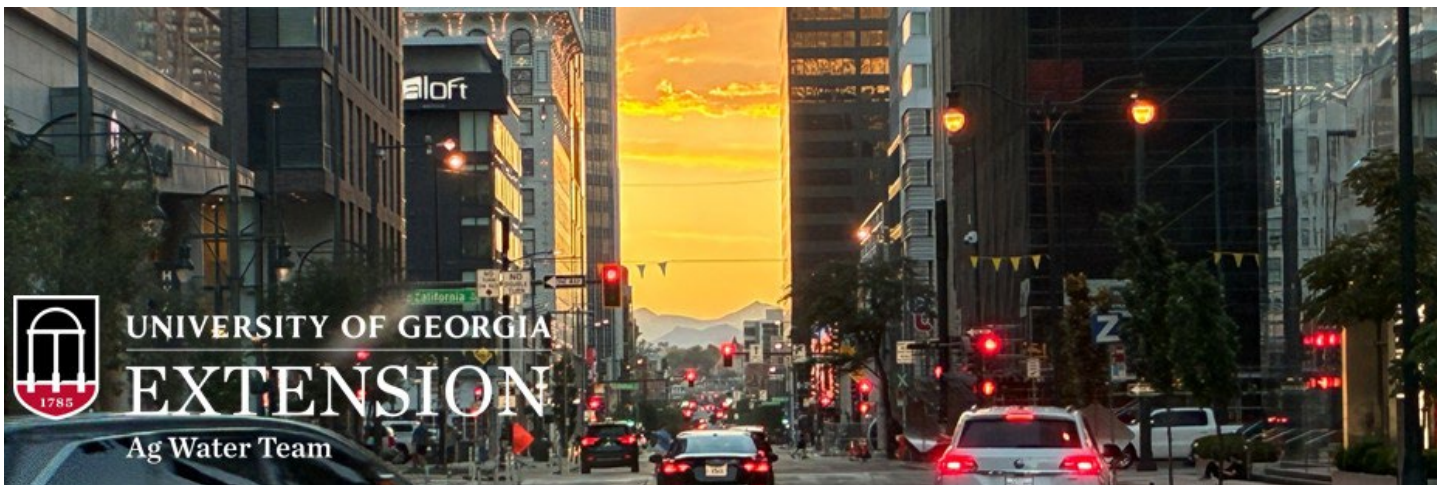




Evening light along the Front Range just after the Georgia State's Night Out supper in Denver, Colorado at NACAA AM/PIC

UGA Extension Ag Water Team News May-July 2026

This newsletter debuts as new addition to the UGA Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation Blog. This newsletter began in 2023 to update Extension Faculty and Staff. With the blog we hope to reach new audiences and hope you will take a look and see what the UGA Ag Water Team is all about. Want to learn more? Then please contact your local county extension office.

Follow us on Instagram at: [ugaextension.agwaterteam](https://www.instagram.com/ugaextension.agwaterteam), [ugaurbanwatermanagement](https://www.instagram.com/ugaurbanwatermanagement) and/or Facebook at: [UGA Extension Ag Water Team](https://www.facebook.com/UGAExtensionAgWaterTeam)
In this issue: Impactful Events, Specialist Updates, Stormwater Green Infrastructure Demonstration Site Ribbon Cutting, GA/FL Irrigation Expo, Recent Happenings, UGA Ag Water Team Activities and Educational Efforts, UGA Extension Water Related Publications and Information, Additional Photos, Upcoming Meetings and Events

UGA Ag Water Team Impactful Events



GA/FL Irrigation Expo Committee Members - UGA Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center in Lyons



Stormwater Green Infrastructure Demonstration Site Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - UGA Research and Education Garden – UGA Griffin Campus

Specialist Updates

Dr. Gary Hawkins

1. Conducted well water workshop for UGA Extension Agents
2. Attended Solar Farm Conference to highlight soil erosion needs when installing solar systems
3. Attended the National Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting to preview Managing Water Well for Food Safety program with Dr. Laurel Dunn.

