

### March 2020



The Flint River at the Newton boat dock on Thursday after 2 days of rain!

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College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

C.M. STRIPLING IRRIGATION RESEARCH PARK

## From the Superintendent

Stripling Park hosted several visitors during February. We had visits from the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District staff, Eric Lee with Holder Ag Consulting, Stephen Burton with Seedway seed, Avery Insurance (customer appreciation lunch), and Corbett Falgout with Senninger Irrigation. SIRP also hosted a meeting related to information gathering for the Georgia Drawdown project that included Lisa Lilienthal (Dialogue agency), Kate Ktenidis-Brooks and Sterling Waits (Copeland Design), Casey Cox (Mitchell Co. farmer), Preston Jimmerson (Colquitt Co. farmer), Perri Campis (FRSWCD), Cale Cloud (Extension water agent), George Vellidis (UGA Crop & Soil Sciences) and myself. Georgia Drawdown is an effort by the Ray C. Anderson Foundation "to identify the key elements of a strategy to achieve carbon neutrality in Georgia." You can learn more at <a href="https://www.raycandersonfoundation.org/georgia-drawdown">https://www.raycandersonfoundation.org/georgia-drawdown</a>.

BJ, Kyle, Cale and I attended Lindsay Irrigation's Technology Day workshop at the Tifton Campus Conference Center. Lindsay Corp. speakers as well as UGA's Dr. Wes Porter presented quite a bit of useful information to help irrigators improve their efficiency and effectiveness. Congratulations to Lindsay for a great workshop.

I joined Brian Hayes (Mitchell Co. Extension) and Andrea Scarrow (UGA Extension SW District head) to interview candidates for a summer intern position to be split between SIRP and Mitchell Co. Extension. We interviewed four outstanding college students. We hope to have the person in place by mid May.

Late last month, our UGA Extension leaders Dr. Laura Perry Johnson (Assoc Dean) and Dr. Mark McCann (Asst Dean) brought a group of 18 extension / public service faculty who work in the "water" area for an Extension Water Summit at the Griffin Campus. We were joined by several others from UGA and GACD. Our host was Dr. Dan Suiter with the Center for Urban Agriculture. It was important for all of us to hear what our colleagues are working on in the "water" topic area.

Speaking of water, SIRP received 6.03 inches of rainfall in February over 9 events. Our long-term average rainfall is 4.63 inches. Our highs last month ranged from 79.8F to 49.6F (brrrrr....). Our low temps ranged from 63.3F to a chilly 27.9F.

We spent a considerable amount of time in February testing VRI zones with our Lindsay Irrigation lateral system. We plan to implement a corn study that will require quite a few individually irrigate-able plots. We are putting the VRI system to the test attempting to control application in very small zones. (The control system was designed with field-scale management zones in mind.)

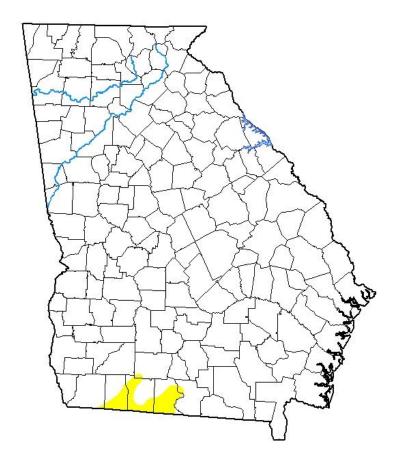
We installed a new set of Senninger i-Wob sprinklers on our 4-tower center pivot system as these sprinklers have a fairly tight wetted diameter – a definite bonus as we implement VRI zones for accomplishing a peanut fungicide chemigation study this season with Dr. Bob Kemerait and Cale Cloud.

Finally, SIRP continues to be a "community partner" with RB Wright Elementary School in Moultrie. We have installed and configured their drip irrigation system in raised vegetable beds at the school. Last week, BJ, Kyle, Cale and I revamped their drip system and installed a new controller for the school's brand new raised beds. Looks like the students will have a nice facility to do their STEM activities!

Calvin Perry

## **Drought Conditions**

U.S. Drought Monitor
Georgia



#### February 25, 2020

(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	98.51	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-18-2020	97.63	2.37	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Month's Ago 11-26-2019	55.92	44.08	23.08	2.20	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
One Year Ago 02-26-2019	98.20	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

mensity.	
None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.

Local conditions may vary. For more information on the

Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC







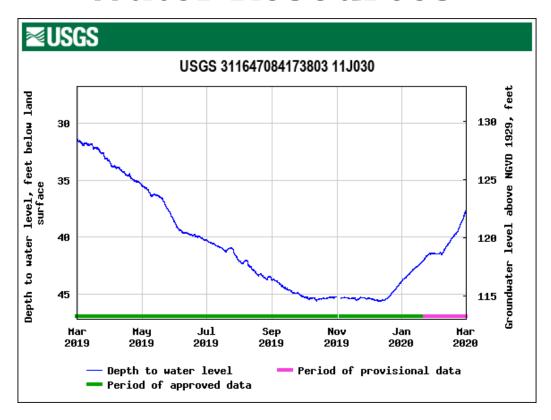


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

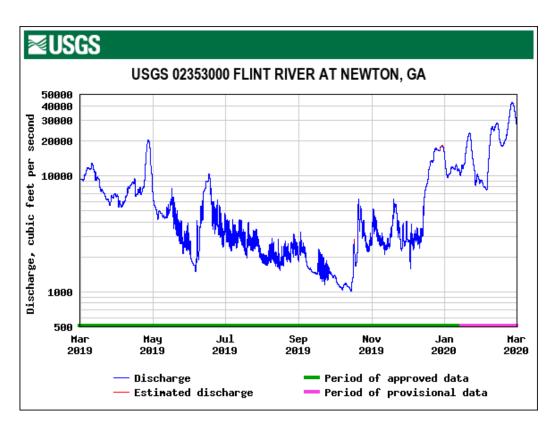
Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of February 25<sup>th</sup>. Currently, all of GA is out of drought conditions with deep south-central counties in 'abnormally dry' status. Good news, again, for almost all of the state! For more info:

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA

#### **Water Resources**



Above and below - USGS data for the past year for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer and stream gage on the Flint River at Newton.



