

# C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

Monthly Newsletter

December 2022



Guess who retired...



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College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# From the Superintendent

## Calvin Perry

Well, the 2022 crop harvest has now come to an end here at Stripling Park. And as of this writing, my 33+ year career with UGA and CAES is coming to an end as well. So this will be my last contribution to SIRP's monthly newsletter.

November was a very dry month for southwest Georgia. The Park received only 2.87 inches over 7 rainy days. Our high temps ranged from a summer-like 86F to 49F and our lows ranged from 68F to a quite chilly 27F.

Our long-term average November weather includes a high of 71.2F, low of 45.5F, 3 inches of rainfall, and 6 rainy days.

The drought monitor map on the following page illustrates the very dry conditions that a lack of rainfall has brought state-wide. Georgia essentially has 70% of its area classified as abnormally dry or drier. The rain we're receiving as I write this is quite welcome! On the Water Resources page, you can see how the Upper Floridan aquifer level has dropped over the summer as well as the recent drop in Flint River flow.

During November, the SIRP crew was busy with a number of

activities, including harvesting our last plots (soybeans – including some hand harvest!), continuing sowing of rye cover crop, irrigating rye cover, cleaning our harvest equipment, and beginning repairs on our KMC 4-row peanut combine.

We also continued testing the VRI control system on our new Reinke 2-span lateral irrigation system. We are looking at how we need to best arrange plots under this system such that individual plots can be watered like we do with our other lateral move systems here at the Park. We ran a number of uniformity tests (by VRI zone) on one of our other lateral systems to verify application uniformity and depth of application.

Visitors to the Park included Dr. Vellidis and crew; the state-wide variety testing crew; Marty Saylor (Lindsay Irrigation); and retired SIRP employee Ivey Griner. We hosted the monthly meeting of the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District. We also hosted a group from Mississippi State University research farms, including Dr. Darrin Dodds. They spent some time with us going over how we set up and irrigate research plots under center pivot and lateral move systems.

Finally, let me end my last newsletter by thanking each of you for your support of me and the Stripling Park over the years. I hope that my efforts here over the last 14 years have made a positive impact on wise and efficient use of ag irrigation water in Georgia and beyond.

I look forward to following the important work the Park will carry out in the future!

Adios for now.



# From the SIRP crew

We would like to take time to congratulate Calvin Perry on his retirement after 33.75 years with UGA-Tifton, CAES and C. M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park. He has been a champion for Stripling Park, it's employees, and many farming communities around the world.

Calvin started out at UGA-Tifton on March 1, 1989 in the Engineering Dept. as a Research Engineer and a Public Service Assistant. During his time at UGA-Tifton (1989 – 2008) he helped to develop and patent the Crop Yield Monitoring System, a precision ag tool, along with other researchers. He also helped develop Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI) along with fellow researchers in Tifton. He & other researchers introduced VRI to farmers in 2001, which became commercially available in 2004.

In 2008, Calvin became the Superintendent and Public Service Assistant at Stripling Park. He has worked on many research projects, taught others how to operate the latest in irrigation technology, and has hosted many visitors from around the state, nation & world. He educated others about the research park and ag water issues. There are so many things he accomplished while at Stripling Park, there are too many to list on a couple of pages.

It has been a pleasure working with Calvin. He has been our boss, a friend & a confidant to all of SIRP's employees. The camaraderie we share makes us all feel like an extended family. We have shared our children's marriages, adoptions & our grandchildren's births. And... of course, we all share a love of UGA football... Go Dawgs!

