



The AgAware Newsletter

AgAmerica Empowerment Agency, Inc.

Volume 2 Issue 8

Weather Stations Going up in 2-County Area

Two new weather stations are now active in the AgAmerica service area, thanks to funds from the EZ for the sensor equipment. The first station became operational May 26th, and is located near Byromville on Pinehurst-Byromville Rd. The second station began gathering data on August 3rd, and is located off Hwy 230 east of Unadilla.

Both stations will be accessible online, and updates are posted approximately every hour. The second station should be available online around Aug 15th. Use the online sites given in the accompanying textbox to get to the weather network map, and click the appropriate site (Byromville or Unadilla) on the map.

Additional stations are scheduled to be installed in the Vienna area, and in two

locations in East and South Crisp County, hopefully by the end of September.

Precipitation, wind, temperature, max/min readings, historical data, soil temperature, solar measurements, and agriculture evaluation

Access the Weather Stations thru
www.ag-america.org links
 Or
www.georgiaweather.net

tools are available online for each of the stations. Links to radar and forecasts are also available. Once all the stations are completed, AgAmerica will establish a local weather page which will put these and other weather links together in a single website for quick reference.

AgAmerica was able to garner grant funds for the pur-

chase and installation of the stations, but will be asking for sponsorships from local farmers and agribusinesses to cover the phone-line expenses and equipment maintenance costs. Sponsors will be posted on the local weather page.

There is a possibility that some of the weather sites may be deemed suitable by the national weather service to be infused into their weather network. This

would upgrade the monitoring frequency to every few minutes instead of hourly.

The weather stations will provide continual monitoring of weather conditions from a variety of locations, and made available hourly for planning field operations or citizen activities. Station documentation of weather conditions and precipitation from numerous sites in the area will assist in confirming weather extremes for disaster declarations, and lead to swifter response from assisting agencies.

The weather station data is also utilized by NOAA, the Forestry Departments, and other service agencies.

Inside this issue:

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GPS Network Update 1

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR IRRIGATION FUEL!!! 2
FORM ENCLOSED

Special points of interest:

- *Equipment Library inventory is undergoing mid-year repairs, Fall signup date to be announced soon.*
- *Crisp County Service Trailer to be available soon through cooperative arrangement with Crisp Young Farmers.*
- *Would you be interested in sponsoring a weather station? Contact our office or the Extension Agents for more information.*
- *Information about our agency, programs, guidelines, and fees are now available on the internet at: www.ag-america.org*
- *AgAmerica Numbers:
 Office—229-268-8928
 Equipment Tech:
 Mobile—877-311-1779
 S. Linc—2*1437*

GPS Network Enters Phase 2

Recently, AgAmerica's Precision Ag Network Subscribers conducted a meeting with representatives from Trimble Navigations to evaluate the Network's coverage to date.

Plans were made to fill gaps in the initial coverage area,

and proceed to blanket signal into the remaining parts of the two-county area.

AgAmerica staff members and Ag Technologies personnel will appreciate your help as they will be contacting local growers for assistance to complete coverage gaps.

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"Working together to make ag better"

We are now online at:
www.ag-america.org



Ag.Aware

LATEST AG NEWS ITEM:

(SEE ALSO OUR NEWS PAGE ONLINE)

Irrigation Fuel to be exempt from Georgia Sales Tax

Georgia Sales & Use Tax Information Bulletin concerning House Bill 487 (contributed)

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FUEL DISTRIBUTOR FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THE EXEMPTION

The following is being provided to Motor Fuel Distributors and various Farm Associations as general explanation of the law and provide guidance concerning administration.

"House Bill 487...which was effective July 1, 2005...to exempt from GA sales & use tax "other fuel" used for the operation of an irrigation system which is exclusively used for the irrigation of crops. Previously, the exemption only applied to electricity used to operate the irrigation system. The following guidelines will apply in the implementation of HB 487:

- "Fuel delivered and stored in a storage tank that will be used ex-

clusively to operate a crop irrigation system on a farm may be purchased tax exempt if the farmer provides the distributor with a properly executed Agricultural Certificate of Exemption, For ST-A1 (updated July 2005).

- "Fuel delivered and stored in a storage tank that will be used for multiple purposes (taxable and exempt farm use) may qualify for a partial exemption when the farmer provides a good faith estimate of the amount of fuel that will be used exclusively to operate a farm irrigation system. The good faith estimate shall be noted on the Agricultural Certificate of Exemption, Form ST-A1 (updated 7-2005), shall be deemed to be in good faith and the quantity of exempt fuel indicated on the form will qualify for the exemption. The fuel distributor must separately invoice the taxable and exempt fuel based upon the estimate provided on the Agricultural Certificate of Exemp-

tion. The purchaser will be liable for any tax, penalty, and interest due on any fuel determined to be taxable as a result of an incorrect estimate or improperly executed Agricultural Certificate of Exemption."

The preceding bulletin was distributed by the GA Sales & Use Tax Division on August 8, 2005. If you have any questions related to this informational Bulletin, please contact the Tax Law and Policy Section at (404) 417-6649.

As a note from AgAmerica, most fuel distributors probably had no notice on how to administer the exemption prior to release of the bulletin on Aug 8, although the effective date was July 1. Purchases are not tax exempt until the appropriate forms are completed. At this time, we have not heard whether there is (or will be) a procedure to recover sales taxes paid on fuel purchases after July 1st (but prior to certification) for irrigation use. A copy of form ST-A1 is enclosed for you. See line #14, and visit your supplier.

AgAmerica's Board Members:

Steve Whelchel (Chairman), Stephanie Chapman (Secretary-Treasurer), Don Tucker, Arthur Roney, Randy Coffee, David Leary, Kathy Weesner, Charles Hardin, and Eddie Green

Advisory Members:

Chuck Ellis (Dooly Extension), and Ken Lewis (Crisp Extension)

Staff: Phyllis Roney (Office Mgr./Pres.), Brad Sangster (Equipment Technician)

Funded by Southwest GA United Empowerment Zone, Crisp-Dooly Joint Development Authority, and USDA Rural Development; Cooperating with local Extension.

Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or religion in its programs or policies.

Our office will make special arrangements to accommodate persons with special access needs. Contact us at 268-8928.