

C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

January 2021



Rye cover crop is coming in nice & green.



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College of Agricultural &
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From the Superintendent

Calvin Perry

Happy New Year! I enjoyed the Christmas break and trust that all of you did as well. And like you, I'm hoping 2021 will be so much better than 2020.

Welcome to our NEW look newsletter. We thought it was time to try a new visual design/layout for our newsletter and Candace and I opted to give this look a try. Let us know what you think.

December was a bit wetter than our long term average as we had 5.05 inches of rain vs. long term average of 4.19 inches. We saw 7 rainy days last month. For the year, we received 52.92 inches over 99 rainy days (I exclude days with less than 0.02). Our Dec high temps ranged from 76F to 44F and our lows ranged from 59F to 23F. Brrr...

The SIRP crew kept busy in December with maintenance and service of work trucks and engines on our linear-move irrigation systems. We also flushed our linear-move systems as well as our center pivot systems as lots of sediment accumulates in the ends of those systems over a year of use.

If you've passed by SIRP lately

you may have noticed our front sign is missing. We removed the sign and took the exterior panels to Athens to the sign shop so they can make us new panels. We hope to get the sign back in place in a couple weeks.

I was a student once again as I participated in the "Center Pivot Design" class that the Irrigation Association puts on annually. This year it was virtual and Blake Reid (Reid Bros. Irrigation, Unadilla) was one of the instructors. I'm taking a few courses to lead up to taking the IA's Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) certification test.

I also served as the "Farm Manager" judging the presentations from the 5 student teams in Dr. Vellidis' Principles of Precision Ag class. The teams used Zoom to make their respective pitches for precision ag practices my 'farm' could use to be more profitable and efficient. I've enjoyed doing this for several years.

Speaking of virtual, I took advantage of a couple Jain Irrigation's webinars – one on their water management service and one on drip tape

placement in cotton. I also joined in on UF's webinar on hydroponics. All very interesting.

We also joined the 2021 Virtual Corn Short Course led by Dr. Bryant. It was the first of a number of crop production information sessions that will necessarily all be virtual this year. I think you'll find that our UGA Extension specialists and researchers and doing a great job with these virtual presentations.

Note – we're starting to look around for a good used **4-row peanut combine**. If you know of one, let us know.

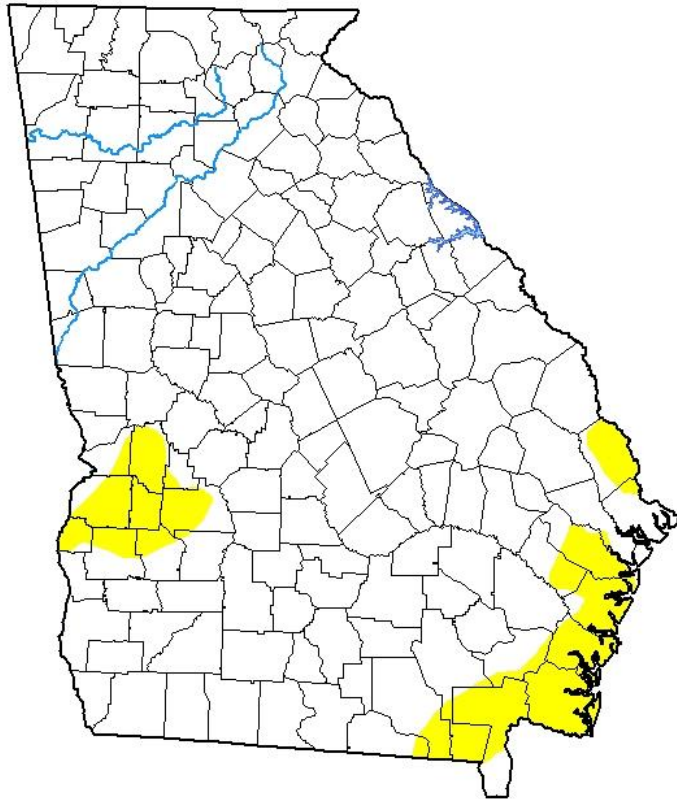
Don't forget - on the last page of this newsletter, at the bottom in a bright red banner, is a link to "**Donate Now**". Use it to make a donation to help our facility!



Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

January 5, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	90.90	9.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>12-29-2020</small>	65.78	34.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>10-06-2020</small>	95.41	4.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>12-29-2020</small>	65.78	34.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-29-2020</small>	97.20	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>01-07-2020</small>	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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>

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

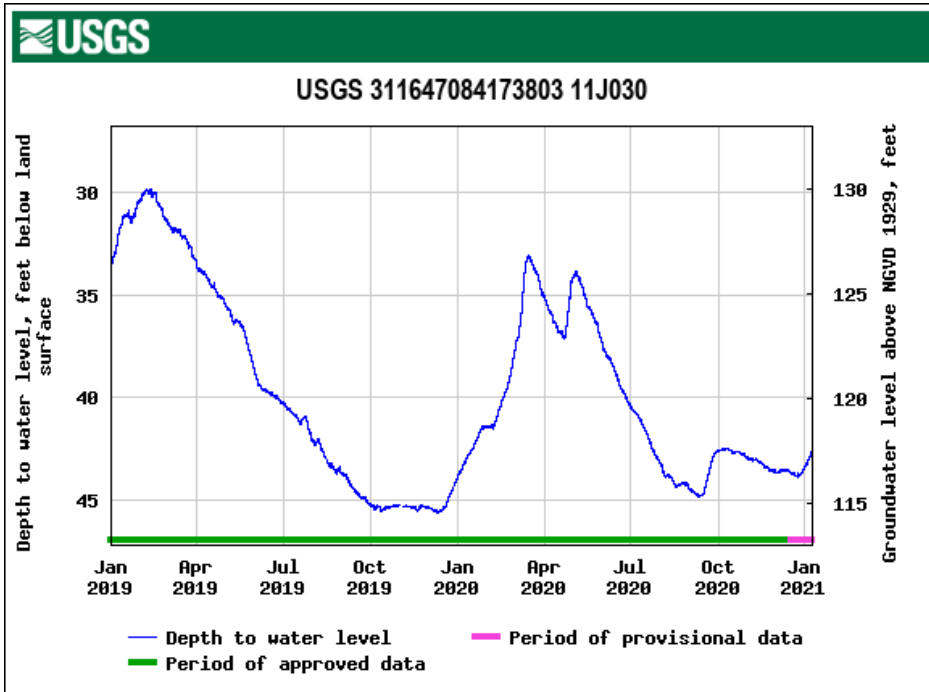
Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of Jan 5. As you can see, only 9.1% of of Georgia is abnormally dry. Currently, 90.9% of the state of Georgia is considered in no drought condition. Dry status along the coast and over near Columbus.

For more info:

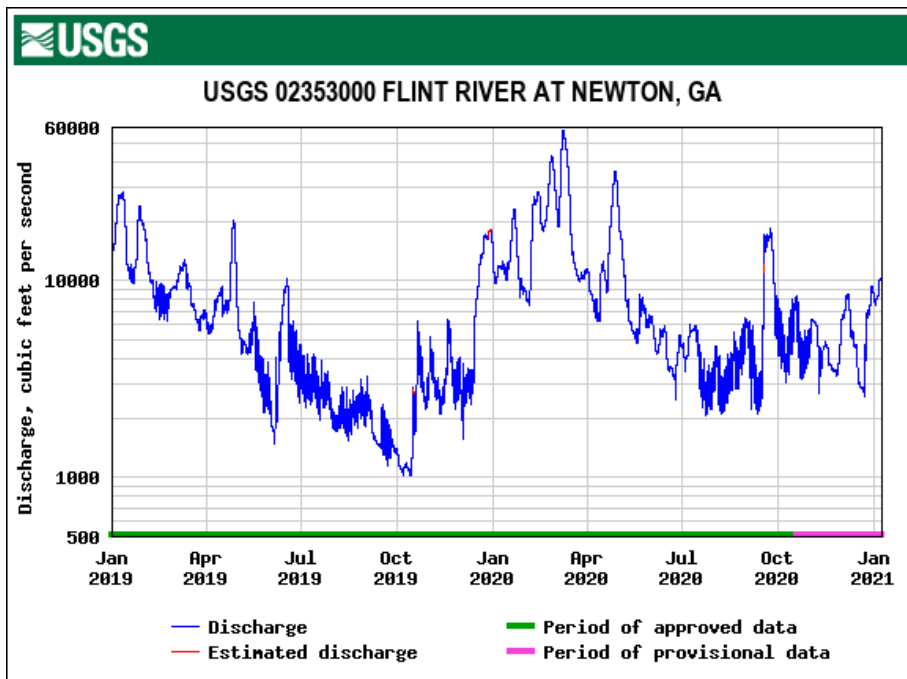
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>