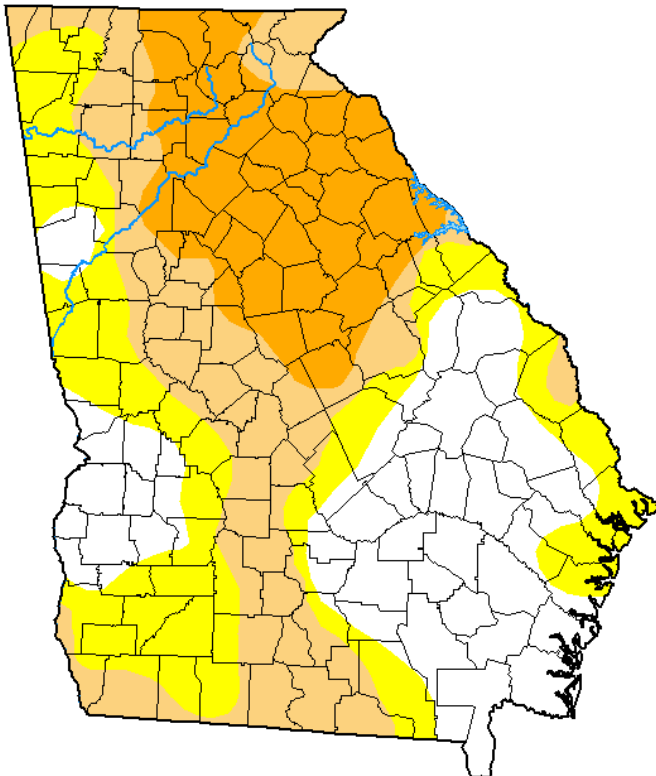
Calvin will be missed more than he'll ever know! We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



# Drought Conditions

## U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

**November 22, 2022**  
(Released Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	29.65	70.35	45.09	20.27	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 11-15-2022	33.39	66.61	45.09	18.99	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 08-23-2022	99.95	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	97.01	2.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	76.20	23.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 11-23-2021	80.12	19.88	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:

Brad Rippey  
U. S. Department of Agriculture



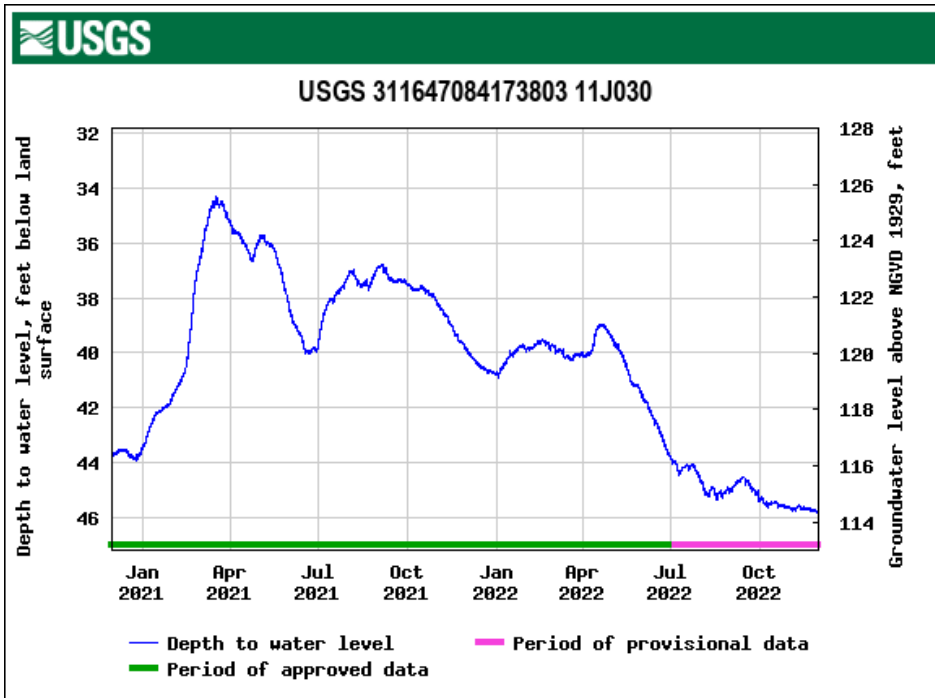
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of November 22. Dry conditions exist across most of the state. Currently, 70% of GA is abnormally dry, 45% is in moderate drought and 20% is under severe drought conditions. For more info:

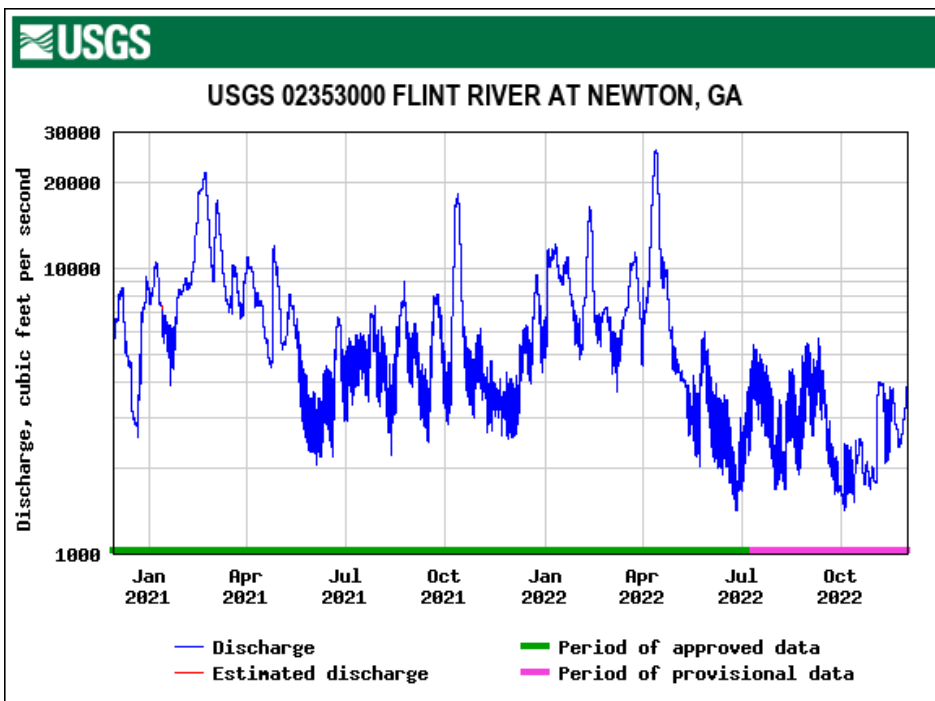
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>



# 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

<b>November 8</b>	FRSWCD mtg.
<b>November 11</b>	Veteran's Day
<b>November 24-25</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday

## Upcoming events

<b>December 13</b>	FRSWCD mtg.
<b>December 25-30</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>January 1, 2023</b>	New Year's Day Holiday
<b>January 2</b>	New Year's Day Holiday (Observed)



# In The News

[New approaches to water management in agricultural operations](#)

[More farmers adopt conservation tillage](#)

[University of Georgia Investigates Potential of Spray Drones in Agriculture](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Don't Fail to Keep Trees Hydrated During Nut Maturity/Shuck Split](#)

[Georgia Peanut Farm Show, Tifton, Jan. 19](#)

[Soil health is human health](#)

[As Carbon Dioxide Goes Up, Plants' Nutrient Content Declines](#)

[Tactics and tools to curtail losses to diseases and nematodes in 2023](#)

[How To Optimize Weekly Maintenance Schedules For Agricultural Equipment](#)

[The Fertilizer Shortage Will Persist in 2023](#)

[CAES partners with Agrify to grow vertical farming efforts](#)

[Young Farmer Makes History, Uses Video Games and YouTube to Buy \\$1.8M Land](#)

[UGA Study Aims To Help Farmers Transitioning To Organic Production](#)

## **Videos:**

[A Visit to One of Only Two Water Powered Grist Mills in Georgia](#)



# At the Park

Right & Below:

B.J. & Daryl  
performing  
uniformity  
testing on the  
Newton lateral.





# At the Park

Right & Below:

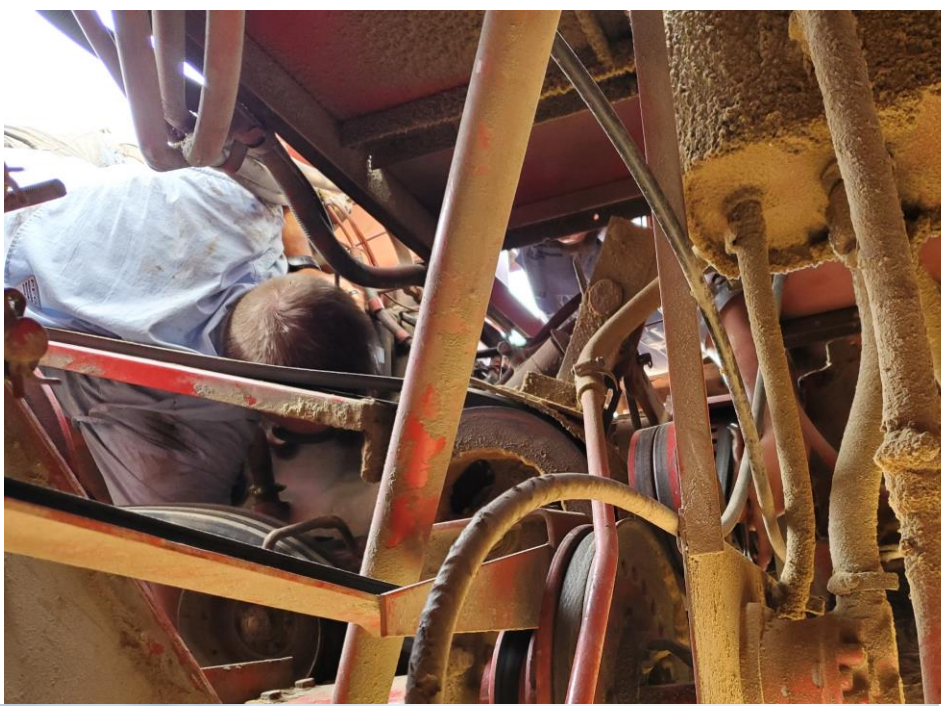
Kyle & Daryl working on the grain combine & B.J. harvesting the last of the soybeans.