## At the Park



Above: Testing our Valley East pivot plot sizes for soybean study. Below: B.J. applying burn-down herbicide to Access field.



At the Park



Above & Below: B.J., Kyle, Mandy & Nate getting Senninger I-Wob sprinklers set up, installed and tested on the "VRI" pivot.



### At the Park



Above: Calvin presenting at the Extension Water Summit in Griffin, along with Dr. George Vellidis, Dr. Wes Porter, and Ext. Water Agent, Cale Cloud, to name just a few.

Right: Measuring the rye in the Newton lateral field.



# **Events** –

Past events	
Feb 12	Pecan Production Mtg. (Mitchell Co. Extension)
Mar 5 – 6	Superintendents Mtg Blairsville

Upcoming events				
Mar 18	Using Pesticides Wisely Training (Mitchell Co. Extension)			
Apr 8	Extension Training (SIRP)			
Apr 9	Extension Training (Midville)			
Apr 10	Extension Training (Iron Horse)			
APR 21	UK Young Ag Leaders			

### In the News

High Cotton winner grows high yields in environmentally sensitive area

About 40 million people get water from the Colorado River. Studies show it's drying up.

Solar energy in rural Georgia: Opportunities for landowners

Georgia Peanut Commission Kicks Off National Peanut Month

Georgia Weather: Feb. Brings 7+ Inches of Rain to Some Areas

Shift corn seeding rate based on field potential

Bringing a personal touch to tech

Blueberry Growers establish Georgia Berry Exchange

Ag groups form coalition to advocate for farmers in climate debate

GFB members take ag issues to Atlanta

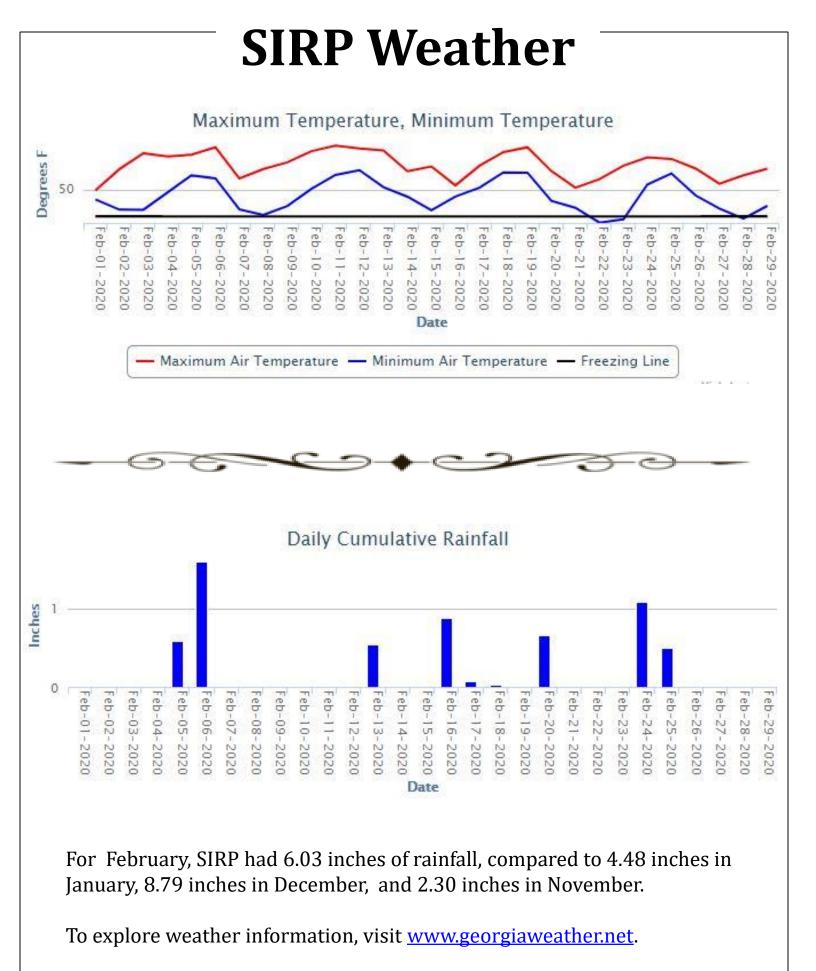
Ag Economy Barometer Hits All-Time High

Cotton Farmers Need to Avoid Applying too Much Nitrogen

A new way to irrigate crops year-round

Spring is arriving earlier across the US, and that's not always good news

<u>EPA and Partners Announce Collaborative Implementation of the National Water</u> <u>Reuse Action Plan</u>



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### C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

#### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

#### Trivia:

Facts, Briefs, Destiny and Chance were early names for what publication?