Water Resources



Above - USGS data for the past 2 years for a groundwater monitoring well here at SIRP in Floridan aquifer. Below - stream gage on the Flint River at Newton for past 2 years.



Events

Past events

Upcoming events

All events have been cancelled or delayed until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus.

We hope that everyone is practicing 'Social Distancing', and that you all stay safe, happy and healthy!



In The News

[DTN Cotton Closing: Strong Recovery](#)

[Securing Profitability for the American Farmer:](#)

[Water Rule Future Remains in Question](#)

[Georgia Farm Bureau Board approves 2021 priority issues](#)

[Second COVID-19 stimulus bill provides \\$13 billion for ag programs](#)

[NASA and USDA sign MOU](#)

[Portable device can quickly detect plant stress](#)

[Regenerative Ag: The No. 1 Food Trend of 2020](#)

[Supreme Court to examine Georgia-Florida water case in February](#)

[Supreme Court to hear oral arguments in water wars case Feb. 22](#)

[SENSOR TECHNOLOGY SAVES ON WATER AND FUEL COSTS](#)

[Impact of Broadband Penetration on U.S. Farm Productivity \(pdf\)](#)

[Impact of Broadband Penetration on U.S. Farm Productivity](#)

[FCC: Broadband access boosts crop production, cuts costs](#)

[Inspect Center Pivot Irrigation Systems Now to Prevent Issues Later](#)

[Inspect center pivot irrigation systems now to prevent issues later](#)

[Georgia EMCs, telecom providers far apart on new rural broadband plan](#)

[Georgia's solar energy future brightens with advances in solar battery technology](#)



At the Park

Right: Getting ready for Christmas!

Below: Christmas Angel ornaments made from cotton bolls, by Calvin & Suellen Perry.



At the Park



Above: Front sign looking pretty rough.



Left:
Disassembling the sign to take frame to 'the sign shop' in Athens.



At the Park

Right: Frost ice on fence in early December.



Below: A different view of the park from our drone. Mandy is the pilot.



