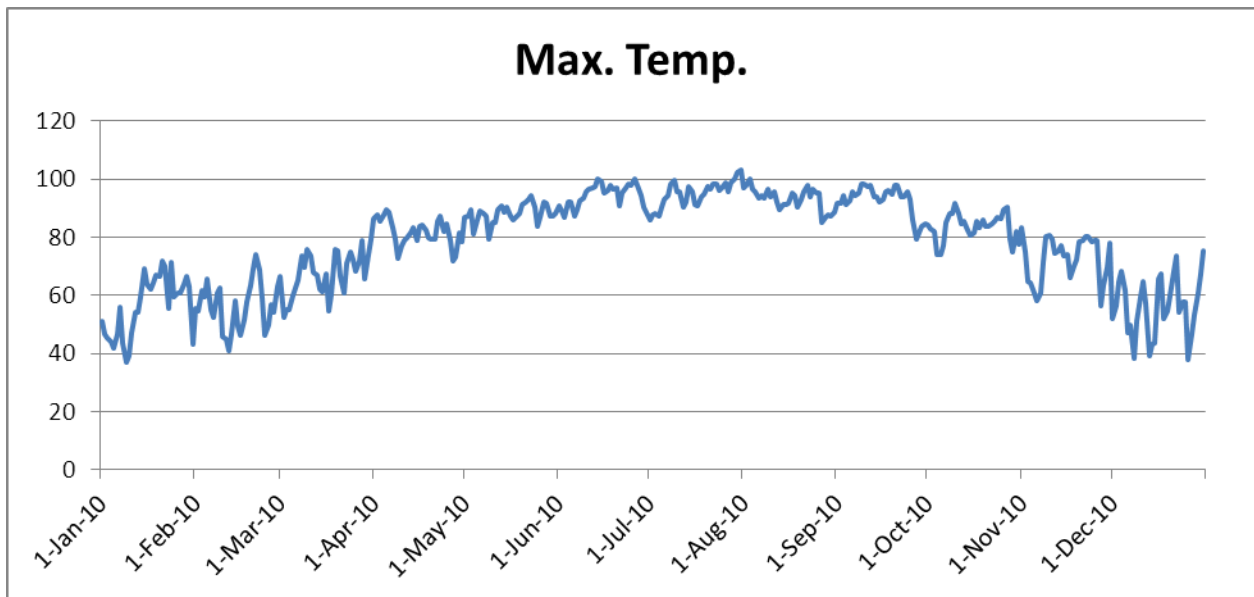
Note: Again a reminder - we are still on the look-out for a **2-row KMC peanut combine** in pretty good shape that a generous farmer would be willing to donate to SIRP/UGA. KMC has been willing to help UGA by refurbishing the combines Dr. Beasley has found, including putting on a bagging attachment.

