

Georgia Commodity Commission for Soybeans—2020 Summary Report

Project Title: Support of UGA Georgia Weather Network, 2020

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Total Budget for 2020: \$5,000

The UGA Georgia weather network provides weather information to growers in the State of Georgia from a network of 87 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. In late 2020, we added a new station near Glennville to improve coverage in southeastern Georgia.

In 2020 we continued the upgrade of the Verizon network communications equipment to new cell modems to ensure the continuous transmission of data in the transition to 4G cell service in 2021. At the end of 2020, 84 modems were updated with an additional three still to be replaced in 2021.

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 hope switch over to the database sometime in 2021. While testing is underway, a new website is being developed to take advantage of the new database format. We were unable to hire a web programmer in 2020 due to the UGA hiring freeze due to COVID but hope to contract the work out in 2021 if we cannot hire an appropriate staff person. This should allow us to do more climatological studies as well as provide us with quicker access to the database for queries by producers.