



September 15, 2020

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

Social media:



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.

In This Edition:

- [Spotlight on . . . Plant Diagnosis Clinic](#)
- [Dean Place Headed to Georgia](#)
- [Faculty in EPAF Spotlight](#)
- [McAvoy Featured in Ag Podcast](#)
- [Citrus Institute Presentation Now Accessible](#)
- [Volunteer Activity Makes Front Page](#)
- [Citrus and Specialty Crops Expos Feature SWFREC Research](#)
- [Refereed Journal Article](#)
- [Trade Journal Article](#)
- [SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh](#)
- [Extension Publications Provide Virus Info](#)
- [Graduate Student Residence Progress Photos](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Spotlight on . . . Plant Diagnosis Clinic



The UF/IFAS SWFREC Plant Diagnostic Clinic is open and receiving samples for weed, insect, and plant disease identification.

The clinic is a branch of the Florida Plant Diagnostic Network, a UF/IFAS plant pest diagnostic and reporting system, which helps first detectors submit plant samples, images, and detailed crop information for pest diagnosis.



Diagnosis services are for commercial, homeowner, and extension plant samples.

[READ MORE](#)

Dean Place Headed to Georgia

UF/IFAS Dean for Extension Dr. Nick Place has been named Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens. Dr. Place has served in his current role for the last eight years. His last day with UF/IFAS will be December 31.

“I congratulate UGA on recognizing that the best dean in the Extension business is the right person to lead CAES,” says Dr. Scott Angle, UF/IFAS Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “We will miss Nick’s vision, his skillful building of relationships with stakeholders and his clear and compelling communication. Please join me in celebrating his time at UF and congratulating our friend and colleague on the great opportunity he has earned to make a positive impact in a new role.”



Dr. Angle has appointed Dr. Elaine Turner, Dean of the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, chair of a search and screen committee tasked with identifying Dr. Place’s successor. He hopes to have a new dean on board in early 2021.

Faculty in EPAF Spotlight

Two SWFREC faculty members were included in recognition sessions during the virtual UF/IFAS Extension Professional Association of Florida Conference earlier this month.



Vegetable horticulturist **Dr. Phillip Williams** was included in the “New Extension Faculty” session.



Weed scientist **Dr. Ramdas Kanissery** was featured in the “Extension Awards” section for being named recipient of the Dallas Townsend Extension Professional Enhancement Award.

McAvoy Featured in Ag Podcast

Gene McAvoy, associate director for stakeholder relations, was featured in a recent podcast on the web site Cause Matters Corp.: Connecting Gate to Plate. Founded by Michele Payn, a leading farm-to-food expert speaker, the company is designed to create connections around the food plate. It posts to its web site a series of podcasts that address food myths, developing science communication, and connecting farm to food.



McAvoy is included in a segment titled “Why Isn’t Food Raised the Way it Used to Be?” In it, he talks about how farming used to work (and how it still works in some parts of the world), how research has made farming better, and how COVID-19 has impacted farming in Florida.

To read the complete post, click here: https://causmatters.com/advocacy/food-florida/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CauseMattersBlog+%28Gate+to+Plate+Blog+with+Michele+Payn%29.

Citrus Institute Presentation Now Accessible

The final SWFREC presentation from the UF/IFAS Florida Citrus Growers Institute program is now available.



“Strengthening and Diversifying Citrus Pest Management” by entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi can be found here:

https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2020/PDF/Qureshi_ci2020.pdf.

To see all of the presentations, click here:

<https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2020/>.

CEU information is also available.

Volunteer Activity Makes Front Page



The SWFREC volunteer effort that assisted in the distribution of food to Immokalee families in need during the pandemic is featured in this week's Immokalee Bulletin newspaper.

"SWFREC Supports Food Distribution Efforts" provides details about faculty members, staff, and graduate students who volunteered to complete all tasks at the Lipman Family Farms packinghouse location, from packing boxes and bags of produce to loading boxes into cars to directing traffic in the drive-thru operation.

To read the story, click here: <https://immokaleebulletin.com/human-interest/swfrec-supports-food-distribution-efforts/>.

