



August 12, 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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Spotlight on SWFREC

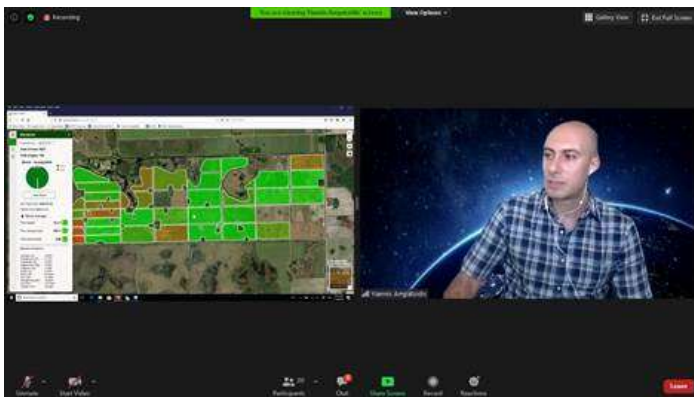
Several faculty, staff, and graduate students volunteered their time in June and July to assist a food distribution project in Immokalee. Headquartered at a Lipman Family Farms packinghouse, tasks included bagging fresh produce, packing food boxes, and directing traffic in the drive-thru operation.



The event, which supplied food to hundreds upon hundreds of Immokalee families, was organized by the Benison Outreach Center (led by Frank Rincon) and aided by many local companies, growers, and agencies. Included was The Immokalee Foundation, which invited SWFREC to join the effort. [READ MORE](#)

Faculty Share Research Updates Virtually

- Dr. Ramdas Kanissery gave a talk to the UF/IFAS Southwest Extension District Green Team Meeting two weeks ago. His presentation was titled **“Glyphosate Alternative Research Update.”**
- Two faculty presented information to the SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee late last month: precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis gave a talk about his new Agrovieiw technology, which uses drones to not only count tree numbers and size but conduct nutrient analysis (left photo below). Ag natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade discussed early results of a new BMP adoption survey of growers.
- Three faculty presented information to the SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee earlier this month: ag and biological engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla (right photo below) discussed his raised-bed architecture program. Dr. Wade talked about the BMP adoption survey and Dr. Ampatzidis talked about Agrovieiw.



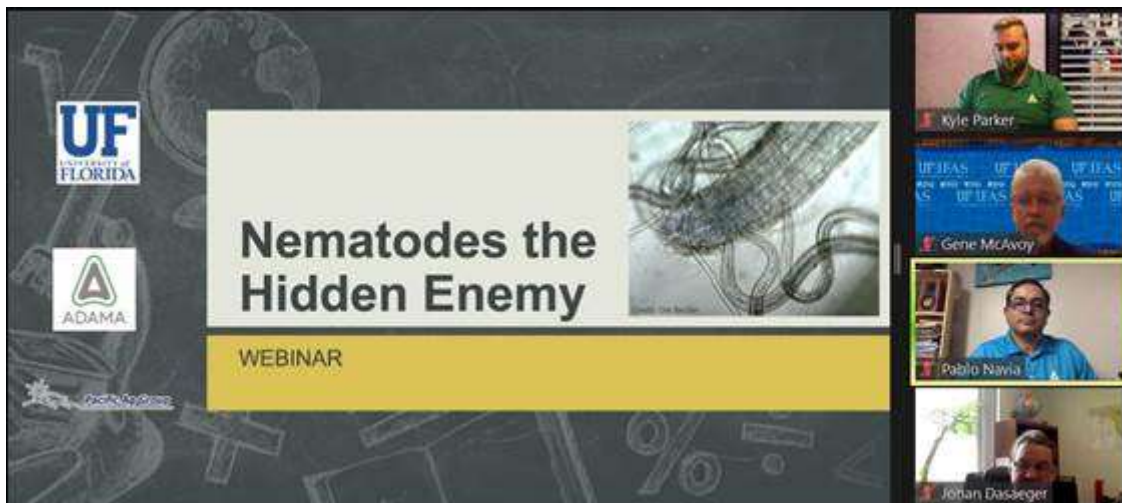
Articles Spotlight Faculty Member's Research

Brad Buck, a writer with UF/IFAS Communications Services, authored two articles about ag and biological engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla that have been picked up by various news outlets:

- “Recycle Phosphorus before it Goes into Public Waters” spotlights Shukla’s research on reusing phosphorus by utilizing on-farm ponds. Shukla is second author of an article, **“Valorization of Farm Pond Biomass as Fertilizer for Reducing Basin-scale Phosphorus Losses,”** published in the June issue of Science of the Total Environment journal. Buck’s article was featured in the Immokalee Bulletin. To see the story, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/water-resources/2020-08-06-Shukla-Recycle-phosphorus-before-goes-water_ImmokaleeBulletin.pdf.
- “UF/IFAS Engineer Earns National Honor for Work in Microirrigation” spotlights Shukla’s win of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers Netafim Award for Advancements in Microirrigation during its annual virtual meeting last 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.” One newspaper that picked up Buck’s article is the Immokalee Bulletin. To see the story, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/water-resources/2020-08-06-Shukla_earns-national-honor-ImmokaleeBulletin.pdf.

Virtual Meeting Draws Huge Crowd

An international science virtual meeting late last month drew amazing numbers in terms of participation. “Nematodes: The Hidden Enemy”, moderated by SWFREC associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy, had 242 attendees from thirty-six countries including Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, India, Nepal, South Africa, the United States, and more. McAvoy reports that the session included great educational presentations and conversation-inviting questions.



Refereed Journal Articles

- **“Development of an IPM Strategy for Thrips and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Processing Tomatoes in the Central Valley of California.”** Citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman is first author of this paper that focuses on his research while in California. Pathogens journal, volume 9, issue 8. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/citrus-pathology/2020-08-05-Batuman-IPM-Strategy-tomatoes-Pathogens.pdf>.
- **“Investigating the Use of Aquatic Weeds as Biopesticides towards Promoting Sustainable Agriculture.”** Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is fifth author. Plos One, August 5, 2020. To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2020-08-05-Kanissery_Aquatic-Weed-biopesticide_Agriculture-PlosOne.pdf.

Trade Journal Publications

- Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy’s **“Pest of the Month”** column in the July Florida Grower magazine focuses on the banded cucumber beetle as a vegetable pest. To read the story, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-07-McAvoy-Pest-of-the-month-FL-Growers.pdf>. The magazine’s editor also features McAvoy predominantly in the issue’s cover story, “Florida Growers Seek to Move Beyond Coronavirus.” It reports that while growers initially had to dump produce and disc under crops when COVID-19 first hit the area in March, things then began to look up. “Prices and demand made a dramatic turnaround for the better around the end of April and into May,” McAvoy says in the story. “We were seeing tomatoes and peppers bring about \$25 to \$27 per box. Green beans and sweet corn also were getting good prices. So, the season finished strong in South Florida.” To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-07-Mcavoy-Cover-Story-FLGrower.pdf>.
- **“Root Architecture, Propagation Method and Citrus Tree Growth.”** Plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht and master’s students Sameer Pokhrel are first and second authors, respectively, of this article in the August issue of Citrus Industry magazine. To read the article, click here and scroll to page 16: <http://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/DigitalEdition/index.html?id=795f7f65-d514-4bb2-8d16-8c65e3f09eee>.

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—planning for a late August/early September completion date



Upcoming Events

August 19, 10am-12pm—online only [This Training is full. Please see the August 25 date below; additional training dates will be announced soon]

UF/IFAS SWFREC Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program: COVID-19—Protecting Your Farm Labor Workers

English and Spanish instruction sessions simultaneously. For more info and registration details, click

here: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?eid=MnYxcmZncmRsY2hxNjRiNXZsbTlrOTBqcDUga3VlbzhtOGI5M3RtY2RqZmw4djN2bDAybTBAZw>.

August 19-20

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

For agenda and registration info, click here: <http://citrusexpo.net/>.

August 20, 2020, 10am-12pm—online only

SWFREC Vegetable Growers Meeting—Focus on Early Season Weed Management (will include “Managing Difficult Weeds in Vegetables” by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and “Precision and Smart Spraying Technology for Vegetables” by Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis.

For agenda and connection information, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-08-20-Vegetable-Growers-meeting-online.pdf>.

August 25, 1:00-3:00pm—online only

UF/IFAS SWFREC Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program: COVID-19—Protecting Your Farm Labor Workers

English and Spanish instruction sessions simultaneously. For more info and registration details, click

here: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?eid=M29rOW8yOHZqOG03bWZmdXNoNmhsOTZhdTkga3VlbzhtOGI5M3RtY2RqZmw4djN2bDAybTBAZw>.

September 9, 2020, 1:00-5:00pm—online only

Tomato Food Safety Workshop/T-GAP Renewal

SWFREC associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy is among the presenters. For agenda and registration info, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-09-19-Tomato-Food-Safety-Workshop.pdf>.

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