



College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park  
January 2011 Event and Activity Update

### *Happy New Year!*

Activities for 2011 at SIRP have started fairly calmly. Thank goodness we haven't had to deal with the ice and snow that north Georgia, especially Athens, is dealing with. Maybe the calmness had something to do with the Superintendent being in Atlanta last week for the Beltwide Cotton Conference.

The changes in the Georgia executive branch and legislature and in the US Congress will be interesting to watch. Most of SIRP's funding does come from the State and many UGA research projects (including some at SIRP) have been funded by congressional directed projects (also known as earmarks). With Congress looking to ban earmarks, this sets up some interesting scenarios. As this newsletter goes out, Gov. Deal is preparing his first state budget. Let's hope the University system isn't cut too badly.

2010 was certainly an interesting and exciting year and SIRP continued to be a place that many in irrigation and the environment chose to use for their meetings, workshops, etc. Including our field day, 4-H2O camp, and all the other events, **SIRP hosted over 860 guests** in 2010! In comparison, SIRP hosted 382 visitors in 2009.

As you already know, crop prices were exceptional in 2010. SIRP almost doubled our annual crop sales figures with cotton leading the way. But, like many of you, when you have a good sales year, unexpected expenses pop up. We will be having blown-in closed-cell foam insulation applied to the attic area (especially the metal roof area) above the new office suite at the rear of the main SIRP building. This will cost us nearly \$8000. Condensation above this office area started dripping into Jay's office and this alerted us to the problem. Still, we're very thankful for the prices and good crop sales.

### *Recent Activities related to the Park:*

- Dec 2 – Meeting with FRSWCD in Colquitt
- Dec 3 – Annual Christmas Breakfast (Tifton)
- Dec 4-7 – International Irrigation Show (Phoenix)
- Dec 7 – Ivey plays “Santa” for Camilla Christmas Parade
- Dec 9 – DuPont Sweet Corn Consultants meet at SIRP

Dec 13 – Calvin & Rad meet with the Lower Flint / Ochlocknee Water Council Technical Ad Hoc Committee  
Dec 14 – Christmas Lunch & SIRP Office Christmas Party  
Dec 16 – Calvin & Ivey play “Santa” for students at Wright Elementary in Moultrie  
Dec 17 – Valley VRI meeting  
Dec 25-31 – Christmas holidays – SIRP closed  
Jan 3 – New Year’s holiday – SIRP closed

***Field Activities:***

As of December 7, we finished picking the remaining cotton plots here at the Park. This was in the SSDI (subsurface drip irrigation) plots near the front of the Park. Following harvest, we broadcast rye cover crop seed in the SSDI area. We don’t know what kind of germination we’ll get putting the seed out in this manner. However, we didn’t have a choice since we could not use a grain drill because of the shallow drip tape (2”-4”) plots in this field.

As Jay, Matt and Chance were winterizing the SSDI drip tape (flushing and injecting insecticide), they discovered quite a few holes in our deep (10”-12”) plots (see photo below). We assume mice were the culprits. We’ll have to replace all 12 runs of the deep tape in that section.

We borrowed a tractor and stalk puller from our good neighbor, David Holton, and ran it on a few of our plots (see photo below). We had hoped to run it over our SSDI cotton stalks but decided the shallow tape made that proposition too risky.

Note: Just 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 December (according to our 'official' rain gage) was **0.76** inches. This compares to 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) .

***Water in the News:***

“Regulate Water Transfers Carefully.”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/regulate-water-transfers-carefully-794154.html>

“Region Made Progress on Water Issue in 2010”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/region-made-progress-on-790561.html>

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“City of Atlanta Water Contains Probable Cancer Causing Chemical”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/city-of-atlanta-water-783625.html>

“Entire Southeast Needs a New Strategy for Conserving Water.”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/entire-southeast-needs-a-784977.html>

***Upcoming Events:***

Jan 3 – New Year’s holiday – SIRP closed

Jan 4-7 – Beltwide Cotton Conference – Atlanta

Jan 6-9 – SE Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Jan 11 – Andrew Avery Insurance (Bainbridge) – Appreciation Luncheon

Jan 14 – Visit from Leadership Georgia director

Jan 19 – Calvin & Rad to speak at Corn Short Course – Tifton, GA

Jan 19 – Calvin to speak at Crop Advisor’s Meeting – Perry, GA

Jan 25 – GA Ag Forecast – Tifton, GA

Jan 26 – Calvin to speak at GA Cotton Production Workshop – Tifton, GA

***Trivia:***

Sound travels faster through water than air.

***Photos of Recent Activities:***



2010 SIRP Christmas Party. From left to right, Calvin, Jay, Chance, Matt, Candace, Mike, and Ivey.



Glen Hammes (Dupont) meeting with consultants to discuss results from his insecticide studies conducted at SIRP. He applied Coragen via chemigation to sweet corn.



Pulling cotton stalks with tractor and implement borrowed from David Holton. It worked very well.



Jay discovered leaks in one section of the deep tape (10"-12") in the SSDI project area near the front of the Park (see blue arrows). Mice are to blame (we think).



The Stripling family's new solar-powered well supplying water to one of their ponds.



View from Tower Cam looking at the south section of the Park.



View from Tower Cam looking at the north section.