



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
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### **State employees reading agricultural irrigation water meters in December**

**DAWSON, Ga.** – If you see people in state vehicles out in the crop fields of South Georgia over the next few weeks, they may be Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission or Georgia Forestry Commission staff.

During the month of December, GSWCC staff, assisted by GFC employees, will be collecting water use data from meters installed on agricultural irrigation systems. Since 2003, over 13,000 water meters have been installed to monitor agricultural water usage in Georgia. Information from these meters assist policy makers in better understanding agricultural water use in the state and help agricultural producers improve their water use efficiency. During these field visits, GSWCC staff will also be completing routine maintenance of one quarter of the meters.

“The annual reading and maintenance process is a cornerstone of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission’s agricultural water use program,” explained Brent Dykes, GSWCC executive director. “We appreciate the cooperation of producers across the state and commend them for their water conservation efforts.”

“If a farmer sees an individual in their fields, they should feel free to ask for proper identification. State employees collecting meter readings carry identification and will answer any questions.”

Agricultural irrigation wells and surface water pumps permitted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) must have a measurement device installed. The GSWCC has oversight of the program.

Anyone with questions about the metering program is welcome to contact the GSWCC Office in Dawson at 229-995-6001.

The GSWCC supports locally-led soil and water conservation districts through education, technical, financial and planning assistance and through program oversight.

More information on protecting, conserving and improving Georgia’s soil and water resources is available on the GSWCC website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov> or by calling (706) 552-4470.

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