Thursday, November 30, 2023
Suwannee River Fair
17851 90 Avenue Fanning Springs, FL 32693

AGENDA (Session Details Below on Page 2)

8:30am—9:00 am  Exhibitor Set-Up Time
(11:30 am, lunch available for exhibitors)

9:00 am  Attendee Registration, Event Begins

9:00am—2:00pm  Visit Exhibitors

10:30am—11:45am  Session 1

11:45am  (Lunch for attendees)

1:15pm—3:00pm  Session 2

3:00 pm  Adjourn

This institute is organized and provided to you by the Suwannee River Partnership and the UF/IFAS County Extension offices in the following counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union. Funding support is provided by allied industry representatives serving the watermelon industry in Florida.
DETAILED AGENDA

8:30am   Exhibitor Set-Up Time (Exhibit area Coordinator: Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Agent) (Lunch provided to exhibitors at 11:30am)

9:00am - 2:00pm   Visit Exhibitors

10:30am - 11:45pm   Morning Session 1
Moderator: Emily Beach, UF/IFAS Lafayette County Extension Agent
Pesticide Private Applicator or Ag Row (CEUs requested), Certified Crop Advisors (CEUs requested)

10:30am   Update on Watermelon Grafting Research at UF
Xin Zhao, UF/IFAS Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department
Tatiana Sanchez-Jones, UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Agent

11:00am   Summary of the 2023 Fertilizer Research Updates – All Season Liquid Fertigation Program, Controlled Release Fertilizer Demonstration Project and Paper Mulch Research
Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Agent
Tatiana Sanchez-Jones, UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Agent
Tyler Pittman, UF/IFAS Gilchrist County Extension Agent
Bob Hochmuth, UF/IFAS Regional Extension Agent, NFREC-SV

11:45am-1:00pm   Industry Sponsored Lunch provided to attendees
Moderator: Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Agent
Welcome Comments: Desiree Mills, Vice Chair Levy County Board of County Commissioners
Greetings: Florida Watermelon Association, Laura Land, FWA Research Committee Chair, and TBA, Florida Watermelon Queen
National Watermelon Promotion Board Update, Mark Arney, National Watermelon Promotion Board

1:15pm-3:00pm   Afternoon Session 2
Moderator: Jay Capasso, UF/IFAS Columbia County Extension Agent
Pesticide Private Applicator or Ag Row (CEUs requested), Certified Crop Advisors (CEUs requested)

1:15 pm   Disease Management and Fungicide Updates
Dr. Nick Dufault, UF/IFAS Extension Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology Department

1:45 pm   Weed Management Strategies Under Plastic and in Row Middles
Peter Dittmar, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist, Horticultural Sciences Department

2:15 pm   Refresher on Pollination, Pollinators, and Pollinator Protection.
Amy Vu, UF/IFAS Department of Entomology and Nematology, Honeybee Research and Extension Lab

3:00 pm   Adjourn: Receive Your UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook, Pesticide Applicator CEUs and Certified Crop
CEU Coordinator: Dan Fenneman, Madison County Extension Director and Jay Capasso, Columbia County Extension Agent