# At the Park

Right :

B.J. replacing starter  
on the combine.



Below:

Kyle & Daryl hand  
harvesting soybeans  
after equipment  
breakdown.



# At the Park

A retirement party was held for Calvin on his last day at work, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Around 35 guests attended & congratulated Calvin for all the work he has done for UGA & SIRP.



# At the Park



Above & Below: Calvin's retirement party at the Blackshank Pavillion in Tifton. Pics with current (and former) administrators (above) & Superintendents (below).



# Trivia / Funnies

Who was it that said "Too many of our imports are from abroad"?  
George Bush

Where is it illegal to shoot a buffalo from the second story of a Hotel room?  
Texas

A dog was arrested in Seville in 1983 for what? Handbag Snatching

In the state of Washington a concealed weapon must be what?  
Under 6 feet long

In ancient Egypt men and women when peeing did what that is opposite to today?  
Men sat, women stood

Instead of apples what do Adams family members bob for? Crabs

What large animals other than members of the cat family purr when they are happy?  
Brahma Bulls

In Japan Trade robots in factories have to pay what? Union dues

'Shoot a Waco' was the original name for what soft drink? Dr Pepper

Pope Clement VII made it illegal for anyone else to eat what? Mushrooms

In Mesquite Texas its illegal for children to wear what? Unusual Haircuts

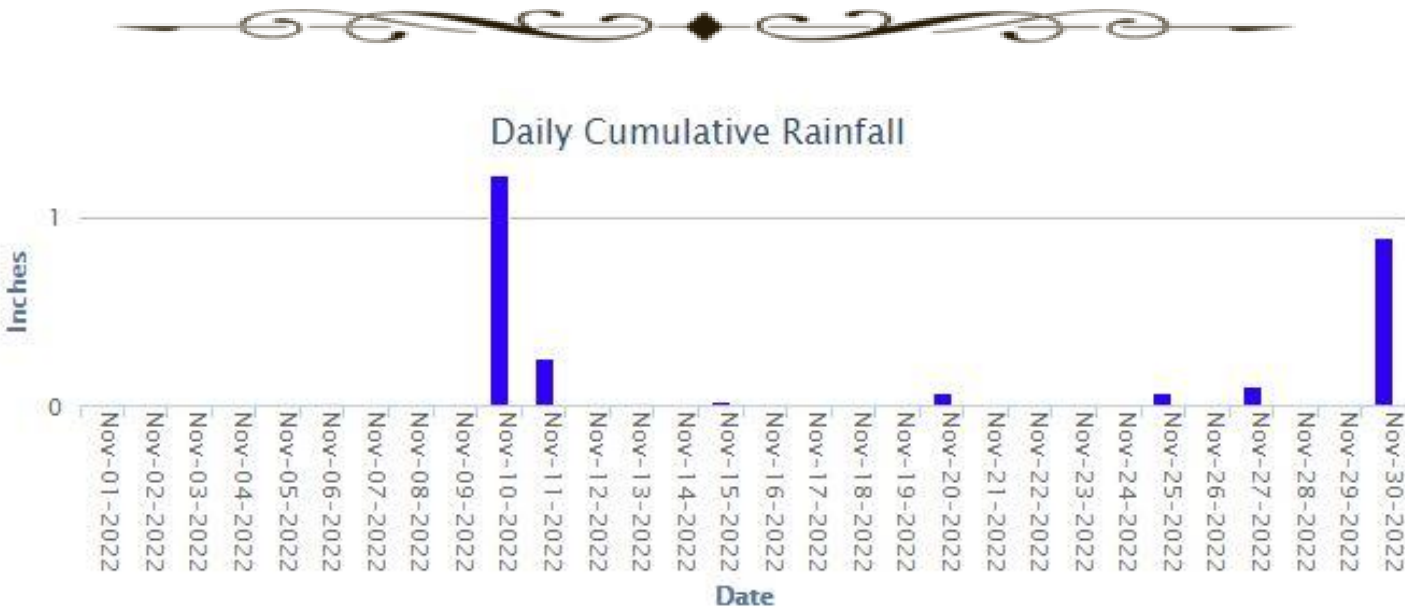
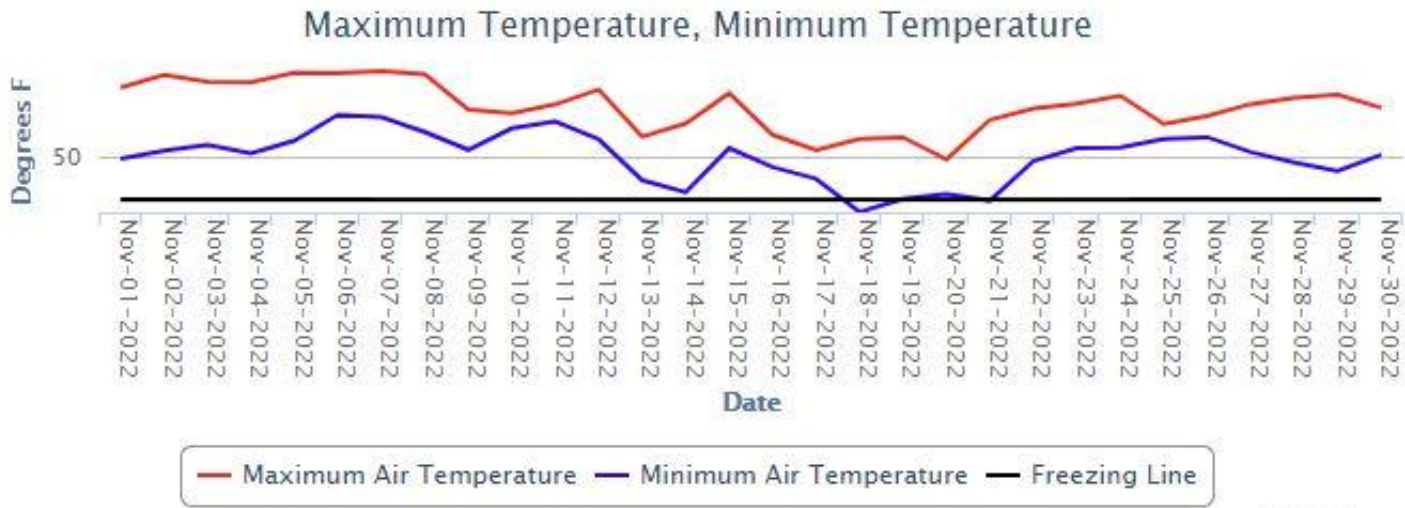
In Georgia it's illegal to keep what in your bathtub? A Donkey

In Boise Idaho where by law is it illegal to fish? From a Giraffes back

Name the actor that was fired as having no star quality because of his big Adams apple?  
Clint Eastwood



# SIRP Weather



For November, SIRP had 2.67 inches of rainfall, compared to 2.68 inches in October, 2.54 inches in September, and 5.33 inches in August. So far, a total of 41.20 inches from January through November.

To explore weather information, visit [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net).



# Contact Information



## C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park

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Candace Gray (Admin. Associate): [sirp@uga.edu](mailto:sirp@uga.edu)

### Trivia / Riddle:

What was the first pandemic era movie to gross over \$1 billion at the box office?

Answer: 'Spider-Man: No Way Home'

### Commit to Groundbreaking Research

Ag research keeps Georgia agriculture on the leading edge of the industry. Consider giving to the C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park today.

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