Dr. Wesley Porter

It seems that there is always too much to write about between newsletters about what we have been working on. I would say some of the most notable items are that my team and myself have presented at the ASABE Annual Meeting and the APRES Annual Meeting. I had the opportunity to travel to western Tennessee to present at the Tennessee Ag Producers Association and the Milan No-Till field day, and then helped coordinate and present at the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society Summer Meeting, along with providing a research update to the GA Cotton Commission, and talking at the AgSouth Tri-State Producers conference. All of this was just the month of July!! Well over 2,000 miles of driving just between Tennessee and the last few meetings. Busy is good though, it means that the information you are providing is wanted and needed!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Meeting/Events

Southeast REC (Midville) Field Day
UGA Grand Farm Field Day
Georgia Peanut Achievement Club
Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day
Georgia Peanut Tour
J. Phil Campbell Cotton Field Day
4-D Farm Annual Field Day and Update
Sunbelt Ag Expo

Date

August 12, 2026
August 13, 2026
August 14-16, 2026
September 2, 2026
September 22-24, 2026
September 29, 2026
October 8, 2026
October 20-22, 2026

Location

Midville, GA
Perry, GA
Jekyll Island, GA
Tifton, GA
Savannah, GA/ East Georgia
Watkinsville, GA
Tifton, GA
Moultrie, GA

Stormwater Green Infrastructure Demonstration Site Ribbon Cutting



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Green Stormwater
Infrastructure
Website



Scenes from the Stormwater Green Infrastructure Demonstration Site Ribbon Cutting on UGA Griffin Campus, and QR Code for site descriptions

Georgia/Florida Irrigation Expo



Scenes from GA/FL Irrigation Expo – 33 Vendors/Sponsors, 180 Attendees, Pesticide and CCA Credits Offered, Six Stations (Drip Irrigation UFL, Advanced Drip Irrigation, Micro Irrigation, Center Pivot, Sprinkler Nozzles, Green Landscape, and General Irrigation Management)

Recent Happenings

Northeast District – The Northeast District Water Agent has been promoting the UGA Griffin Green Stormwater Demonstration Site as an education tool to various Extension professional organizations. A poster on the topic was presented in Wilmington, NC at the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals meeting and at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting in Denver, CO. The demonstration site was officially opened in late June with guest speakers from CAES and UGA Extension. The stormwater practices on display will be useful for training landscape industry, Extension agents, and volunteers about stormwater control for years to come. The Northeast Water Agent toured Sanford Stadium and the UGA campus grounds with the Georgia Water Wise Council in May and made some great connections with other water professionals.

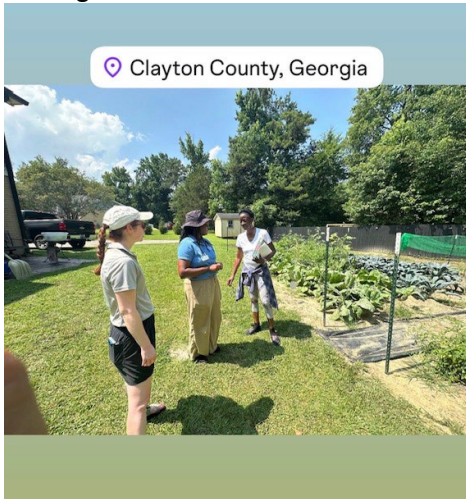
Northwest District – It's been a busy, productive quarter across the Northwest District, full of new partnerships, hands-on fieldwork, and a few proud moments worth celebrating. Here's a look at what our Urban Water Management program and colleagues have been up to. Bridging Water and Bugs: A Growing Partnership with Entomology- Our Center for Urban Agriculture's Urban Water Management agent continues to deepen a great working relationship with Dr. Shimat V. Joseph of the UGA Department of Entomology. Together, they're digging into a question that matters a lot to Georgia's nursery growers: *"How Irrigation Practices and Substrate Moisture Affect Red-Headed Flea Beetle in Nursery Systems."* By looking at how watering decisions influence pest pressure, this project is helping connect the dots between water management and pest management two worlds that don't always talk to each other but should. Beyond, the Urban Water agent continues to stay close to the ground, joining Extension agents from the City of Atlanta and Fulton County (Gabrielle Latora) for regular site visits, keeping outreach practical, local, and responsive to what growers and residents are seeing. A Ribbon-Cutting Worth Celebrating - The strong collaboration between our Northeast Water agent Martin Wunderly and the Urban Water Management team Rolando Orellana recently paid off in a big way: the ribbon-cutting of the new stormwater green infrastructure demonstration site at the UGA Research and Education Garden in Griffin, GA. This site will serve as a living classroom — showing homeowners, landscapers, and stormwater professionals how green infrastructure can slow, filter, and put rainwater to work rather than letting it run off. It's a great example of what happens when two program areas roll up their sleeves and build something together. On the National Stage in Detroit - Rolando Orellana represented the district at the National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) Conference in Detroit, where he presented on his work with the Spanish Professional Extension Committee. It was a great opportunity to share how bilingual programming is helping Extension reach more communities and to bring back fresh ideas from urban Extension leaders across the country. Fescue in Focus - Closer to home, Orellana also paid a visit to Dr. Phillip Vines at the UGA Griffin campus to see firsthand the progress of his tall fescue breeding work. With Northwest Atlanta's particular interest in resilient, low-input turf options, this is exactly the kind of research the district will be watching closely and hoping to bring back to homeowners and green industry professionals in the months ahead.

