

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

February 2018



Note the new “tractors entering highway” signs around SIRP. We’ve had too many “close calls” within shouting distance. Please be extra cautious this season!

View more of Stripling’s photos at...

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugasirp>

This Month

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From the Superintendent

Thank goodness January 2018 did NOT produce the storms and tornadoes that south Georgia experienced in 2017! But we did have some interesting weather events. As I mentioned last month, on the 3rd, southeast Georgia and over to Moultrie had a nice blanketing of snow. Then on the 17th SIRP got a light dusting of snow. The Park received 3.5 inches of precip during the Month (long term average is 4.5 inches) and our high temps ranged from 75.9F to 39.7F while our low temps ranged from 18.9F to 62.8F.

We have been irrigating, fertilizing and applying fungicide to Dr. Tim Coolong's Vidalia-type onion plots. It has been fun deciding when we can run our linear-move irrigation system over the onions when so many days have been quite cold. We've also been working in our newly renovated shop, putting up storage racks/shelves, and building a welding table that will serve as a work bench. We use winter days to do equipment repairs as well. I'm happy to note that we were able to purchase a new KMC strip-till implement with funding help from DowDupont, Dr. Vellidis, and Dr. West.

We were pleased to again host a group of high school students from The Westminster Schools of Atlanta. As part of teacher David McMahan's Discovery program, the students spend several weeks exploring the ACF 'water wars' issues in great detail. While in SW Georgia, the students were able to engage with Charles Stripling, Glenn Cox, Casey Cox, and Bubba Johnson. I gave them a tour of SIRP and covered several research and extension topics. Mitchell County Farm Bureau again provided lunch for the group.

We were glad to have the Park's friend Jake LaRue with Valley Irrigation drop by for a visit. It's always interesting to chat with Jake about developments in the industry.

The SIRP staff has attended numerous Mitchell County Extension production meetings hosted by our new agent, Brian Hayes. We also attended the Georgia Peanut Farm Show and the Georgia Cotton Conference, both in Tifton. Be sure to attend Extension meetings in your area that are relative to your needs and interests.

Dr. George Vellidis and I were asked to present on developments in smart irrigation at the Georgia CCA training in Tifton. I covered our AgWET project as well as chemigation. George covered scheduling apps and dynamic VRI.

I made a presentation before the Georgia Corn Commission to go over results from my 2017 project and discuss my proposal for 2018 funding. I hope to get funding to carry out a 3rd and final year on my project comparing conventional and drought tolerant hybrids.

Abbey Taylor of AgNet Media did a phone interview with me last month to learn about the mission and projects associated with the Park. I look forward to her article in the near future.

I also attended the 2018 Extension Conference at Rock Eagle. Extension featured the AgWET project in a video recognizing Extension Innovation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZg5XuD87Rw>



Calvin Perry

New Position

We'd like to make you aware of a new position that has been advertised for a UGA Extension "**District Extension Water Educator – Irrigation**".

While administratively it will be under the SW District Extension Office in Tifton, it will be housed at our facility at SIRP and work closely with us.

From the announcement:

"The District Extension Water Educator is a member of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and is responsible for carrying out the agricultural water conservation initiative and promoting education and best management practices related to water and conservation both with adult and youth audiences. This position is administratively attached to the District Extension Office and administratively reports to the District Extension Director. This position will also work closely with the Extension Irrigation Specialist and the Faculty and Staff at **UGA Stripling Irrigation Research Park**, Camilla, GA; to strengthen the extension and applied research program focusing on agricultural water conservation. This position reports directly to the Southwest District Director and is **housed** at the UGA Stripling Irrigation Research Park. Programmatically, the District Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Development Coordinator will provide leadership in developing a plan of work and coordinating overall work flow."

The announcement notes that a Bachelor's Degree is required with a Master's Degree a Plus. Prefer a degree in soil sciences, water resource science, hydrology, bio systems engineering, crop science, agronomy, horticulture sciences or related disciplines.