Citrus and Specialty Crop Expos Feature SWFREC Research

Several SWFREC faculty members created video presentations for the Citrus Expo/Vegetable and Specialty Crop Expo event that was forced to become virtual giving the precautions against group conferences during COVID-19:



- **Is Bigger Ultimately Better? An Update on Large-scale Rootstock Evaluations on Ridge and Flatwoods Sites** by plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht
- **Soil Health for Citrus: Considerations and Challenges** by soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss
- **IPCs: New Data on Tree Performance and Lessons Learned** by citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez
- **Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus and Resistance-breaking Tospoviruses in Tomatoes** by citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman
- **Emerging Technology for Vegetables** by precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis
- **Examining Soil Health for Florida Vegetable Production** by soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss
- **Integrated Management of Whiteflies** by entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi
- **Vegetable Weed Management Toolbox: Getting the Most out of Current Options and Potential New Additions** by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery

To access these and additional presentations, please click here to register for access:

<http://citrusexpo.net/registration/>. **NOTE: CEUs will be available through the end of the year.**

Refereed Journal Article

"Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Adaptation and Response to COVID-19" appears in the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development online (August 19, 2020). Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy is second author. The article appears in the section titled "Commentary on COVID-19 and the Food System." To read the article, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-08-19-McAvoy-Growers-adaptation-response-covid19-JAFSCD.pdf>.



Trade Journal Article



Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy authored the “Pest of the Month” column in the September issue of Florida Grower magazine. To read about the “**Omnivorous Leafroller**,” click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-09-McAvoy-Pest-of-the-month-FL-Growers.pdf>.

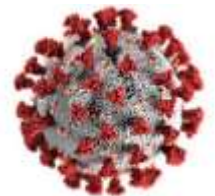
SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh

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

—Expecting an early-October completion date.

The residence will house eight graduate students, which will enable them to continue their educational programs and conduct research on site. SWFREC plans to host media for residence tours in October.



Upcoming Events

September 15, 2020, 10:00-11:00am—online only

Citrus Growers Workshop

Register in advance for this meeting and you will then be emailed the link to connect:

https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lfu2opjsjHdzvp4vTX30VEq9nhITvp2_k

Three SWFREC faculty will present:

- **“Principles of Trunk Injection and Practical Considerations,”** plant physiologist **Dr. Ute Albrecht;**
- **“Automated Delivery System: Can Therapeutics Be Delivered through Citrus Trunks?”** citrus pathologist **Dr. Ozgur Batuman;** and
- **“UAV-based Plant Nutrient Analysis and a Novel Smart Spraying Technology,”** precision ag engineer **Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis.**

September 16, 24 and October 7, 13, 21 – online only

Farm Labor Supervisor Training: COVID-19 Farm Labor Crew Leader—Protecting Your Farm Labor Workers

English and Spanish instruction simultaneously via separate sessions. For more information and instructions on how to register, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-09-FLS-COVID-Flyer-English.pdf>.

October 15, 2020, 10:00-11:00 am

Citrus Growers Workshop—online only

Registration information coming soon.

“Protected Citrus Growing Systems: from Healthy Trees to High Quality Fruit”

SWFREC citrus horticulturist **Dr. Fernando Alferez.**

This presentation will provide an overview of the different screening/netting systems employed around the world to protect citrus trees against disease and to improve fruit quality and yield. It will also address horticultural considerations, based on our own experience, to be successful with these systems in Florida, considering geographical and climatological differences across the state.

“Entomological Considerations for CUPS and IPCs”

SWFREC entomologist **Dr. Jawwad Qureshi.**

This presentation will cover Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) protection using Citrus Under Protective Screen (CUPS) and Individual Protective Covers (IPC), monitoring for pests in CUPS and IPCs, pest problems in CUPS and IPCs, and managing pests in CUPS and IPCs.

October 20-22, 2020, 2:30-5:30pm <https://psa102020.eventbrite.com/>.

November 4-6, 2020, 2:30-5:30pm <https://psa110420.eventbrite.com/>.

December 1-3, 2020, 2:30-5:30pm <https://psa120120.eventbrite.com/>.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

Virtual courses for fruit and vegetable growers and packers who fall under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Cost to Attend: \$25. Please use the registration links above for each session. SWFREC food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug will be among the speakers and will present **“Postharvest Handling and Sanitation.”**

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