

Georgia Commodity Commission for Peanuts Report 2015

Research Title: Support of UGA Weather Network

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ian Flitcroft

Total Budget for 2015: \$5,000.00

Period Covered: 01/01/2015 to 12/31/2015

The UGA Georgia weather network provides weather information to growers in the State of Georgia from a network of 81 automated weather stations. Weather data gathered and disseminated by the Georgia Weather network, as well as information derived from that data, such as drought severity, provide a critically needed resource to peanut producers in the state of Georgia. The weather information generated by the weather network also provides the data underlying decision support tools (e.g. UF PeanutFarm) that have been developed to assist peanut producers in the Southeast.

In 2015 the UGA weather network continued to be maintained at a high level of functionality. Overall the weather network continues to provide high quality weather information in a timely manner.

A number of improvements have been made to some individual weather stations in 2015. These include: addition of a second raingauge at sites where only a single gauge was present, upgrades to the communication hardware, upgrades to the solar power generation and power storage capacity, and a more modern type of datalogger. Additionally, the code which produces the website pages at www.weather.uga.edu has been rewritten. All these improvements will decrease the number of occasions when communication to individual stations are lost. The software rewrite will reduce problems with pages served to users of website and will ease further improvements and design changes.

In 2015:

Ten stations were changed over to a cellular modem method of communication.

Four stations received an additional raingauge.

Seventeen stations received a new and larger solar panel and thirteen stations received bigger batteries (some sites already had a larger battery installed).