



November 12, 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.

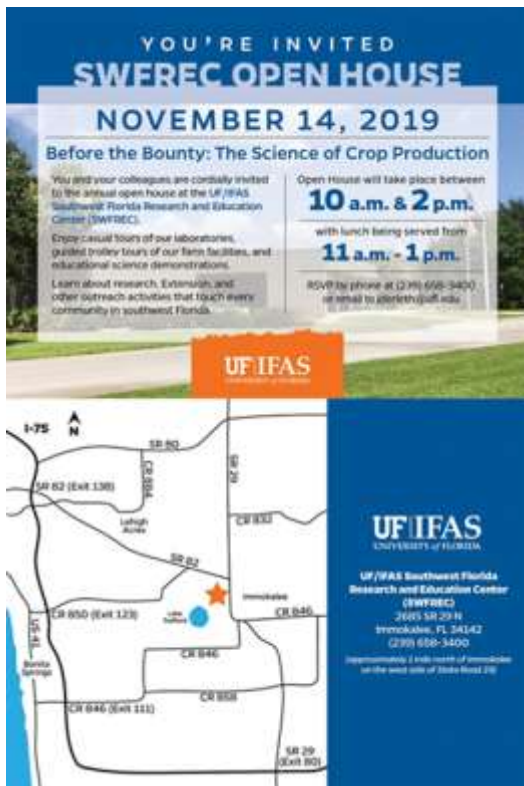
Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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### **Last Chance to Register for Nov. 14 SWFREC Open House!**

The Annual SWFREC Open House is set for this Thursday, November 14! **“Before the Bounty: The Science of Crop Production”** is the theme of the event, which will run from **10:00am to 2:00pm**. Board tractor-powered trolleys for narrated tours of our vegetable fields and citrus grove, learn about research being conducted in our laboratories, experience educational science demonstrations (and vote for your favorite), and learn about UF/IFAS Extension and other outreach opportunities available in southwest Florida. Lunch will be served from 11:00am to 1:00pm. To reserve your spot, please call 239-658-3400 or e-mail [jderleth@ufl.edu](mailto:jderleth@ufl.edu) today!



## Faculty Participate in Recent Conferences

- Natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade presented two talks: **“The Electronic Logging Device Mandate and Possible Implications for Fresh Produce Transportation”** at the 2019 Food Distribution Research Society Conference in Seattle and **“Florida Best Management Practice Adoption: Exploring Multiple-BMP Use”** via videoconference as part of the UF/IFAS Central District Agricultural BMPs Quarterly Meeting.
- Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez presented a talk: **“Mandarin Varieties for North Florida, What to Plant and Why”** and **“Young Tree Management for Fresh Fruit in North Florida”** at the Citrus Production Practices for Establishing Groves in North Florida conference at the UF/IFAS Taylor County Extension office in Perry.
- Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy participated in five conferences: the National Association of County Agriculture Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was installed as the group’s 2020 president; the Florida Tomato Committee Meeting at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, where he was named 2019 Tomato Researcher of the Year; the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Orlando, where he was named Extension Professional of the Year; the 36th Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Continued Training Conference in Orlando, where he presented **“A Historical Perspective of Florida Agriculture and Look at Water Management in Florida”**; and served as part of a panel discussion focused on water quality and estuary health at a meeting of the UF/IFAS Natural Resource Leadership Institute in Fort Myers.

## Extension Publication

The following articles were recently published on the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source web site ([www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu)):

- **“Fusarium Wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Niveum*) of Watermelon.”** Vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts is first author. To read the full article, click here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PP/PP35200.pdf>.
- **“Citrus Nursery Production Guide, Chapter 8: Stock Plant and Tree Production: c) Weed Management in Citrus Nurseries.”** Master’s student Biwek Gairhe and weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery are first and second authors, respectively. To read the full article, click here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS134400.pdf>.

## TV Reports Spotlight Research

Two TV news station crews recently visited the center to learn about weed-steaming research being conducted by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis. They created a boom for a tractor that converts water into steam as a non-chemical spray method to control weeds. The prototype is being tested in the center’s vegetable fields and citrus grove and is drawing interest from commercial growers. To see the NBC-2 story, click here: <https://www.nbc-2.com/story/41241230/uf-researchers-discover-less-environmentally-harmful-method-for-killing-weeds>. To see the WINK-TV story, click here: <https://www.winknews.com/2019/10/22/eco-friendly-solution-steam-could-be-the-next-breakthrough-in-fighting-weeds/>.

## Article Spotlights Pepper Disease Research

Brad Buck, a writer with UF/IFAS Communications Services, has written an article about vegetable research being conducted by pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts. His story, **“UF/IFAS Leads Multistate Research to Reduce Pepper Disease; Boost Production,”** has been picked up by numerous news outlets. It focuses on bacterial spot, a disease that causes severe defoliation, which makes plants less healthy and therefore less productive of quality fruit. To read Buck's story as it appeared online, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2019/10/07/graduate-students-play-big-role-in-research/>.

## 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:**

**November 18, 2019**

**KIWI Unmanned Aerial Utility Vehicle demo at SWFREC.**

SWFREC

For schedule and registration information, [click here](#)

**November 19-20, 2019**

**UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Training**

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For schedule and registration information, click here:

[https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/economics/SWFREC\\_FarmLaborSupervisorTrainingProgramFlyer2019.jpg](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/economics/SWFREC_FarmLaborSupervisorTrainingProgramFlyer2019.jpg)

**December 16, 2019, 1:00-3:00pm**

**Discussion of Local Agriculture Issues with Legislators**

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For agenda and registration information, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-12-16-Legislative-Meeting-Flyer.pdf>.

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