



March 23, 2023

Social media:  

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

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

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## Spotlight on . . . Leadership Group Gains Ag Education



Twenty-five members of Leadership Lee County received an up-close look at SWFREC last month during a two-hour visit to the center! The visit began with a welcome from director Dr. Mike Burton. He provided an overview of the center, information about UF/IFAS, and facts about Huanglongbing, more commonly known as citrus greening disease, which is transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid. Dr. Burton reported that late last year the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services approved the use of oxytetracycline as a tree trunk injectable to help stave off the disease.

[\(See more\)](#)

## Scientists Present Research Updates

Four members of the SWFREC Weed Science program participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Florida Weed Science Society earlier this month at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City. Pictured (left-right) are program leader [Dr. Ramdas Kaniserry](#) (presented “Are They Still There? Monitoring Herbicide Movement in Florida’s Sandy Soils”), postdoctoral associate Dr. Mahesh Bashyal, Ph.D. candidate Ruby Tiwari (presented “Pre-emergence Herbicide Alone or in Combination with Adjuvant for Weed Control and Crop Safety in Tomato and Strawberry Production”), and master’s student Diderot Saintilma (presented “Integrating Cover Crops with Compost as a Fallow Practice in Tomato Production Helped Suppress Weeds and Enhanced Yields, As Observed from a 2-year Study”).



More than twenty-five growers and other industry representatives participated in a UF/IFAS Citrus Seminar via Zoom in February. SWFREC entomologist [Dr. Jawwad Qureshi](#) presented “Citrus Pests and Management in Traditional Orchards and CUPS.” To view the recording of the presentation, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5x8GkpgZLg>.



SWFREC natural resource economist [Dr. Tara Wade](#) spoke at the Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma. Her talk was titled “Conservation Practices Adoption.” Photo courtesy Christine Cooley.

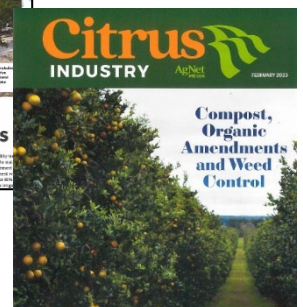
## Congratulations, Doctor!

UF/IFAS horticultural sciences student Miurel Brewer successfully defended her Ph.D. research efforts! She presented “Citrus Row-middle Management Using Cover Crops for Suppressing Weeds and Improving Soil.” SWFREC weed scientist [Dr. Ramdas Kaniserry](#) served as her committee co-chair and soil microbiologist [Dr. Sarah Strauss](#) was a committee member. Congratulations, Dr. Brewer!



## Trade Journal Publications

SWFREC entomologist [Dr. Jawwad Qureshi](#) is a coauthor of an article that appears in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine. To see the full article, “Deficit Irrigation in HLB-affected Citrus Trees,” click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/entomology/2023-03-Qureshi-Citrus-Industry.pdf>.



“Effects of Compost and Organic Amendments on Weed Control” appeared in the February issue of Citrus Industry magazine. Authors are weed scientist [Dr. Ramdas Kaniserry](#) and postdoctoral researcher Dr. Mahesh Bashyal. To read the full cover story, click [here](#) and scroll to page 10.

## SWFREC in the News

- SWFREC agricultural economist [Dr. Kim Morgan](#) is featured in the Research Connections section of the most recent Commercial Vegetable Production newsletter. The article, “Crunching the Numbers for Tomato Using AgTools Technology,” highlights the subscription-based service that includes “commodity data with over 76 variables and 29 years of records such as market demands, labor trends, transportation costs, and more, are capturing data used by growers to make daily production and harvest decisions at the margin.” The newsletter is produced by UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension director Craig Frey and UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension agent Anna Meszaros. The full article about Dr. Morgan’s research can be found here: <https://commercialveg.ifas.ufl.edu/research-connections/>.

