



March 6, 2020

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/>

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You're Invited: VP Candidate Seminars

Finalists have been announced for the UF/IFAS Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources position. You are invited to watch seminar presentations from Gainesville via videoconference in the SWFREC auditorium. The schedule is below. To see CVs for the candidates, click here and scroll down to "Candidate Details": <https://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/talent-search/vice-president-for-ifas/>.

March 9, 2020, 8:30-9:45am

Dr. Alan Sams

Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Director, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Oregon State University

March 11, 2020, 8:30-9:45am

Dr. Nick Place

Dean and Director, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida

March 16, 2020, 1:30-2:45pm

Dr. Paul Patterson

Dean, College of Agriculture, and Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University

March 30, 2020, 1:30-2:45pm

Dr. Scott Angle

Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture

Spotlight on: Drone Use in Tomato Production

Since a peer-reviewed journal article was published in late 2019, a research project utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles and artificial intelligence to detect disease in tomato crops has garnered increasing interest among media outlets. In addition to trade journal articles, interviews and reports have been completed by these entities:

- “UF Researchers Use Drones to Detect Tomato Diseases with 99% Accuracy” is a story published online by WGCU, the public radio station at Florida Gulf Coast University. Reporter Andrea Perdomo’s story, which includes interviews with precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis and plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, was posted in early February and can be viewed and listened to here: <https://news.wgcu.org/post/uf-researchers-use-drones-detect-tomato-diseases-99-accuracy>.
- “Researchers Use Drones in Immokalee to Spot Diseases in Farm Crops” is a story that recently aired on WINK-TV. Collier County news reporter Stephanie Byrne interviewed Dr. Ampatzidis on a commercial farm in Immokalee and took video footage of a drone flying over tomato crops to detect disease (see photos below). To see and read her story, click here: <https://www.winknews.com/2020/03/02/researchers-use-drones-in-immokalee-to-spot-diseases-in-farm-crops/>.

The original journal article, “**Detection of Target Spot and Bacterial Spot Diseases in Tomato Using UAV-based and benchtop-based hyperspectral imaging techniques,**” was published in Precision Agriculture. Post-doc associate Dr. Jaafar Abdulridha, precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, engineer Sri Kakarla, and plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts are first-fourth authors, respectively. To see the full article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/2019-11-30_Ampatzidis_Roberts_Diseases_tomatoes_Precision_Agriculture.pdf.



Articles Highlight Research, Event

- Research presented by water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla at a vegetable growers meeting in February was highlighted in an online article for Vegetable and Specialty Crop News. Writer Ernie Neff's article, "Advantages of Compact Beds," is based on Dr. Shukla's presentation, "**Conventional and Compact Bed Plasticulture for Drip-irrigated Fresh Produce: Management and Production Risks.**" The article promotes his research on the benefits of alternative vegetable bed geometries to conserve fertilizer, water, and fumigation materials. To read Neff's article, click here: <http://vscnews.com/advantages-of-compact-beds/>.
- An item included in "The Buzz," Ernie Neff's regular section in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine, spotlighted the **SWFREC Discussion of Local Ag Issues with Legislators** event this past December. The item, "Best Management Practices," notes that the session speakers and panelists emphasized key topics of interest to growers and urban activists. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/soil-water/2020-03-Morgan-BMP-Citrus-Industry.pdf>.

UF Departments Rank Well

Universities.com, an internet service that provides prospective college students with information related to schools that have the best programs, recently released its rankings of departments of US universities. The ag-related program rankings and UF's rank include the following programs:

Food Science: #1

Wildlife and Fisheries: #1

Horticultural Sciences: #2

Forestry: #2

Entomology: #3

Plant Pathology: #5

Agricultural Engineering: #6

Trade Journal Publications

Two articles in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine discuss research being conducted by SWFREC faculty:

- **“Weed Control May Help Psyllid Management”** (weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is first author). To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2020-03-Kanissery_Citrus-Industry.pdf.
- **“Effect of Planting Density and Enhanced Nutrition on Grapefruit”** (center director and soil scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan is a co-author). To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/soil-water/2020-03-Morgan-Citrus-Industry.pdf>.