Southeast District – These have been some exciting times in the last few months with Extension. I have to focus on mostly one thing in my comments in this newsletter. It is so great to see so many people come together and work as a team to hold the 1st Georgia Florida Irrigation Expo in the state of Georgia with over 180 in attendance. It is so great to have so many people who can work together to pull off an event like this. As you notice in the 1st picture in this newsletter there were over 30 individuals from UGA and UF who came together to make this event possible. The Water Team appreciates all the efforts of everyone who planned, advertised, supported, and attended this event. We have definitely laid the groundwork for an event which we can build upon to help our ag producers, homeowners, and our organization. MANY THANKS UGA EXTENSION! Other than the EXPO we have been working on several trials, the Master Irrigator Program, and several summer mid-season presentations. David Hall shared the additional information. Two days were spent at the Midville Research Center talking to over 700 students for the annual Burke County Ag Day event. The use of the Enviroscope and the Flush or Not to Flush activity was used to show how our waters can become polluted and the importance of preventing water pollution. Jenkins County Ag Agent Scout Carter also assisted. Hall presented at two different events at the Midville center conducting sprayer calibration, Enviroscope and center pivot operation. These events had students from different states throughout the southeast United States. Other activities include sensor installations and working with Master Irrigator Program participants with data interpretation. Hall continued to conduct and pull water samples for home loan closings along with requests to check for overall water quality for homeowners.

Southwest District – Since early May our time has been filled with preparing and conducting the GA/FL Irrigation Expo. This is the first of its kind event in Georgia and had all the UGA Ag Water Team involved as well as a tremendous number of agents collaborating on this event. Jack Bevan was our summer intern, and he was able to participate in all SW District Ag Water Team activities and made an excellent poster on the importance of pivot uniformity testing. Other efforts include multiple pivot uniformity tests (Calhoun, Lowndes, Webster, Seminole) for farmers and testing remaining pivots for uniformity for Vertento chemigation for peanut rootworm. We assisted Dr. Vellidis in installing Ag Sense/Sentek sensors alongside the SI CropFit App in corn in five locations. Soil moisture sensors in multiple cotton variety trials, Master Irrigator Program, county agent sensor requests for their farmers. Collaboration with Surface Water Monitoring Study in Colquitt with Dr. Whitney Pagan with sensor installation. Presentations at:

4H2O Water Day, Field Days in Attapulgus and Plains, APRES and NACAA. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have installed almost every available soil moisture sensor we have available. Sensors and rain buckets in corn, cotton, peanut, soybean tobacco, muscadine and coming soon, cabbage. The corn variety trial and irrigation trial are near harvest. We have run infiltrometer test on two products that can potentially improve water infiltration.

UGA Ag Water Team Activities and Educational Efforts



Clayton Co. Site Visit G. Latora and B. Jenkins



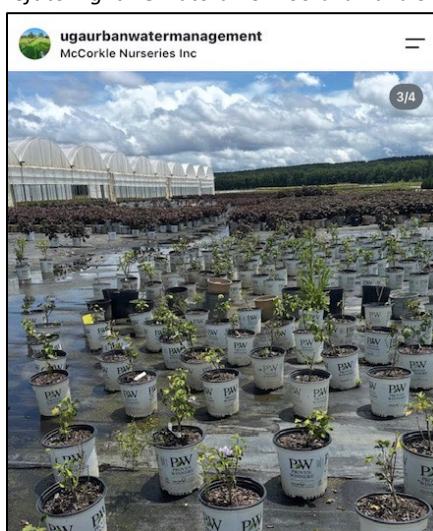
Visiting Dr. P. Vines trial of Cool season grasses



