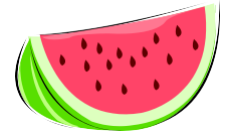


2023



Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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