An article in the March issue of Vegetable and Specialty Crop News, **“Using Steam for Weed Management,”** is authored by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis. To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2020-03-Kanissery-Ampatzidis_VegetableSpecialtyCropNews.pdf.



Extension Publication

“Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees, Third Edition” will be available soon on the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) web site. Center director (and soil scientist) Dr. Kelly Morgan is an editor of the publication. To see a draft version, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/soil-water/EDIS_SL253_Nutrition_FL_Citrus_Trees.pdf.

Notice: Possible Graft Incompatibility

Recently, some apparent graft compatibility issues affecting the new citrus rootstock US-1283 and particular scions were noticed. To read a brief statement about this, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-physiology/2020-02-14-Albrecht_Notice-possible-graft-incompatibility.pdf. For further information, contact SWFREC plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht (ualbrecht@ufl.edu) or Dr. Kim Bowman (Kim.bowman@usda.gov), research geneticist with USDA ARS in Fort Pierce.

Operation Clean Sweep

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announces the 2019-2020 Operation Clean Sweep program, a mobile pesticide collection effort that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides. The free service is available to farms/groves, greenhouses, nurseries, golf courses, and pest control entities. For more information, including how to sign up, click here: <https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/operation-cleansweep-pesticides>.

Upcoming Events:

March 18, 2020, 8:30am-1:30pm

Grower Workshop/In-service Training: Beneath the Citrus Canopy: Weeds, Roots, and Microbes

SWFREC

Presentations will include **“Understanding Effective and Tree-Safe Weed Management in Citrus”** (weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery), **“The Importance of Rootstocks for Florida Citrus Production”** (plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht), and **“Building Healthy Soils for Citrus”** (soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss). Hands-on training will also be conducted. For complete agenda, CEU availability, and registration information, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-03-18-IST-Grower-Meeting.pdf>.

April 8, 2020, 7:30am-6:30pm

Certified Crop Advisor Workshop

SWFREC

For holders of a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) license ONLY. Registration information will be sent via email to CCAs soon.

April 14, 2020, 8am-3pm

Florida Citrus Growers’ Institute

Avon Park, FL

SWFREC speakers will include: weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery (**“Beyond Glyphosate: Alternatives to Consider Adding to a Citrus Weed Management Program”**), plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht (**“Trunk Injection: Considerations and Results from Whole Tree Studies”**), and entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi (**“Strengthening and Diversifying Citrus Pest Management”**). For detailed agenda and to register, click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-florida-citrus-growers-institute-registration-94227407713>.

April 17, 2020, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting

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

April 21, 2020, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee Meeting

SWFREC

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

Multiple April 2020 Dates and Times

UF/IFAS Collier County Extension Service, Naples

SWFREC food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug will be among the speakers at these events:

- **Beyond Basic Produce Safety: A Hands-on Analysis, April 23.** A one-day course targeted at those who have already attended a food safety training and are looking for a more in-depth and hands-on experience. Cost is \$35. For more information and to register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-basic-produce-food-safety-a-hands-on-analysis-naples-registration-88678386441>.
- **Build Your Own Farm Food Safety Plan, April 24.** A one-day interactive course that covers the various third-party audit options and their respective food safety plan requirements and templates. Cost is \$35. For more information and to register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/build-your-own-farm-food-safety-plan-naples-registration-88728061019>.
- **Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, April 28.** A one-day course for fruit and vegetable growers and packers who fall under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. Cost is \$25. For more information and to register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/produce-safety-alliance-grower-training-course-naples-registration-83991457711>.

May 1 & 2, 2020, 7:30am-1:30pm

30th Annual Farm Safety Day

SWFREC

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

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-05-0102-Farm-Safety-Day.pdf>.

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