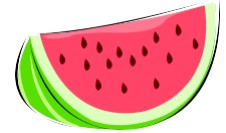


2024



Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

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—2:45 pm	Session 2
2:45 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 Coordinators: Mark Warren and Beth Cannon, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension)**
(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** **Importance of Proper Irrigation Design and Testing for Uniform Flow Across Zones**
Josh Freeman, Regional Manager, TriEst Ag Group
Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Director
- 11:00am** **Farmer and Industry Panel- Irrigation Automation Experiences and Cost-Share**
Panel Moderator: Tyler Pittman, UF/IFAS Gilchrist County Extension Agent
Panel members: Farmers and Industry Representatives TBA
- 11:45am-1:15pm** **Industry Sponsored Lunch provided to attendees**
Moderator: Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Director
Welcome Comments: Local Official TBA
Greetings: Florida Watermelon Association, Carrie Thomas, Laura Land, and the Florida Watermelon Queen, Florida Watermelon Association
National Watermelon Promotion Board Update, Mark Arney and Lee Wroten
National Watermelon Promotion Board
Natasha Smith, American Farm to Institute
- 1:15pm-2:45 pm** **Afternoon Session 2**
Moderator: Jim DeValerio, UF/IFAS Union County Extension Agent
Pesticide Private Applicator or Ag Row (CEUs requested), Certified Crop Advisors (CEUs requested)
- 1:15 pm** **Controlled Release Fertilizer On-Farm Updates**
Nutsedge Management and other Benefits with Paper Mulch
Bob Hochmuth, UF/IFAS Regional Extension Agent NFREC-SV
Raymond Balaguer, UF/IFAS Suwannee County Extension Agent
Emily Beach, UF/IFAS Lafayette County Extension Agent
- 1:50 pm** **Farmer and Industry Panel- Experiences with Grafted Watermelon**
Panel Moderator: Mark Warren, UF/IFAS Levy County Extension Director
Panel members: UF/IFAS, Farmers, Industry Representatives TBA
- 2:45 pm** **Adjourn: Receive Your UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook, Pesticide Applicator CEUs and Certified Crop Advisors**
CEU Coordinator: Dan Fenneman, Madison County Extension Director