- SWFREC soil microbiologist [Dr. Sarah Strauss](#) is featured in the recent UF/IFAS All in for Citrus podcast segment titled “How to Liven up Your Soil.” Interviewed by Frank Giles, AgNet Media Publications editor-in-chief, Dr. Strauss explains her research that utilizes cover crops and compost applications in citrus production to improve the health of soil and HLB-infected citrus trees. To read the article and listen to the interview, click here: <https://citrusindustry.net/2023/03/14/how-to-liven-up-your-soil/>.
- SWFREC agricultural resource economist [Dr. Tara Wade](#) was interviewed for a recent installment of “Let’s Talk about Ag BMPs: Citrus Best Management Practices,” a UF/IFAS blog. UF Active Learning Program interns Katherine Monagas and John Mashburn spoke with Dr. Wade about the application of ag BMPs using the implementation of cover crops and reflective mulch, two economically viable and effective strategies to reduce water and nutrient usage. To read the full print interview (or scroll down to the session video), click [here](#). The blog session was edited by Dr. Yilin Zhuang, a regional specialized agent working in water resources in the UF/IFAS Central Extension District.

## Grower Handbooks Available

Two 2022-2023 publications are available for pickup at SWFREC! The Vegetable Production Handbook of Florida provides guidance on vegetable production in Florida and includes extensive pesticide tables for each type of crop covered. The book is also available online (with printable sections) here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV292>.

The Florida Citrus Production Guide contains general pesticide information, horticultural practices, and chapters on mites/insects/nematodes, diseases, and weeds. The book is also available online (with printable sections) here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CG101>.



## AI Space Construction Progress

Photo progress of the new 1,200-square-foot soil science/artificial intelligence office/laboratory space.



## Kids Corner

Are you a Florida teacher who wants to incorporate ag and life science education into your school curriculum for K-12 students? The UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences wants you to apply to participate in the Florida Teacher Institute summer camp program!

Eligible for non-agricultural elementary, middle, and high school teachers across the state, this inaugural program is sponsored in conjunction with the UF Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. It comprises a one-week program during which participants will experience indoor and outdoor ag-related entities to identify ways to implement ag and life sciences into their curriculums.



The institute is slated for July 16-21, 2023. The application process opened earlier this month and runs through May 5, 2023. Applicants must submit an essay and an endorsement form from their school administration. For more information about the Florida Teacher Institute and application instructions, click here: [https://ufcpet.smapply.us/prog/florida\\_teacher\\_institute/](https://ufcpet.smapply.us/prog/florida_teacher_institute/).

## Upcoming Events

**March 29, 11am-12pm**

**UF/IFAS Citrus Seminar**

**SWFREC, in person (includes lunch, courtesy of Sarah Markle with Valent) or via Zoom**

Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kaniserry will present “Getting a Head Start for Summer Weed Control: What Works Best in Citrus?”

1 CEU each for pesticide license renewal and certified crop advisors

To register to attend in person, email Dr. Mongi Zekri: [maz@ufl.edu](mailto:maz@ufl.edu). To register for Zoom, access the form [here](#), then you will receive a confirmation email containing connection information.

**April 4, 8am-3pm**

**Florida Citrus Growers’ Institute**

**South Florida State College, Avon Park**

Conducted by UF/IFAS Extension and the Citrus Research and Development Foundation

Three SWFREC faculty will be among the presenters: Entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi (“A Decade of Psyllid Suppression and Strategies with Newly Developed and Conventional Chemicals”), plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht (“Update on Trunk Injection”), and horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez (“IPCs and Brassinosteroids to Prolong Health and Improve Fruit Yield and Quality in Newly Planted Trees under HLB”). Multi-county citrus agent Dr. Mongi Zekri will serve as a moderator of the citrus pest management session.

To see the full agenda and preregister (required), click here:

<https://2023floridacitrusgrowersinstitute.eventbrite.com/>.

**April 11, 8:30am-4:30pm**

**Certified Pile Burner Program**

**SWFREC**

Space is limited; preregistration is required (cost \$50). For more info, click [here](#).

**April 13, 8:00am-4:00pm**

**The Florida Citrus Show**

**UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, Fort Pierce**

Two SWFREC faculty will be among the speakers during the vegetable and specialty crop session: ag and biological engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla (“BMP Update: Where Nutrient Recommendations Stand”) and precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis (“Artificial Intelligence and Precision Agriculture in Vegetable Production”).

To see the full agenda and register, click here: <https://floridagrower.net/2023-florida-citrus-show/>.

**April 17-19**

**AI in Agriculture: Innovation and Discovery to Equitably Meet Producer Needs and Perceptions**

**Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside**

SWFREC precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis serves on the conference organization committee. For more information, registration details, and sponsorship opportunities, click here: <https://abe.ufl.edu/2023-ai-conference/>.

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