At the Park

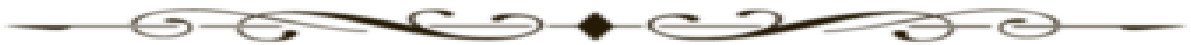
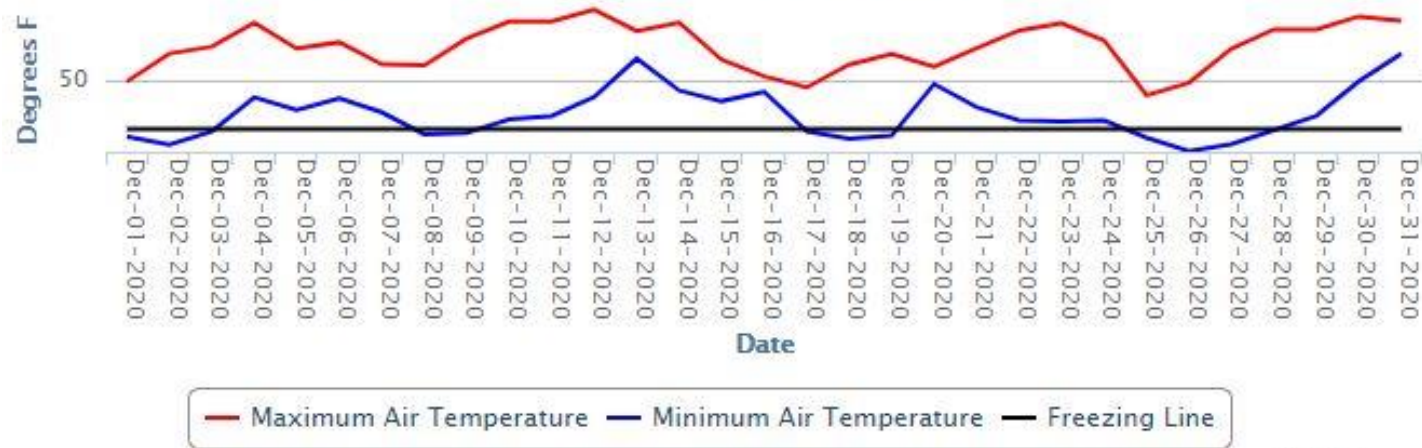


Above & Left:
Flushing the
sediment from
irrigation systems in
the “Front Four”
fields & the “VRI
Field” before the
freezing temps hit.

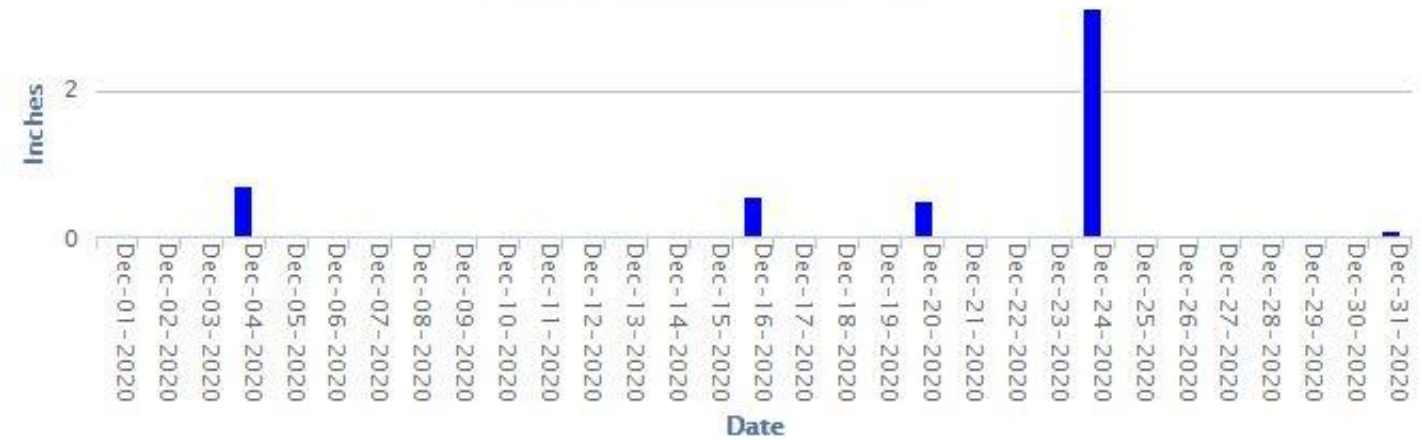


SIRP Weather

Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



Daily Cumulative Rainfall



For December, SIRP had 5.05 inches of rainfall, compared to 1.46 inches in November, 2.56 inches in October, and 7.21 inches in September.

To explore weather information, visit www.georgiaweather.net.



Contact Information



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Trivia:

What is often seen as the smallest unit of computer memory?

Answer: Kilobyte

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