Here's the link to the announcement:

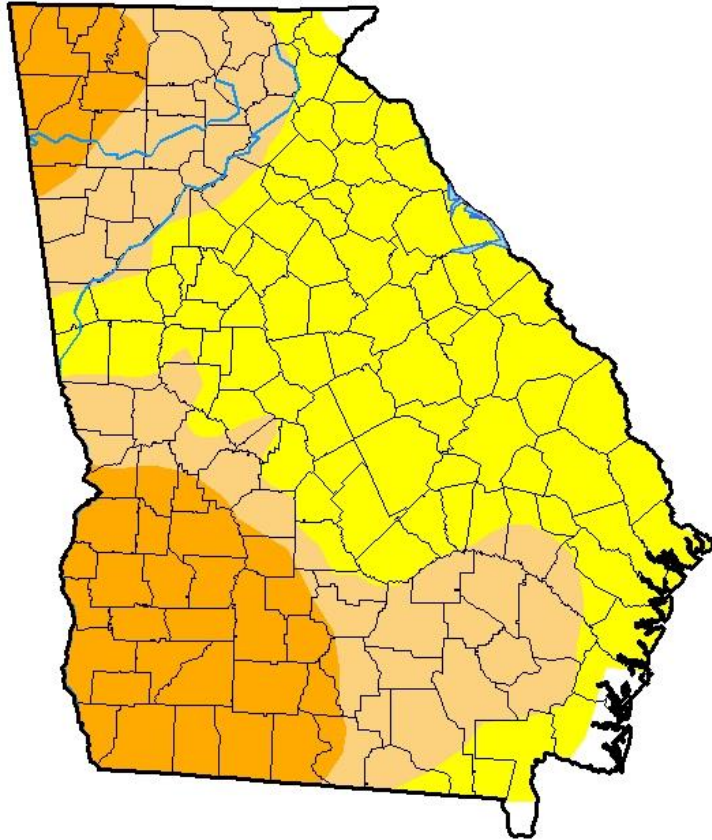
<https://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/17678>

Please pass this info along to any interested individuals.

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

January 30, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.54	98.46	50.48	22.51	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>01-23-2018</small>	0.35	99.65	54.62	17.88	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>10-31-2017</small>	83.40	16.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-02-2018</small>	12.14	87.86	40.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-26-2017</small>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>01-31-2017</small>	57.64	42.36	36.22	19.58	3.57	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Monitor map for Georgia as of January 30th. Currently, 98% of GA is at least in the “Abnormally Dry” category with 50% rated as “Moderate Drought” and over 22% considered “Severe Drought” – and that zone is in SW Ga over the Lower Flint River basin.

For more info:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

At the Park



Above: Westminster School visit and farm tour.
Below: No... this is not just after a cotton harvest! Believe it or not
South Georgia actually got a very light Snow Day!



At the Park



Above: Installing a “flume” in Dr. Vellidis’ plots in Newton Lateral.
Below: Mulching machine in pines.



At the Park



Above: SIRP's newest attraction ... the irrigation Geyser. During the freezing weather we had last month, apparently frozen water caused a pipe to burst, warranting an immediate repair. Can you see it?

Below: Vidalia-type onions are coming along nicely in Dr. Coolong's plots.



At the Park



Above: SIRP's new strip-till implement.
Below: Field after testing new strip till implement.



Events

Past events

January 4	Young Farmers mtg. (Monsanto)
January 8	Weed Mgmt. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
January 9	Westminster School visit
January 16	Disease Mgmt. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
January 18	42nd Annual Peanut Farm Show, Tifton
January 25	Young Farmers mtg. (Citrus)
January 29	Young Farmers mtg. (Coastal Solar)
January 31	Ga Cotton Commission Annual meeting, Tifton
February 2	Ga. Ag Forecast, Tifton
February 6	Corn Short Course, Tifton
February 9	Cotton & Market Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)

Upcoming events

February 20	Peanut Prod. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)
February 22	Young Farmers mtg.
March 1	Young Farmers mtg.
March 6	Golden Triangle (Better Backroads Workshop)
March 8	Young Farmers mtg.
March 15	Young Farmers mtg.
March 20	Pecan Prod. Update (Mitchell Co. Extension)

In the News

[EPA ISSUES TWO-YEAR DELAY OF WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE](#)

[USDA's Farm Bill Roadmap a Strong Start, Farmers Say](#)

[New Year Cotton Policy Update](#)

