

# Stripling Irrigation Research Park

August 2018



Lightening  
strike in VRI  
cotton field.

View more of Stripling's photos at...  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugasirp>

## This Month

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# From the Superintendent

July was another wet month at the Park as we received 8.57 inches during 19 rain days out of 31. Four rain events were well over 1 inch. During June, we received 9.01 inches – for a 2 month total of 17.58 inches!. We had some very warm July days as well with highs reaching 95 degrees.

With the rainfall on so many days, irrigation was limited. By July 20<sup>th</sup>, we decided to end irrigation of corn plots for the season. Field activities included spraying PGR, fungicides and herbicides on cotton plots, spraying fungicides on peanut plots and spraying herbicides and fungicides on soybean plots. We marked off plots in cotton studies for Drs. Kemerait and Toews in preparation for chemigation work. With the rain, we also did quite a bit of grass mowing.

As many of you know, we've had the four major center pivot manufacturers represented at the front of the Park (T-L, Lindsay, Reinke, Valley). Over time, we have struggled to keep our T-L system operating optimally. Several weeks ago, in order to properly irrigate research plots, I made the decision to pursue replacing the T-L system. I opted to go with a Valley 2-tower pivot and our local dealer, J&B Irrigation, moved the T-L system and installed the new Valley system on July 12<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to putting it to work.

We were pleased to host this year's IGEL class during their July leadership retreat in SW Georgia. For the last several years, IGEL (Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership) has been spending a couple hours of their SW Georgia retreat at SIRP to learn about our activities in ag water conservation / efficiency. They leave from SIRP and visit several farm operations in Mitchell County.

I've noted in the past that UGA Extension (SW District) is hiring a Regional Extension Water Agent to be housed at SIRP. I served on the search committee for this position and we interviewed three candidates last month. Look for an announcement soon on the successful candidate.

I spent a hot, muggy morning with Casey Cox (Flint River Soil & Water Cons. District) at the Sunbelt Expo Field Day. We rapidly discussed advanced irrigation scheduling, IrrigatorPro and Extension's AgWET project with each tram of visitors.

Three of the Expo visitors included CAES's Bob Stougaard, new Asst Dean for Research, Mark McCann, Asst Dean for Extension, and J Dorsey, Director of Facilities & Real Property. These guys paid a visit to SIRP – Bob and J had never been to SIRP – to learn about our facility and meet our staff. We appreciate the support from our administration.

Finally, I had the privilege of attending the SWCS conference in Albuquerque late last month and represented the Flint River Soil & Water Cons. District – UGA/CAES partnership at the USDA-NRCS CIG Showcase. I enjoy describing "Conservation Through Innovation" projects we have ongoing.



Calvin Perry



# From the Superintendent



Smart Irrigation Month is a public awareness campaign, led by the Irrigation Association, to promote efficient water use. Focused on July, Smart Irrigation Month highlights effective practices and innovative technologies to:

- Increase crop yield, quality and profits per acre.
- Apply water and nutrient inputs more precisely for improved results with no waste.
- Minimize runoff and top soil erosion.
- Help protect and preserve water supplies for today and the future.

Info I shared last month:

**Tip #1** – To make sure your irrigation system operates at peak efficiency, make use of a reputable dealer when repairing, replacing or modifying your ag irrigation system – whether it be the system, the sprinklers, or the pumping plant. A poorly designed or matched combination will lead to disappointing results such as non-uniform application, excessive energy usage, or even crop reduction/failure. Go to the website of your respective equipment manufacturer to find the dealer nearest you.

**Tip #2** – A quick way to increase the efficiency of an ag irrigation system is to repair all leaks, including missing/broken sprinklers, on the center pivot or other type system as soon as you notice them. Buried pipes seldom leak. However, above ground pipes frequently have worn gaskets and considerable amounts of water (up to 30%) can be lost before it gets to the actual discharge point (sprinkler). Replace broken or missing sprinklers, leaking gaskets, boots, etc. and plug any holes in the pipes.

