



July 28, 2020

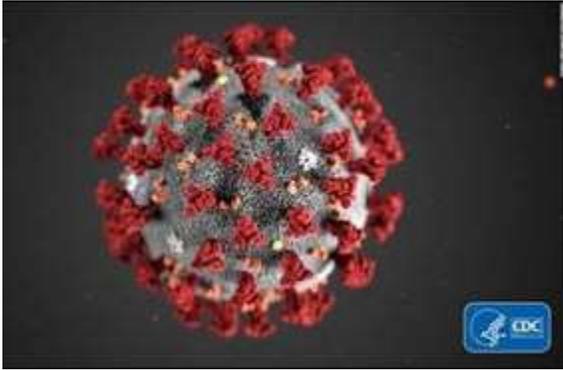
Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

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

Social media:  

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SWFREC COVID-19 Update

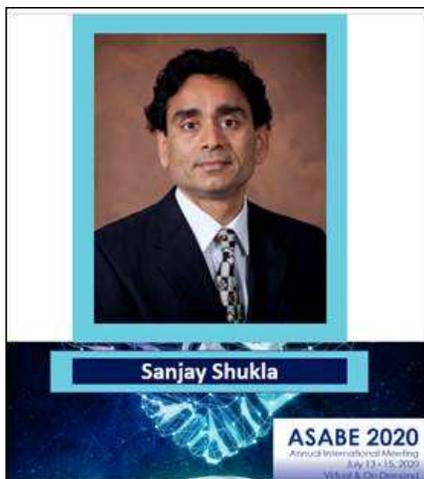
SWFREC faculty, graduate students, and staff have resumed data collection at the center and on cooperative grower farms. Research continues to be conducted in our grove, fields, greenhouses, screenhouses, and laboratories. In addition, vegetable fields are being prepared for new plantings for the fall crop. (see photos)

Some SWFREC faculty and staff continue to work remotely, but several have returned to work at the center on a staggered-schedule basis. A center-wide safety plan that includes hand sanitizing stations and the requirement to wear masks is in place. For safety reasons, grower meetings continue to be offered solely virtually. We will make an announcement when we begin to schedule and plan in-person meetings utilizing proper social distancing protocol. In the meantime, to be prudent and provide the best service possible while keeping our clientele and our staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, grower clientele should continue to contact faculty and staff via e-mail addresses provided on our web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



Faculty Wins Prestigious Association Award

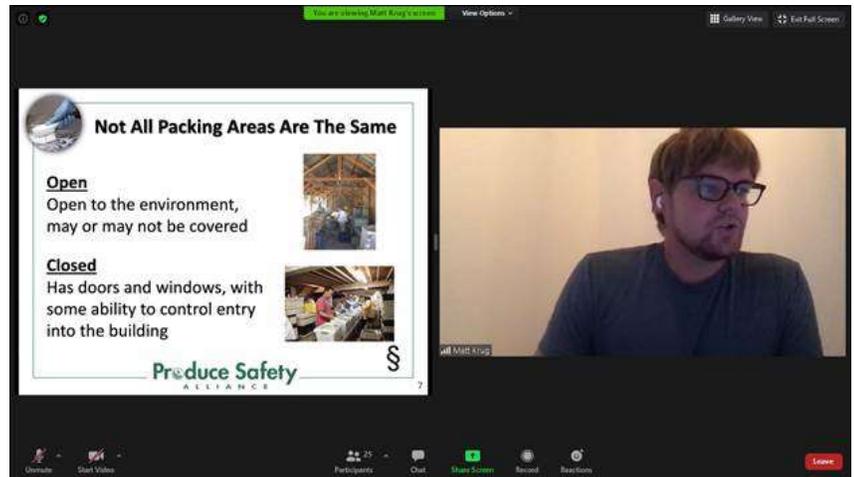
Water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla was awarded the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Netafim Award for Advancements in Microirrigation during its annual virtual meeting this month. He was recognized for his “work designing resilient and more efficient drip-irrigated systems and advancing the understanding of water and nutrient fluxes for plasticmulched systems for enhanced economic and environmental sustainability.” To read more information about the award and Dr. Shukla’s microirrigation research, click here: <https://www.asabe.org/Awards-Competitions/Major-Awards/Netafim-Award-for-Advancements-in-Microirrigation>.



SWFREC Specialists Present Research Virtually

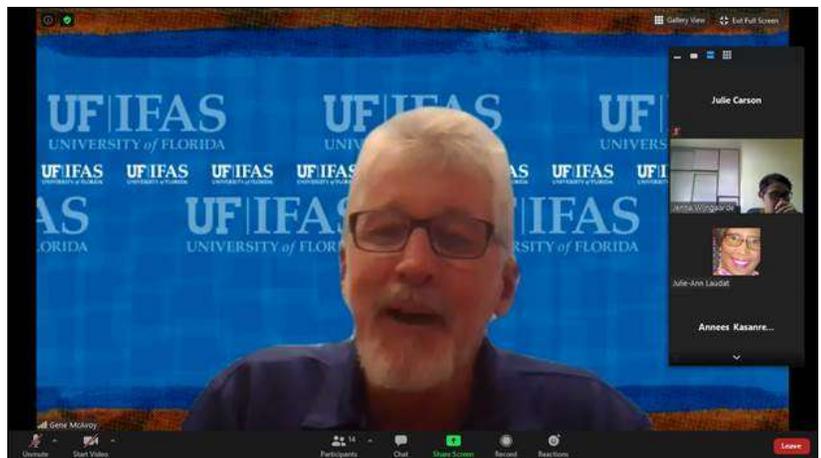
Five SWFREC researchers have made presentations to growers and other scientists recently:

- Food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug presented **“Postharvest Handling and Sanitation”** as part of the UF/IFAS Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training. Twenty-six growers participated.