R. Orellana Presenting at National Urban Extension Leaders conference NUEC 2026



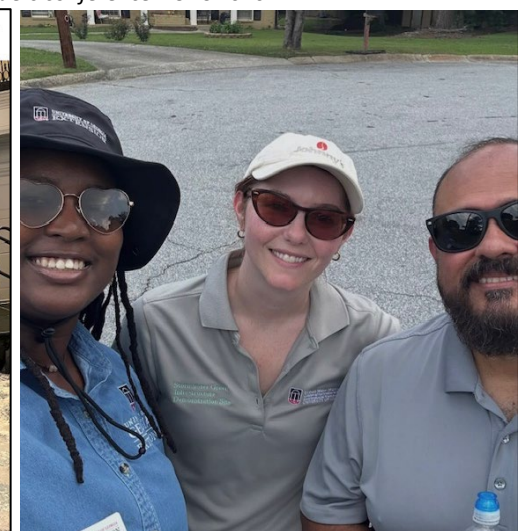
Left to Right - G. Latora. C. Noorullah and S. Sosa Presenting at National Urban Extension Leaders conference NUEC 2026



Substrate Trials at McCorkle nurseries



NUREC Advisory Team



B. Jenkins, G. Latora and R Orellana



Multiple Pivot Uniformity Tests – Calhoun County



GA Water Wise Tour of turf at Sanford Stadium



Green Stormwater NACAA Poster



Colorado State Univ. green rooftop



4H2O Water Days UGA Stripling Irrigation Park



Agronomic Crops Field Day UGA Tifton Campus



Evaluating SI CropFit in Corn – Worth, Ben Hill and Colquitt Counties



APRES (American Peanut Research Education Society)



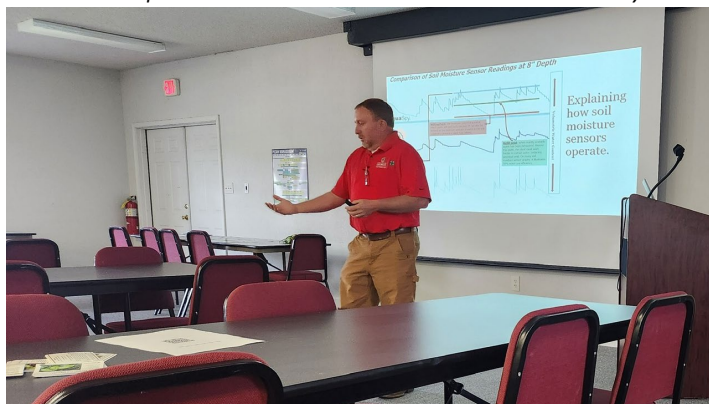
NACAA National Association of County Agricultural Agents



SE GA Cattle Update GA Grown Resource Center – Candler County



Monitoring Rainfall and Irrigation in Corn Irrigation Trial



SE GA Citrus Update



Jenkins Co MIP, Young Man Loves Tech!!



Three SW Interns assist with sensor installation in cotton variety trial



Pivot uniformity test in commercial sod – Lowndes County



Ag Day - Burke County

Youth Ag Camp – Hosted by Jefferson County



Rain or Shine



UGA Engineering Preparation for Irrigation Expo Sprinkler Demonstration – If you don't have it then just make it



Intern Graduation at Rock Eagle – Jack Bevan SW District



Attapulugus Field Day – Agent Summary of Research Efforts at Station



Attapulugus Field Day – Cotton Irrigation Termination



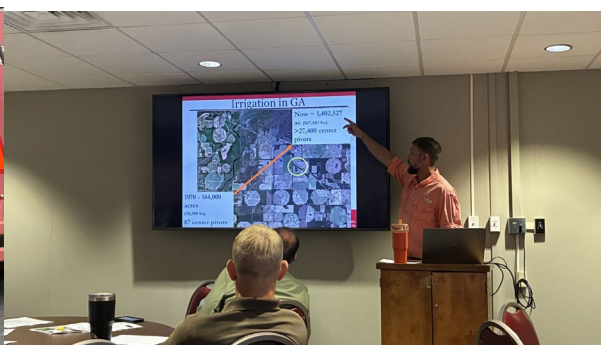
Use of Sensors and Apps, Floridan Aquifer, Pivot Testing



Plains Field Day – Importance of Mobile Irrigation Labs



Sharing Extension Research Efforts in Peanuts, Corn, and Cotton



UGA Extension Water Related Publications and Information – Your Best Source is Your Local County Extension Office