**Weather Happenings at SIRP:**

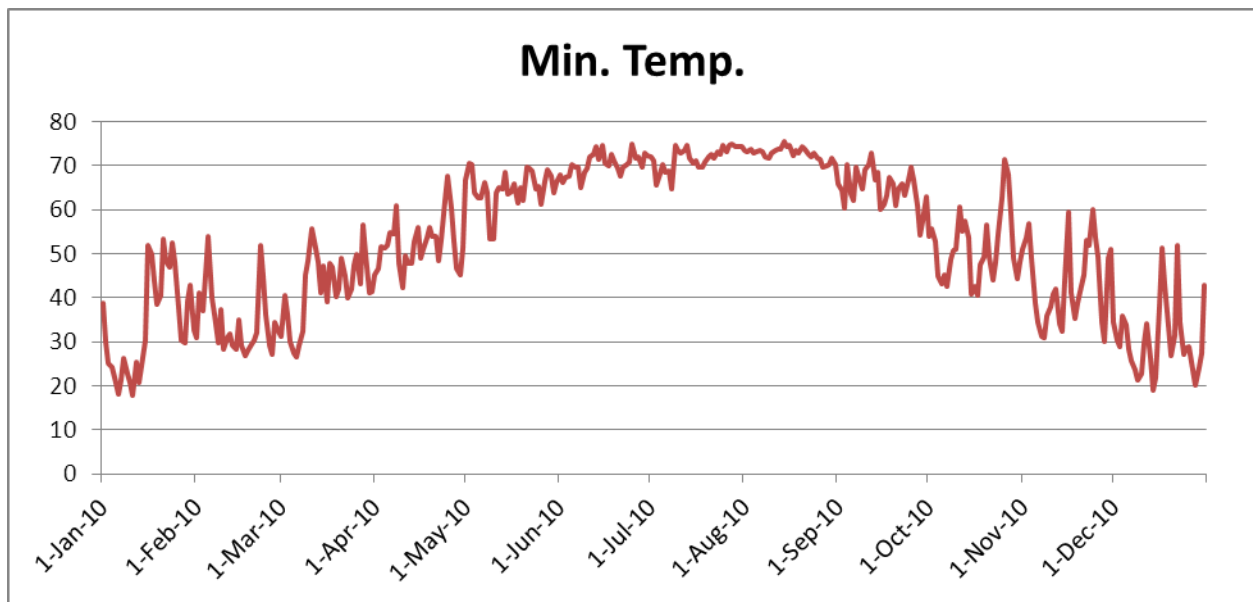
The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP during January (according to our 'official' rain gage) was **4.55** inches. This compares to 0.76 inches in December, 4.48 inches in November, 0.89 inches in October, and 1.35 inches in September. SIRP only had a total of 42.00 inches of rainfall in 2010, which has proved to be a much drier year than years past. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net) .



**Graph of rain events at SIRP in 2010. Notice the big gaps in September and October.**



**Graph of daily max temperatures at SIRP in 2010. From mid June through early October it was quite warm.**



**Graph of daily min temperatures at SIRP in 2010. From mid June through early September it was quite warm at night.**

***Water in the News:***

“National water use planning”. Mark Risse with UGA is quoted extensively.

[http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=1305092](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=1305092)

“Arcadia Biosciences and Vilmorin to develop water efficient wheat”

[http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=1306622](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=1306622)

“Water War Gets Court Date” - which is currently set for March 9.

<http://www.gpb.org/news/2011/01/27/water-war-gets-court-date>

“Deal announces new plans for jobs, water, education”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/deal-announces-new-plans-815197.html>

“Ga gov.: New reservoirs would ease water dispute”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-09/ga-gov-new-reservoirs-would-ease-water-dispute.html>

“Alabama governor ready to negotiate water issues”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/alabama-governor-ready-to-827608.html>

“Water issue may dry up if agreement isn’t reached”

<http://www2.wrbl.com/news/2011/feb/04/water-issue-may-dry-if-agreement-isnt-reached-ar-1425607/>

“DNR board approves new water transfer rule”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/dnr-board-approves-new-816583.html>

“Forsyth, Cumming wrestle over water”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/forsyth/forsyth-cumming-wrestle-over-803248.html>

“Georgia's Water Scheme: Expensive, Disruptive, and Unnecessary”

<http://www.examiner.com/buzz-in-atlanta/georgia-s-water-scheme-expensive-disruptive-and-unnecessary?>

“Georgia considers water transfer rules”

<http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices/15427144-1.html>

***Upcoming Events:***

Feb 1 & 2 – 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Production Systems Training – Bainbridge, GA

Feb 8 – Nelson Irrigation Training, Tifton

Feb 17 – Calvin to make presentation (Athens) on irrigation to a group of Georgia National Guard troops that will be going to Afghanistan to serve as an Agribusiness Development Unit. There is primitive flood irrigation and some drip irrigation.

***Trivia:***

Approximately one million miles of pipeline and aqueducts span the United States and Canada, enough to circle Earth 40 times.

***Photos of Recent Activities:***



***Men hard at work... cooking quail, dove & venison! Rad is keeping an eye on the flame. We used Rad's new deep fryer – worked very well.***



*Ivey asking Calvin something important – but Calvin seems to be more interested in the cooking!*



*Rad is sampling the quail and Ivey appears to be pointing toward his piece, still cooking. Ivey had just had carpal tunnel surgery.*



*Rye Cover Crop on the field that had peanuts in 2010. This field will have corn this season.*