



Stripling Irrigation Research Park
May 2011 Event and Activity Update

From the Superintendent:

Field activities are in full swing at Stripling Park. We are busy tending to recently planted corn and sweet corn and preparing land and planting cotton and peanuts.

Thanks to Ben, Tracey, Jamey, and Kenneth from Rep. Bishop and Sen. Chambliss offices for their recent visits to SIRP. We appreciate the support of our Congressional delegations!

Congratulations to Ivey Griner, Sr., Senior Ag Specialist at Stripling Park. Ivey & Marla (his wife) welcomed their first grandchild, Abigale Reese Griner, into the world on Friday, April 15th at 1:34 pm. The parents, David & Ashley Griner (son & daughter-in-law) are excited about their first child arriving. "Abby" weighed in at 7 lbs 4 oz. All are doing well.

Potential Shut Down of Georgia's Weather Station Network:

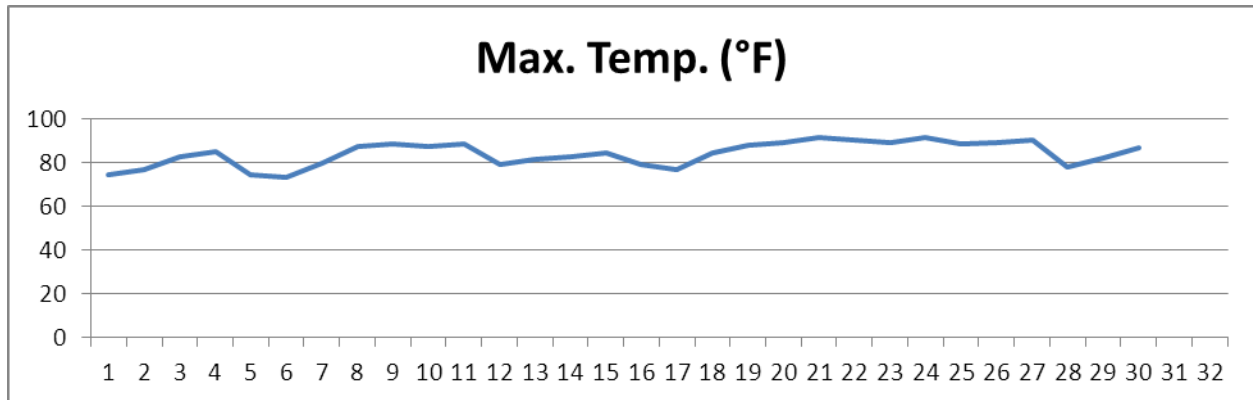
We have to repeat what we noted last month - there is a distinct possibility that UGA will have to shut down the Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network (also called 'the weather station network') unless a sustainable source of annual funding is established (\$300,000 per year). The CAES administration 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. As of this writing, there are no new developments.

Recent Activities related to the Park:

- Apr 6 – Storm blows thru the Park with max winds of 52.9 MPH just after 2am
- Apr 11-13 – Calvin in Athens for Georgia Water Resources Conference
- Apr 20 – Calvin interviewed on Tifton's WTIF radio show
- Apr 21 -22 – Calvin in Midville helping install subsurface drip irrigation project
- Apr 22 – Ben Moseley with Sen. Chambliss' office pays a visit to SIRP
- Apr 27 – Tracey Thornton, Jamey Crozier & Kenneth Cutts with Rep. Bishop's office visits SIRP.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP during April (according to our 'official' rain gage) was **1.24** inches. This compares to 4.17 inches in March, 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:

Water Survey: Georgians Want Clean Water, Local Information

<http://growinggeorgia.com/scienceeducation/1887-water-survey-georgians-want-clean-water-local-information>

Deal signs reservoir bill

<http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=14555222>

Population growth stirs worries about stress on region's water supply

<http://www.ajc.com/news/population-growth-stirs-worries-940812.html>

Produce prices up, thanks to fuel, now irrigation

<http://www.walb.com/story/14601970/produce-prices-up-thanks-to-fuel-now-irrigation>

Too much there, not enough here

<http://www.walb.com/story/14602190/too-much-there-not-enough-here>

Drought affects golf courses, farmers

<http://www.walb.com/story/14604036/drought-affects-golf-courses-farmers?redirected=true>

Upcoming Events:

Jun 28 - 4-H2O Camp at SIRP
July 14 - IGEL meeting at SIRP
July 19 - Field Day at SIRP

Trivia:

If you drink your daily recommended 8 glasses of water per day from the tap, it will cost you about 50 cents per year. If you choose to drink it from water bottles, it can cost you up to \$1,400 dollars.

Photos of Recent Activities:



Laying plastic for drip tomatoes.



Jay and Matt installing new regulators and sprinklers on center pivot system.



Dr. Endale installing soil moisture sensors in his field corn study.



Dr. Kemeraït's crew taking samples of corn for Telone damage.



Ivey turning peanut plots for Dr. Harris.