UGA Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation Blog <https://precisionagirrigation.extension.uga.edu/>
Agent source for current information for use in newsletters and clientele interaction

Irrigation Reference Guide https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201189_5.PDF

Georgia EPD Ag Withdrawal Application Forms
<https://epd.georgia.gov/forms-permits/watershed-protection-branch-forms-permits/water-withdrawal-permitting-forms>

Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network <http://georgiaweather.net/>

US Drought Monitor <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories Household Water Quality Publications

<https://aesl.ces.uga.edu/publications/watercirc/>

(Protecting Your Wellhead, Testing for Water Quality, Home Water Quality and Treatment, Shock Chlorination, Nitrate in Water, Pesticides, Coliform Bacteria in Your Water, Hydrogen Sulfide and Sulfate, Corrosion or Scaling Water, Lead and Copper, Iron and Manganese, Arsenic in Your Water, Uranium in Your Water, Removal of Hydrogen Sulfide and Sulfate, Radon in Your Water, Understanding Laboratory Wastewater Tests: I. Organics (BOD, COD, TOC, O&G), Removal of Arsenic from Household Water, Your Household Water Quality: Odors in Your Water, Blueberry Irrigation Water Quality, Ensuring Safe Private Well Water for Household Use After a Flood, Improving Drink Water Well Condition, Drinking Water: Interpretation and Recommendations, Irrigation Water Quality for Agriculture, Iron (Manganese) and Sulfur Bacteria in Your Well Water, Household Water Treatment: Disinfection Methods and Devices, Household Water Treatment: Mechanical Filtration Methods and Devices, Household Water Treatment Techniques and Devices: Activation Carbon Filtration)

Irrigation Scheduling Methods https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20974_3.PDF

Cost of Irrigation Ownership and Operating Cost through Irrigation Budgets for South Georgia

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201235_1.PDF

Drip Irrigation in the Home Vegetable Garden https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201095_3.PDF

Pecan Water Requirements and Irrigation Scheduling https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201106_1.PDF

Evaluating and Interpreting Application Uniformity of Center Pivot Irrigation Systems

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20911_4.PDF

Spring Center Pivot and Lateral Irrigation System Preparation https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201452_5.PDF

Sources of Water for the Garden

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1027-11&title=sources-of-water-for-the-garden>

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network CoCoRaHS

Find out more at: <https://www.cocorahs.org/> and see current maps. You can also go back in time to see recorded precipitation.

Additional Photos



Doug Collins retirement reception



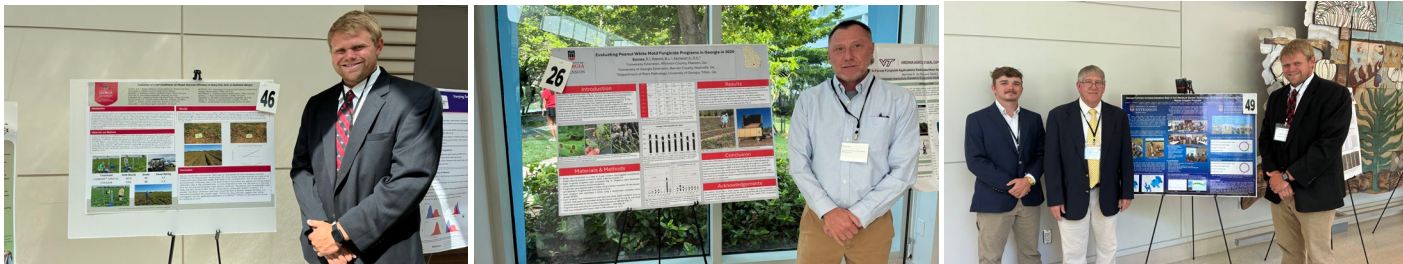
Stormwater Ribbon Cutting with Dean Place



NACAA



National Association of County Agricultural Agents



American Peanut Research Education Society (APRES)



APRES - Thank You Georgia Peanut Commission: Large number of talks and posters representing UGA CAES and UGA Extension