**Tip #3** – Consider adopting a form of advanced irrigation scheduling to help you decide when to trigger irrigation on your crop/field. Such advanced Irrigation scheduling can be accomplished through the use of soil moisture sensors, irrigation scheduling smartphone apps, irrigation scheduling software, or even UGA Extension “checkbook” scheduling aids.

**Tip #4** – Verify your center pivot irrigation system is applying water uniformly and correctly from end to end by having a “catch can” test performed annually. Over time, sprinkler heads / nozzles wear out, leaks form, and output from pumps change as impellers wear – all reasons your system may not be applying the proper and/or expected irrigation amounts.

Here’s a link to a UGA extension publication on uniformity:

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C911>

# At the Park



Above: Calvin & Casey Cox (FRSWCD) presenting at the Sunbelt Expo Field Day.  
Below: Cale running layby in cotton field.





# At the Park



Above: Ivey spraying herbicide in Dr. Toews' cotton.  
Below: B.J. and Cale mowing alleys in Dr. Toews' cotton.





# At the Park



Above: Irrigation running in the Lindsay linear field.  
Below: Leaf wetness sensors in the Valley cotton field.





# At the Park



Above: B.J. & Cale installing Davis Instr. node in Dr. Kemerait's cotton study.  
Below: BJ installing Davis Instrument "repeater" node on top of roof.





# At the Park



Above: Ivey with Dr. Kemerait's Casey and Ty in their cotton study.  
Below: BJ applying liquid N to Dr. Kemerait's cotton.





# Events

## Past events

July 4	Holiday
July 12	IGEL tour
July 24	Sunbelt Expo Field Day
July 25	Asst Deans Stougaard & McCann visit SIRP

## Upcoming events

August 14	Dr. Kemerait and Ukrainian visitors
August 22	AGL tour
August 30	Lower Flint – Ochlocknee Reg. Water Council (Americus)
September 10	Forestry Judging Contest
October 30	Ga Cotton Comm. & Legislative Staffers tour



# In the News

[Florida: Smart Irrigation Systems – SmartPath Tech Could Improve Water Usage](#)

[Georgia Cotton: Disease Management – Aug. Is an Important Month for This Year and Next](#)

[EU's ag trade barriers firmly in the crosshairs](#)

[Trade Assistance Package a Welcome Measure of Short-Term Relief, Farm Bureau Says](#)

[White House readies plan for \\$12 billion in emergency aid to farmers caught in Trump's escalating trade war](#)

[House Passes Precision Ag Bill](#)

[Corn physiological maturity running ahead](#)

[Don't treat all soybean diseases with fungicides](#)

[Navigating The Late Season](#)

[Georgia Cotton: PGR Use and Reducing Stress in Late Planted Crops](#)

[Pushing the Record on Corn Exports](#)

[New State Authority Over Local Waters a Boon to Farmers and Ranchers](#)

[California Farms' Water Use Still Unclear, Despite New Reporting Rules](#)

[Flint Riverkeeper aims to preserve Bainbridge's biggest natural resource for generations to come](#)

