



March 15, 2019

Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Social media:  

March 21 Vegetable Growers Meeting: Please plan to attend the UF/IFAS SWFREC Vegetable Growers Meeting on Thursday, March 21, from 9:30am to 1:00pm. SWFREC vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts will present “Update on Foliar Disease Management on Watermelon: Gummy Stem Blight, Downy Mildew, Powdery Mildew.” Other presentations will include “Update on Management of Fusarium Wilt on Watermelon” by Dr. Nick Dufault, UF/IFAS Plant Pathology Department, Gainesville, and “Breeding for Disease Management in Watermelon” by Dr. Geoffrey Meru, UF/IFAS Horticultural Sciences Department, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead. Available CEUs will include two Ag Row Crop, two Private Applicator Ag Pest Control, and two Demonstration and Research. For a complete agenda, click here: [https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-03-21-Vegetable Meeting.pdf](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-03-21-Vegetable%20Meeting.pdf). To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.



Honors Awarded:

- Rajendra Sishodia, a post-doctoral associate in the water resources engineering program, was elected 2019 vice chair of programs for the Florida Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. He is leading committee efforts to organize the group's conference portion of its convention in Delray Beach in June.
- Xue Zhou, a Ph.D. student in the precision ag engineering program, won "Best Overall 1st Year Graduate" in the UF/IFAS Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department's poster symposium this week in Gainesville. Her poster was titled "An Overview of Robotic Application in Strawberry Picking and Harvesting." The honor includes a \$175 award.

Conference Representation:

- Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and graduate assistant Biwek Gairhe participated in the Florida Weed Science Society Annual Meeting earlier this month in Haines City. Dr. Kanissery presented "Evaluation of Hydrogels as Pre-emergent Herbicide Carriers in Vegetable Plasticulture" and Gairhe presented "Effect of Glyphosate on Premature Citrus Fruit Drop."

Visiting Seminar: Precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis recently presented a seminar on artificial intelligence applications in agriculture to the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of California, Davis. To view an article about his talk, click here: <https://bae.engineering.ucdavis.edu/blog/dr-yiannis-ampatzidis-talks-about-ai-applications-in-agriculture/>.



Seminar Series Talk: Ag and natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade recently presented “Specialty Crop Growers’ Adoption of Best Management Practices and Precision Agriculture Technologies: Preliminary Data from Florida Surveys” as part of the Friday Seminar series at the UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade.

Celebrating Citrus at the Estates: A February event in Fort Myers celebrated the unveiling of the a fifty-tree citrus grove at the historical Edison and Ford Winter Estates. The Henry Ford Citrus Grove will provide a new visitor experience that complements the historic and botanical encounters currently offered at the estates. In addition, the tourist attraction is partnering with UF/IFAS among other entities to shape classes, presentations, and lectures centered on the grove, agriculture, and the business of agriculture.

SWFREC center director Dr. Kelly Morgan was among the speakers at the event. Other speakers included Jim Gravley, director of citrus operations at Old Florida Citrus, who created the grove design and determined varieties that were planted. He is currently the chair of the SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee.

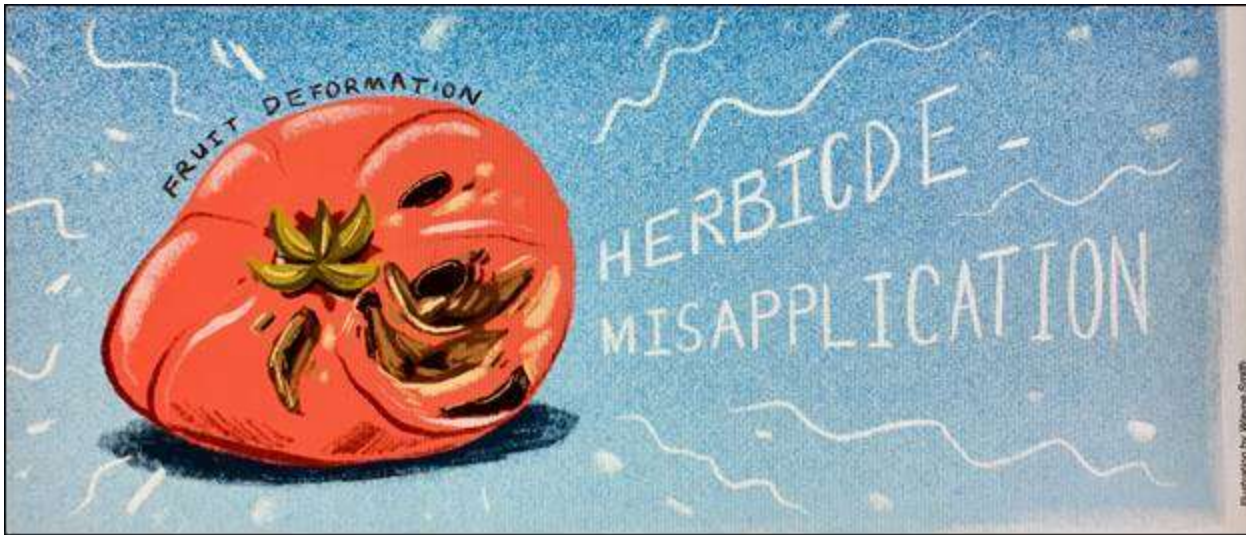


Dr. Kelly Morgan speaks in front of young citrus trees with protective covers.