Peanut butter ice cream in Plains, GA



Fun in Marion County – note the sign



Food Trucks were a hit at Irrigation Expo



4H2O Water Day



Late Corn Sensor Installation



GA Cotton Commission Mid-Year Meeting



Peanut Field Visit Dr. Porter – Worth County



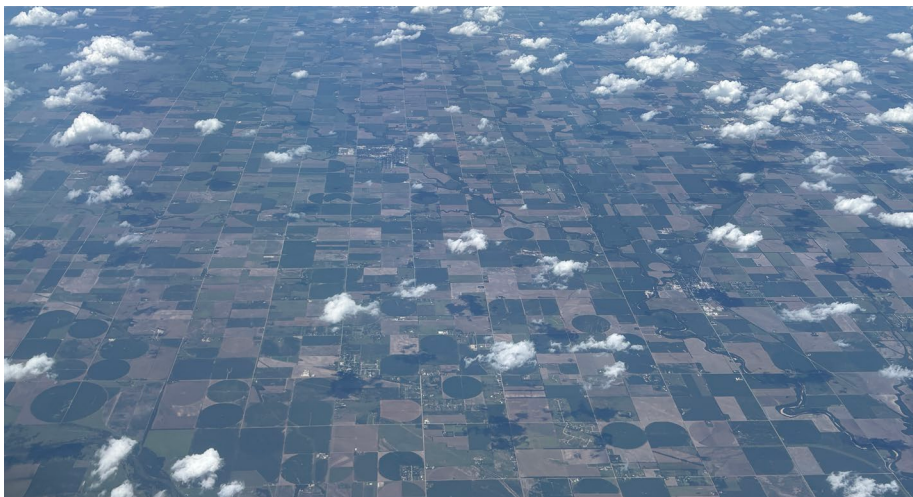
Lunch for Jack's last day as summer intern