[Ag Forecast Series: Opportunities, challenges ahead for farmers](#)

[US farmers need sound immigration policy for agricultural workforce](#)

[Georgia's Bountiful Blueberries](#)

[Georgia: Peach Farmers Optimistic About 2018 After Disastrous 2017 Crop](#)

[Georgia Pecans: Farmers Should Prune Young Trees Now](#)

[FARMERS.gov is USDA's New Combo Website for 3 Farm Related Agencies](#)

[Be involved in agriculture's 'cover up'](#)

[Developing Climate-Smart Ag](#)

[Cold weather a mixed blessing in Agriculture](#)

[Bravo: Congress Considers Rural Broadband Act](#)

[Where Agriculture and Blockchain Could Meet](#)

In the News

[Dangerously Low on Water, Cape Town Now Faces 'Day Zero'](#)

[New Legislation Would Improve Soil Health and Water Quality](#)

[FAA: Irrigation Pivot Threatens Air Traffic](#)

[Finding Your Precision Ag Mindset](#)

[Florida, Georgia water war reaches nation's highest court](#)

[Don't ignore this key aspect of contentious water dispute](#)

[Congressman attends 'water wars' hearing, says he's hopeful](#)

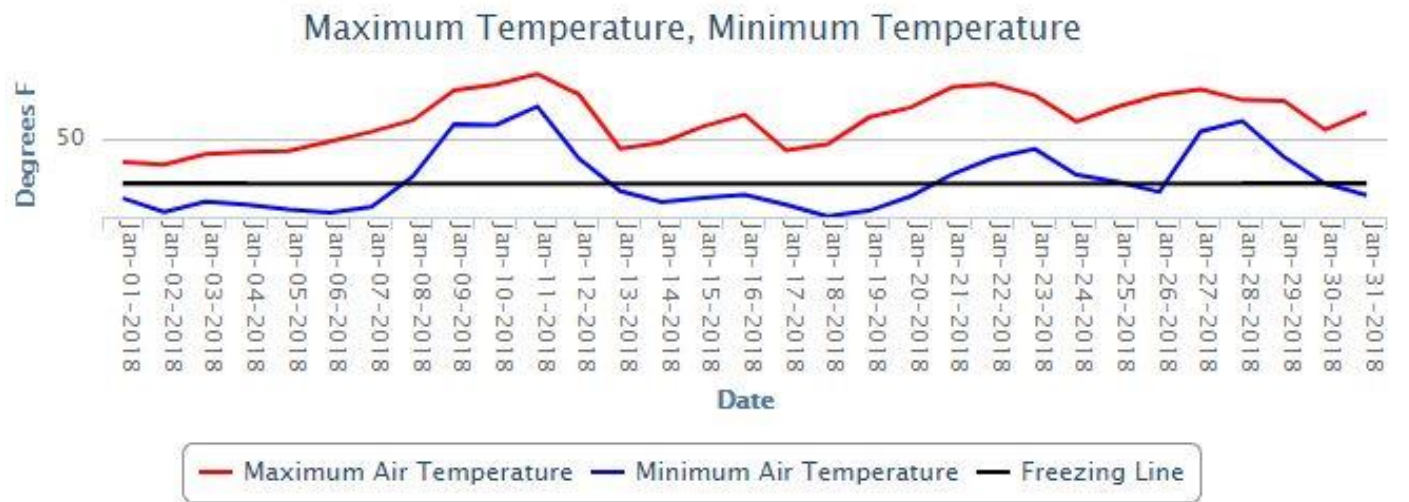
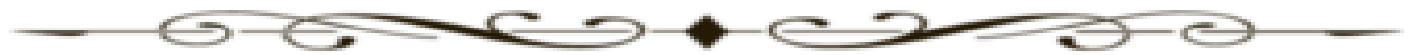
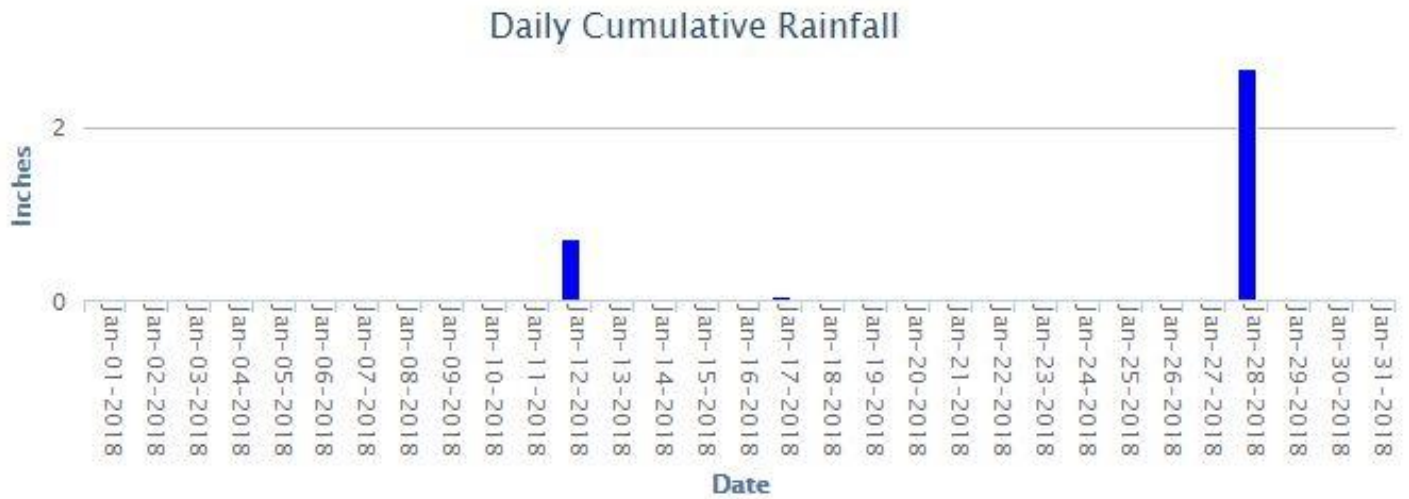
[USDA, FDA pledge to tackle blurred lines on food safety](#)

