Georgia Commodity Commission for Soybeans—2019 Summary Report

Project Title: Support of UGA Georgia Weather Network, 2019

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Total Budget for 2019: $5,000

The UGA Georgia weather network provides weather information to growers in the State of Georgia from a network of 86 automated weather stations distributed across the state. 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 corn producers in the state of Georgia. The weather and climate information generated by the weather network provides the data for the underlying tools and calculators that have been developed to assist soybean producers in Georgia, including growing degree day calculators and current solar radiation data.

The UGA weather network continues to be maintained at a high level of functionality and overall the weather network continues to provide high quality weather information in a timely manner. Each station is visited at 6 week intervals to ensure quality of siting and accuracy in measurement of weather variables.

Currently the network communications equipment is being upgraded to new cell modems to ensure the continuous transmission of data in the transition to 4G cell service in January 2020. At present 67 modems have been replaced, with the additional 19 modems to be upgraded in the next few months as part of the regular maintenance schedule. We hope to have all new modems in place and operating by January 2020.

All the data is currently collected and maintained in text files. A database which will be used to store and manipulate all the data is in final testing stage. It will remove the need for text files and allow additional calculators such as a solar radiation accumulation tool to be developed. We will switch over to the database on January 1, 2020. While testing is underway, a new website is being developed to take advantage of the new database format; that will also go online on January 1, 2020. This should allow us to do more climatological studies as well as provide us with quicker access to the database for queries by producers.