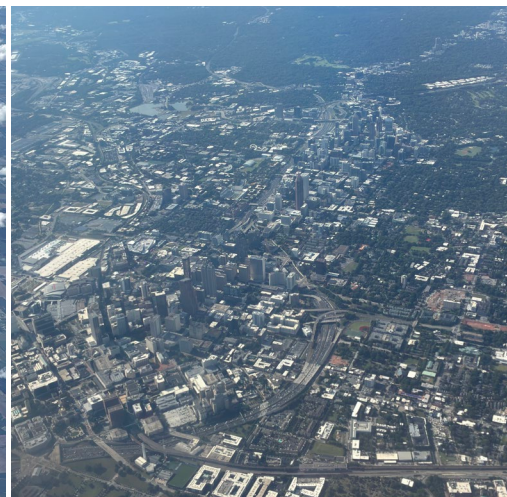
Attapulgus REC Field Day



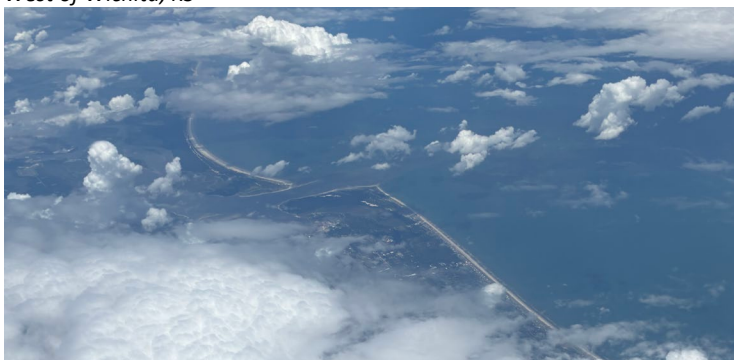
SW REC Field Day - Plains



West of Wichita, KS



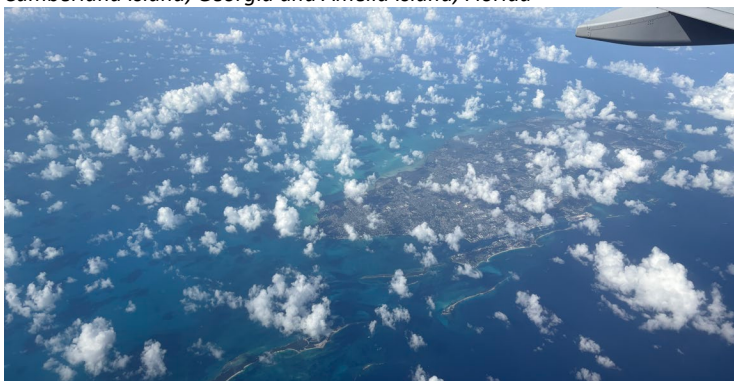
Downtown Atlanta



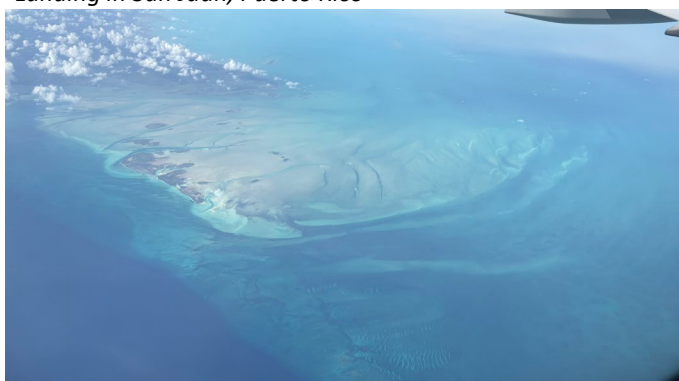
Cumberland Island, Georgia and Amelia Island, Florida



Landing in San Juan, Puerto Rico



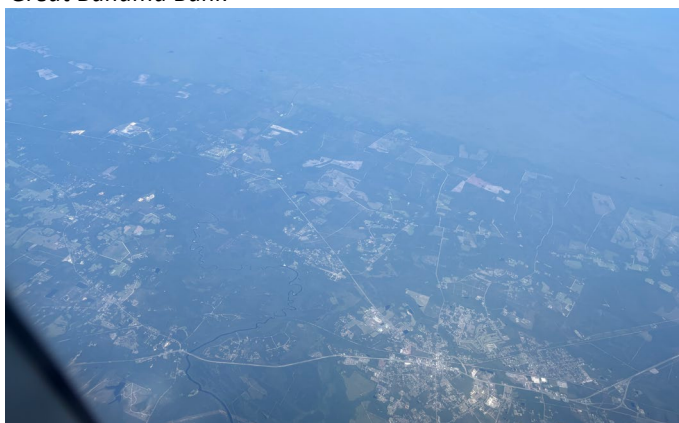
Nassau, Bahamas



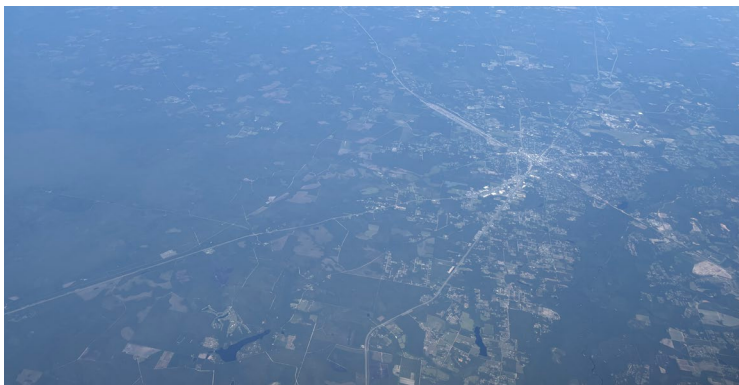
Great Bahama Bank



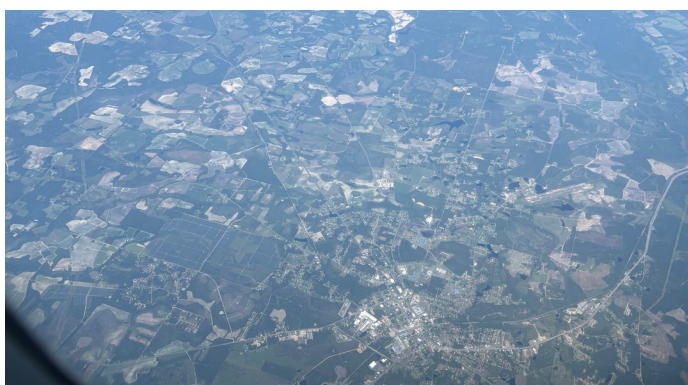
Miami, FL



Folkston, GA – note gray area at the top – Okefenokee Swamp



Waycross, GA



Hazelhurst, GA

Thank You,

Phillip Edwards – SW District Area Water Agent representing Georgia County Agents and Educators, Specialists, Ag Program Development Coordinators, and team members: Savannah Beasley, David Hall, Gary Hawkins, Jason Mallard, Rolando Orellana, Wes Porter, and Martin Wunderly.

The mention of trade names in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Georgia Cooperative Extension, nor criticism of similar ones not mentioned.



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