



June 27, 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:  

Dorm Fundraiser Deemed a Success

Funding for a new graduate student dormitory at SWFREC has been secured! Donors contributed generously toward the project, and the Southwest Florida Research and Education Foundation not only agreed to match 30 cents on the dollar for the first \$100,000 of donations but also provided the remaining funds necessary to enable the center to reach the \$300,000 mark needed to initiate construction until the additional donations can be raised. That means groundbreaking for the new dorm will occur very soon. The building will house eight students. Graduate students are cornerstones to research and extension programs, and the knowledge gained through their research efforts contributes toward finding solutions to the production, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the agricultural and natural resource communities. As SWFREC's faculty roster has increased, so too has the number of quality students completing their master's and Ph.D. degrees at the center. This new dorm will ensure safe on-site housing for these students who contribute so much to center programs and the success of southwest Florida growers.



UF/IFAS Senior Vice President Announces Retirement

Dr. Jack Payne, UF/IFAS senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, has announced his plans to retire next June. In his announcement, Dr. Payne said, “When (former UF) President Bernie (Machen) hired me, I told him I’d give him 10 years. It’s a big job. You’re overseeing 2,000 faculty and last year my total expenditures were about \$400 million. Announcing my decision now will allow the President the time to organize a search and hopefully identify a successful candidate by the time I leave.” In an administrative memo released earlier this month, UF president Dr. W. Kent Fuchs lauded Payne for his numerous accomplishments in his nine-year tenure and his willingness to announce his departure early to give the university time to form a committee to search for his replacement.



UF/IFAS Takes on Hemp Research



More than 120 growers and other industry representatives participated in the UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Update at SWFREC earlier this month. The seminar, presented by UF/IFAS Assistant Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Jerry Fankhauser, was designed to educate people about the purpose, approvals, and current efforts of the UF/IFAS project. Trials have already begun at eight permitted UF/IFAS locations, including the Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, the main campus in Gainesville, and the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka. Projects include identifying hemp varieties suitable for planting in Florida, developing hemp management practices and cropping systems economically viable for Florida, and assessing hemp invasion risk in Florida's natural and built environments.

"The two-year pilot projects are industry funded," says SWFREC center director Dr. Kelly Morgan, who has had several discussions with Fankhauser about initiating industrial hemp projects at the center. "We are willing to cooperate with industry entities that are interested. Once funding is in place, the permitting process moves fairly quickly."

SWFREC Well Represented at FSHS

Eleven different SWFREC faculty, staff, and students made presentations at the 132nd Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society this month in Orlando:

- Entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi: Management of silverleaf whitefly and tomato yellow leaf curl virus with insecticides in field grown tomatoes. He also served as vice president of the citrus program section for the conference.
- Graduate student John Santiago: Influence of soil type on citrus rhizosphere composition.
- Graduate student Daniel Boakye: Phenology of Valencia and hamlin sweet oranges on two different rootstocks.
- Graduate student Susmita Gaire: Effect of individual protective covers (IPC) on physiology and growth of citrus trees.
- Graduate student Shahrzad Bodaghi: Rootstock effects and influence of propagation method on traits of grafted sweet orange trees.
- Entomology ag assistant Monica Triana: Residual toxicological effects of Afidopyropen on adult Asian citrus psyllid.
- Graduate student Biwek Gairhe: Effect of glyphosate on premature citrus fruit drop.
- Food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug: Establishing a scientific basis for buffer zones following animal intrusion.
- Precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis: Smart sprayer for precision weed management utilizing machine vision and artificial intelligence.
- Plant physiology biological scientist Bo Meyering: Using plant growth regulators to reduce bolting in cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*).
- Center director and soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan: Use of ET and soil moisture sensor data for irrigation decision of trees and row crops; Types of sensors and their application and cost.

SWFREC weed science lab technician Dr. Cami McAvoy served as the conference program coordinator.

Upcoming Events:

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

SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting

SWFREC

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

July 17, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Foundation Board Meeting

SWFREC

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

July 24, 2019, 8:30am-4:30pm

Certified Pile Burner Training/Exam

SWFREC

Cost is \$50. Course limited to 50 people. For more information and registration form, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-07-24-FL_Certified_Pile_Burner_Training.pdf.

August 14-15, 2019

Citrus Expo and Vegetable and Specialty Crop Expo

Lee Civic Center, North Fort Myers

SWFREC will have six speakers at the event: for citrus, horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez, soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan, and plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht; for vegetables, pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, and food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug.

For more information and registration details, click here: <http://citrusexpo.net/>.

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