

USDA-CSREES

## National Water Conference

Research, Extension and Education for  
Water Quality and Quantity

January 28-February 1, 2007

Marriott Savannah Riverfront

Savannah, Georgia

<http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/swetc/waterconf/2007/home07.htm>

**Symposium Title:** *Water Quantity Issues in the Eastern U.S.*

**Date and Time:** January 31, 2007 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Symposium Co-Chairs:**

Dr. David Radcliffe, Crop and Soil Sciences Department, University of Georgia

Dr. James E. (Jim) Hairston, Agronomy and Soils Department, Auburn University

**Abstract:**

The earth is a water-rich planet but availability of fresh water exactly when and where we need it has been a concern for humans since the earliest of times. We are fortunate that the United States is a relatively water-rich nation that receives an average annual precipitation of 30 inches per calendar year. However, this rainfall varies somewhat from year to year and substantially from one area of the country to another. Water quantity has always been an issue in arid regions of the western U.S. since that part of the nation was settled, but less of an issue in humid climates of the eastern states until the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the past decade, water quantity issues have risen in priority to place them on a level of public concern similar to that of water quality issues, which have dominated in the humid east for the past 100 years. Topics of discussion now include better water planning and management to meet future growth and development, water conservation, water infrastructure needs, how to deal with water use conflicts, and what types of policies and/or laws and regulations are needed to deal with arising water-use, water transfer and water marketing conflicts. This symposium will cover some of the issues and challenges the humid eastern states will face in coming years as the value of fresh water increases significantly and some regions of the country have to deal with water scarcity that could increasingly affect national security of the United States.

**Program Schedule, Presentation Titles and Presenters:**

- 1:00 – 1:30 *The difference between eastern and western U.S. water policy and how that impacts water issues and disputes* (J. Michael Jess, Assistant Director of the Water Center and Senior Lecturer, School of Natural Resource Sciences, University of Nebraska at Lincoln)
- 1:30 – 2:00 *Hydrological and hydro-illogical cycles: managing short-term droughts in the southeast* (Richard T. McNider, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Alabama in Huntsville)
- 2:00 – 2:30 *Importance of irrigation to farmers in the southeast* (Dennis Bragg, Tennessee River Valley farmer, Toney, Alabama)
- 2:30 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 3:30 *Agricultural irrigation effects on stream flow in the Georgia coastal plain* (James Hook, Professor of Crop and Soil Sciences in Soil, Water and Waste Management, University of Georgia, Tifton)
- 3:30 – 4:00 *Water wars, eastern style* (Robert H. “Bo” Abrams, Professor of Law, Florida A&M University Law School in Orlando, Florida)
- 4:00 – 4:30 *Water planning and conservation program in Georgia* (Alice Miller Keyes, Planning and Policy Advisor, Environmental Protection Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources in Atlanta invited)
- 4:30 – 5:00 Questions and Answers Session with Seated Panel