The newly planted grove is highlighted in UF/IFAS senior vice president Dr. Jack Payne's UF/IFAS Citrus State column that appears in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine. Dr. Payne promotes the fact that 300,000 people visit the estates each year and the grove and its accompanying materials and tours will help those visitors learn more about Florida's citrus industry past and present.

Trade Journal Publications:

- Plant Physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht co-authored the article "Studying Citrus Roots in the HLB Era" in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine. To view the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-physiology/2019-03-Albrecht_CitrusIndustry.pdf.
- "Hydrogels as Herbicide Carriers" (weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and lab technician Camille McAvoy are authors) and "Suppress the Weeds, Not the Crop: Understanding Herbicide Injury in Tomatoes Can Help Growers Protect Their Investment" (Dr. Kanissery and McAvoy are two co-authors) are two articles published in the March issue of Vegetable and Specialty Crop News. They were included in the magazine's "Get Out of the Weeds" section. To see the first article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2019-03-Kanissery_McAvoy_VegetableSpecialtyCropNews.pdf. To see the second article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2019-03-Herbicides%20phytotoxicity_VSC.pdf.



Blog Item/Research Promoted: A UF/IFAS Communications Services Blog titled “Drone Images Can Accurately Find, Count Citrus Trees” has been picked up by numerous trade publications and web sites, including the March 14 online issue of Citrus Industry This Week. The article spotlights research being conducted by precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis. To view the article, written by UF/IFAS’ Brad Buck, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2019/03/12/drone-images-can-accurately-find-count-citrus-trees/>. In addition, an article titled “Focus Sharpens to Defend Florida Avocados from Deadly Disease” that appears in the March issue of Florida Grower magazine features research being conducted by Dr. Ampatzidis to use drone-powered, remote imaging technology to help growers by sensing laurel wilt disease symptoms before they even appear. To view the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/2019-03-Ampatzidis_FLGrower.pdf.

Upcoming Events:

March 21, 2019, 9:30am-1:00pm

Vegetable Growers Meeting

SWFREC

For more information, see above, or click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-03-21-Vegetable_Meeting.pdf. To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

March 28, 2019, 8:30am-2:30pm

In-service Training: Smart Agriculture and Smart Technologies

SWFREC

Presentations/demos to include precision ag, weed science, ag resource economics, and citrus pathology. To see the full agenda, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-28-03-Ampatzidis_In_Service_Training_Agenda.pdf. To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

April 2, 2019, 8:00am-3:30pm

2019 Annual Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

Avon Park Campus of South Florida Community College

To see the agenda and register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-florida-citrus-growers-institute-registration-56334344541>.

April 3, 2019, 9:00am-4:00pm

Remote Pilot Certificate Training

UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy (same training session will be offered at SWFREC in the near future; details to come)

In order to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA under the Small UAS (Part 107) rule, you must pass the initial aeronautical knowledge exam. This training will prepare you to pass this exam and obtain your certificate.

Registration information:

- UF Faculty and Staff Registration link (password: Gator2019): <https://bit.ly/2Moio3w>. No cost.
- Farmer or Commercial Operator Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2AVzy44>. Cost is \$75.

April 4, 2019, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Agriculture Stakeholder Forum

SWFREC

FDOT District One and UF/IFAS are hosting a session to convey information on some of the latest efforts and policy implications in the transport of agricultural products. For agenda details and registration information, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/201-04-04-Ag_stakeholder_forum.pdf.

April 10, 2019, 7:45am-6:45pm

Certified Crop Advisor Workshop

SWFREC

For those who hold a Certified Crop Advisor license ONLY. Ten CEUs will be offered in nutrient and pest management. The second registration announcement has been emailed to CCAs.

April 12, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting

SWFREC

To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

April 18, 2019, 9:00am-1:00pm

Spring Citrus Field Day

SWFREC

Eight SWFREC faculty members will present information about their citrus research. CEUs will be available. For more information and a detailed agenda, click

here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-04-18-Spring-Citrus-Field-Day.pdf>. To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

April 23, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Foundation Board Meeting

SWFREC

To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

April 24, 2019, 9:00am-12:00pm

In-service Training: Plant Disease & Herbicide Phytotoxicity in Vegetables

SWFREC

Program will be presented by vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts and weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and will be open to extension agents and growers. More information to come soon.

April 25, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm

Citrus Squeezer: Soil Microbes, Soil Amendments, and Biostimulants During the HLB ERA

SWFREC

Soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss will present “Examining the Interactions of Soil Microbes with Soil Amendments and Citrus Growth” and plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht will present “Can Beneficial Microbes and Other Soil Amendments Improve Citrus Tree Health under HLB-endemic Conditions?” For more information, click

here: [https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-04-25-](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-04-25-Citrus_Seminar.pdf)

[Citrus Seminar.pdf](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-04-25-Citrus_Seminar.pdf). To register, contact Dr. Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092 or via email at maz@ufl.edu.

May 3 and 4, 2019, 7:30am-1:00pm

29th Annual UF/IFAS Farm Safety Day

SWFREC

Same program offered both days. For more information and registration details, click

here: [https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-05-03-04-](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-05-03-04-FarmSafetyDay.pdf)

[FarmSafetyDay.pdf](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-05-03-04-FarmSafetyDay.pdf). Session topics will be available soon.

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