Video:

[Variable Rate Pivot Irrigation](#)

[2018 GFB Young Farmer Chair Shares His Story](#)

SIRP Weather



For January, SIRP had 3.50 inches of rainfall, compared to 2.99 inches in December, 0.54 inches in November, and 3.47 inches in October.

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

Flashback: What year was it?

- George Orwell's book "Nineteen Eighty-Four" is published.
- U.S. President Harry S. Truman unveils his Fair Deal program.
- The first Emmy Awards are presented at the Hollywood Athletic Club.
- World heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis retires.
- The North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington, D.C., creating the NATO defense alliance.
- EDSAC, the first practicable stored-program computer, runs its first program at Cambridge University.
- First Volkswagen Beetle, the people's car sold in US.
- KC2XAK of Bridgeport, Connecticut becomes the first Ultra high frequency (UHF) television station to operate a daily schedule.
- Soviet Union tests its first atomic bomb.
- RCA Perfects a system for broadcasting color television.
- Silly Putty goes on sale in plastic eggs for \$1.00.
- The first automatic street lights are installed in New Milford, Connecticut.
- First 45 rpm Vinyl Record is introduced.
- Frank Sinatra stars in "On The Town" with Gene Kelly.
- Rodgers and Hammerstein debut the musical "South Pacific" on Broadway.
- The first test flight of the De Havilland Comet takes place, it would later become the first commercial passenger jet.

Born: John Belushi (comedian/actor); Gene Simmons (musician); Wolfgang Puck (chef); Andy Kaufman (actor); Jessica Lange (actress); Meryl Streep (actress); Vera Wang (designer); Hank Williams Jr. (musician); Rick Springfield (musician); Shelley Long (actress); Richard Gere (actor); Gloria Gaynor (musician); Bill O'Reilly (commentator)... and the list goes on & on.

Deaths: Margaret Mitchell (writer); Heinie Beckendorf (baseball); Robert Ripley (creator of Ripley's Believe It or Not!)

new car - \$1,420

new house - \$7,450

gallon of gas - 0.26 cents

loaf of bread - 0.14 cents

gallon of milk - 0.84 cents

Contact Information

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Trivia: What country does Greenland belong to?