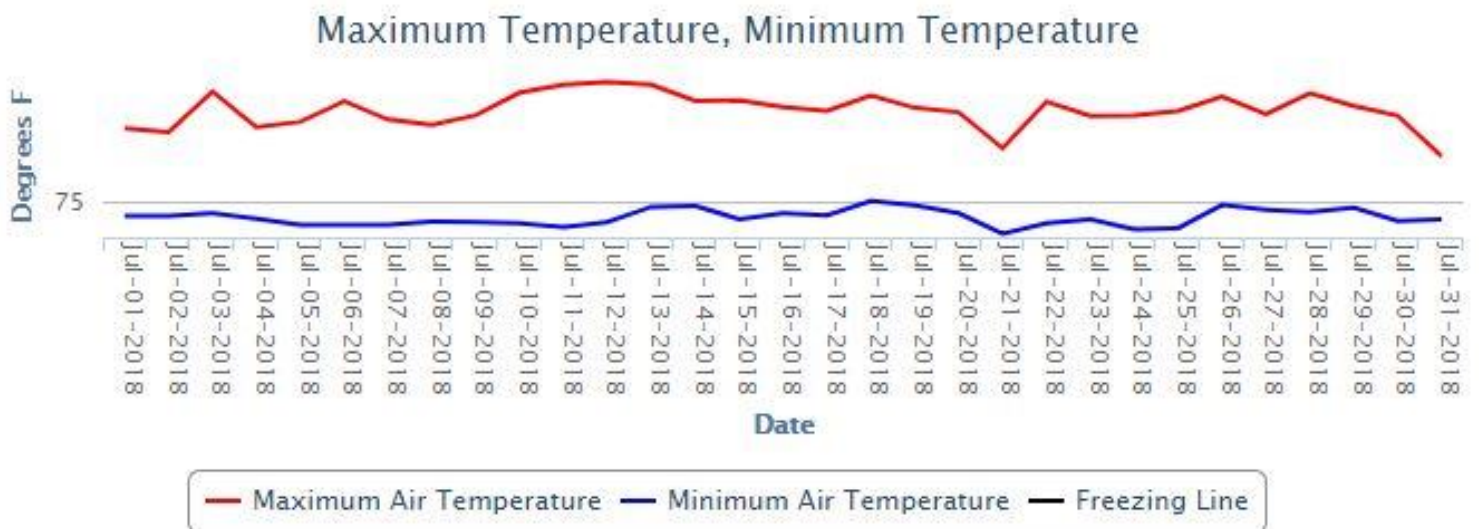
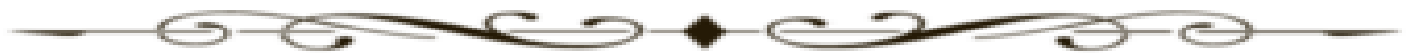
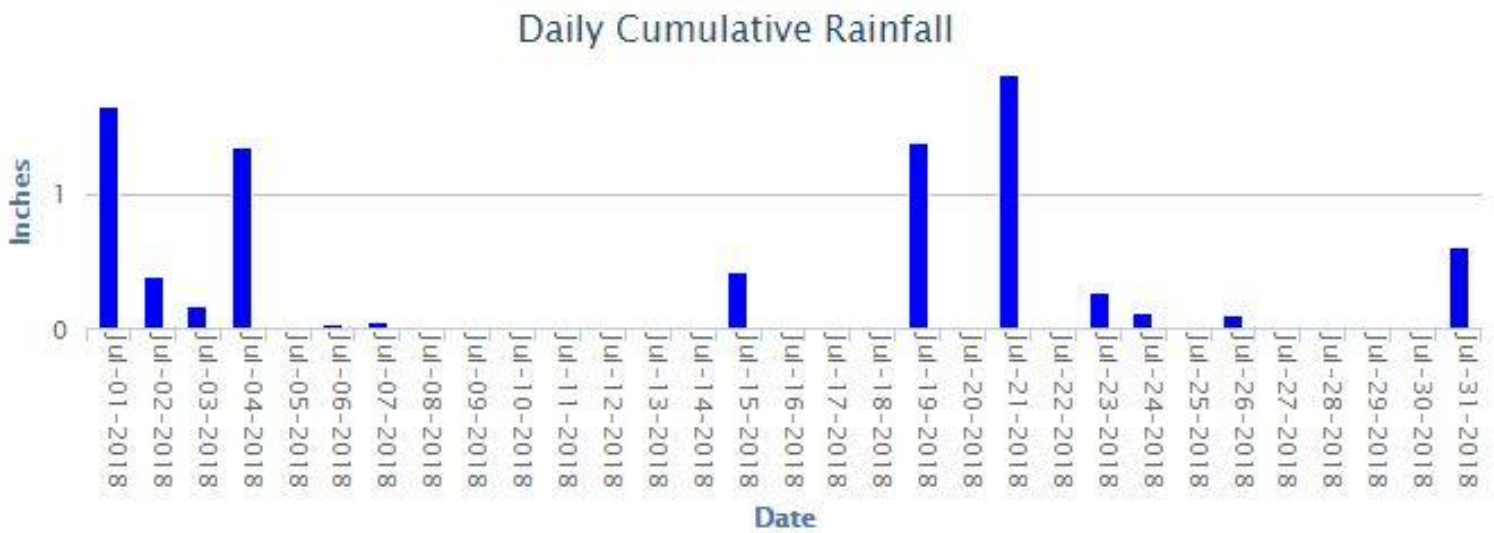
Video:

[Growing Impact of Drones In Agriculture](#)

[Field Day Provides Sneak Peek of Sunbelt Expo Field Trials](#)



# SIRP Weather



For July, SIRP had 8.57 inches of rainfall, compared to 9.01 inches in June, 5.16 inches in May, and 5.06 inches in April.

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



## Flashback: What year was it?

- 1st postage stamp copyrighted by US (Carl Sandburg stamp).
- The last Volkswagen Beetle made in Germany leaves VW's plant in Emden.
- Bee Gees' album "Saturday Night Fever" goes #1 for 24 weeks.
- NASA selects its first American women astronauts.
- International Ultraviolet Explorer placed in Earth's orbit.
- Ted Nugent autographs a fan's arm with his knife.
- Harriet Tubman is 1st African American woman to be honored on a US postage stamp.
- Muriel, wife of late Hubert Humphrey (Sen-D-Minn) takes his office.
- 1st "micro on a chip" patented by Texas Instruments.
- "The Incredible Hulk", starring Bill Bixby as David Banner, premieres on CBS.
- Larry King moves his radio show from Miami to Washington, D.C.
- ABC premiere of crime drama "Vega\$" starring Robert Urich as 'Dan Tanna'.
- Cincinnati Reds' Pete Rose becomes 14th player to get 3,000 hits.
- Margaret A Brewer is 1st female general in the US Marine Corps.
- 1st legal gambling casino opens in Atlantic City.
- Film "Grease" opens, starring John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John.
- NY Yankee manager Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson fight in dug out after Jackson refuses to bunt, causing Martin to suspend him.
- Johnny Bench hits his 300th career home run.
- Atlanta Braves trounce Cincinnati Reds, 16-4 and halt Pete Rose's NL record hitting streak at 44 games.
- Situation comedy "Taxi" premieres on ABC television.
- US Congress approves dollar coin honoring women's suffrage campaigner Susan B. Anthony.
- 1st TV movie from a TV series-"Rescue from Gilligan's Island".
- "Halloween", starring Jamie Lee Curtis in her film debut, is released.
- First broadcast of "Different Strokes" on NBC TV.
- Marion Barry Jr. elected as Washington, D.C.'s first African American mayor.

**Pop songs:** "Shadow Dancing" - Andy Gibb; "Night Fever" - BeeGee's; "You're the One That I Want" - John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John; "Three Times a Lady" - Commodores

**Born:** Ashton Kutcher; Jensen Ackles; James Franco; A.J. Styles; Tamera & Tia Mowry; Zac Brown; Kurt Busch

**Deaths:** Bob Crane; Steve Bilko; Keith Moon; Norman Rockwell

Min. Wage - \$ 2.65 / hr.

New Car - \$4,645 avg.

New House - \$54,800 avg.

Gallon of gas - \$0.63

Loaf of bread - \$0.35

Gallon of milk - \$1.29

# Contact Information

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## Trivia / Interesting facts:

What employee-grooming regulation at Disney World would prevent the hiring of Walt Disney--if he were alive and job hunting today?