- Two members of the precision agriculture team made presentations during the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Annual International Meeting. Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis presented **“UAV- and Cloud-based Application for High Throughput Phenotyping Utilizing Deep Learning.”** Post-doc research associate Dr. Jaafar Abdulridha presented **“Remote Sensing Technique to Identify and Detect Three Tomato Diseases: Bacterial Spot, Target Spot, and Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus in the Field”** and **“Combining Steam Application with Herbicides: An Integrated Weed Management Strategy in Citrus for Reducing the Chemical Footprint.”**
- Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery presented **“Research Update: Glyphosate Alternatives in Citrus Production”** during a board meeting of the SWFREC Foundation. His research was recently featured in an article published on the Citrus Industry web site. To read the story, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2020/07/22/alternatives-to-glyphosate-in-groves/>.

- Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy presented **“Integrated Pest Management”** to twenty-one farmers located in the Eastern Caribbean. His talk was part of a project funded by the European Union (EU) to educate small growers in sustainable integrated pest management and safe pesticide usage to help them meet EU requirements for imported produce.



Citrus Institute Presentation Now Accessible

A second SWFREC presentation from the UF/IFAS Florida Citrus Growers Institute program is now available. Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery's talk, "**Beyond Glyphosate: Alternatives to Consider Adding to a Citrus Weed Management Program,**" can be found here: <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2020/>. CEU information is also available. The final SWFREC Institute presentation, by entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi ("Strengthening and Diversifying Citrus Pest Management") should be available soon.

Article Promotes Hurricane Guide

An article authored by UF/IFAS Communications writer Brad Buck has been picked up by multiple media outlets, continuing to promote a new hurricane guide for citrus growers. "UF/IFAS Experts Outline Hurricane Prep, Recovery for Citrus Growers" spotlights the "**Florida Citrus Producers Guide,**" the document recently published on the USDA's Hurricane Preparation and Recovery Commodity Guides web site. The publication is coauthored by SWFREC citrus pathologist Dr. Fernando Alferez and UF/IFAS multi-county citrus agent Dr. Mongi Zekri. To access the guide, click here:

https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Citrus%20Producers%20Guide_SE_1.pdf.

Buck's article notes that Dr. Alferez was requested by the USDA's Southeast Climate Hub to develop a technical manual to help citrus producers in the southeastern United States build a resilience to and recover from tropical storms and hurricanes. Buck and Alferez stress that inland groves are as much at risk of storms as those nearer to Florida coasts. The article shares tips for growers to prepare for storms and steps to take after a storm event occurs. To see Buck's article published in a few places online, click the links below:

<https://www.morningagclips.com/uf-ifas-experts-outline-hurricane-prep-recovery-for-citrus-growers/>.

<http://vscnews.com/uf-ifas-experts-hurricane-citrus-growers/>.

<http://citrusindustry.net/2020/07/16/new-hurricane-guide-for-citrus-growers/>.

<https://www.growingamerica.com/news/2020/07/ufifas-experts-outline-hurricane-prep-recovery-citrus-growers>.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- "**Involvement of Phospholipases and Sucrose in Carbon Starvation-induced Non-chilling Peel Pitting in Citrus Fruits**" (citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez is second author), Postharvest Biology and Technology, issue 169. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/citrus-hort/2020-07-10-Alferez-phospholipases-sucrose-citrus-fruit-Elsevier.pdf>.
- "**Detecting Powdery Mildew Disease in Squash at Different Stages Using UAV-based Hyperspectral Imaging and Artificial Intelligence**" (authors post-doc associate Dr. Jaafar Abdulridha, precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, and engineer Sri Kakarla), Biosystems Engineering, issue 97. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/2020-07-01-Ampatzidiz-Roberts-Science-Direct.pdf>.

- **“Characterization of Three Novel Genetic Loci Encoding Bacteriocins Associated with *Xanthomonas perforans*”** (vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts is seventh author), PLOS ONE, volume 15, issue 5. To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-path/2020-05-29-Roberts-Bacterial_spot-PlosOne.pdf.
- **“A Rapid Fluorescence-based Real-time Isothermal Assay for the Detection of Cucurbit Yellow Stunting Disorder Virus in Squash and watermelon plants”** (vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts is second author), Molecular and Cellular Probes, volume 53. To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-path/20202-05-31-Roberts-Cucurbit_Elsevier.pdf.

SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh

SWFL Direct to Market Producers can now list their business profile on the SWFL Fresh web site. “SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh” is a brand created by UF/IFAS Extension and



the SWFL Regional Planning Council to connect consumers with local producers. If you are a producer selling any direct to market or local sold products, create your profile by clicking the website and scrolling down to “Producers Register Now!”: www.swflfresh.com. For more information or to be involved in future development of this brand, contact Jessica Ryals, food systems agent, UF/IFAS Collier County Extension, Naples, at jessicaryals@ufl.edu.

Extension Publications Provide Virus Info

To read articles written by UF/IFAS faculty and staff about the Coronavirus, you can visit the Electronic Data Information Source here: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_covid19.

Graduate Student Residence Progress Photos





Upcoming Events

August 4, 10:00am-12:00pm—online only

SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97533030421>.

August 19

Farm Labor Supervisor Training: COVID-19 Farm Labor Crew Leader—Protecting Your Farm Labor Workers (online only)

English and Spanish instruction simultaneously. Additional information to be e-mailed soon.

August 19-20

Citrus/Vegetable Specialty Crop Expos—Virtual Seminars (several SWFREC presentations will be included for both citrus and vegetable growers)

For additional information, click here: <http://citrusexpo.net/citrus-expo-same-great-educational-sessions-in-a-new-format/>.

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