

SWFREC Update

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 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH
& EDUCATION CENTER



Center Director's Corner

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to the entire South Florida legislative delegation for its support of the UF/IFAS budget initiatives this year. The support of the initiatives helped IFAS in the program areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H, natural resources, and Sea Grant.

A fifteen million dollar Community Budget Issue Request (CBIR), sponsored by Senator Skip Campbell and other south Florida legislators, was approved for IFAS Research and Education Centers (RECs). These funds will be used specifically for repairs of damages from the 2004-2005 hurricanes (1.3 million dollars of this CBIR was designated for repairs at the Southwest Florida REC). These funds will also help address some deferred maintenance issues.

In a CBIR sponsored by Representative Denise Grimsley and other south Florida legislators, the sugarcane program at the Southwest Florida and Everglades RECs received \$300,000 to address critical research challenges facing that industry. Additional research components are being added to the sugarcane breeding and genetics program, along with more research to help improve sugarcane production, with particular emphasis on sugarcane nutrition. Nitrogen recommendations for sandland sugarcane are some of the critical areas to be addressed. Additional projects related to monitoring and control of insects and plant pathogens will be expanded both in burned sugarcane and green cane. A new research component to be added is a more thorough survey and evaluation of the wildlife populations that flourish in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and other parts of South Florida.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Senator Lisa Carlton, Senator Burt Saunders, and Senator Larcenia Bullard for their special efforts this year and their dedication to and support of agriculture in the EAA and other parts of South Florida.

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Farm Safety Day Educates 150 Farm Worker Personnel

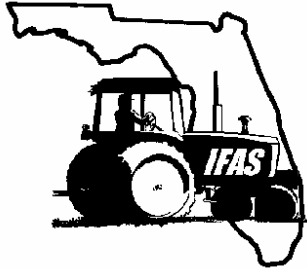
The 16th Annual Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day attracted 150 farm workers and managers from throughout Southwest Florida to the SWFREC on Saturday, June 3, for a day of farm safety education. Four sessions in the morning included:

- ◆ "Recognizing and Avoiding Africanized Bees," presented by Dr. Phil Stansly, SWFREC entomologist.
- ◆ "Working Safely Around Lightning and Electrical Hazards," presented by Gene McAvoy, UF/IFAS Hendry County Cooperative Extension Service Director and multi-county horticultural agent and Cesar Asuaje, extension agent from the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service.

(See "Safety Day," page 2)

“Safety Day” (from page 1)

- ◆ “Avoiding Heat Stroke and Heat Related Illness,” presented by Paul Midney of Collier Health Services.
- ◆ “Eye Safety for Agricultural Workers and Preventing Eye Injuries,” presented by Dr. Paul Monaghan, from the Department of Community and Family Health at the University of South Florida.



Following lunch, safety day attendees cheered as their coworkers competed in a tractor rodeo contest. Participants had to complete a tractor safety checklist, then drive a tractor through a course set up by SWFREC farm crew personnel. The goal was to make it around the course without knocking down cones or touching other poles used to set the course.



A participant maneuvers the tractor around the course (above), and top finisher Pedro Miguel-Ruiz (left) watches closely as he backs up a sprayer. Rewarded with trophies were (below, from left): Darwin Mauricio, Wheeler Farms, third place; Pedro Miguel-Ruiz, Immokalee Tomato Growers, first place; and Jose Torres, Six L's Farm-Op. #2, second place.

Platinum sponsors of the event included Chemtura, Collier County Parks and Recreation, and Everglades Farm Equipment. Gold sponsors included Citrus Producers, Inc., Ranch One Cooperative, Inc., and T & M Portable Restrooms, Inc. Silver sponsors included Aglime Sales, Inc., Bob Paul, Inc., Bayer CropScience, Creel Tractor Company, and Farm Credit of Southwest Florida.



Scorekeepers and announcers keep the audience abreast of the tractor contest competition.

In addition, various Immokalee-area businesses donated gift cards, clothing, and other items for prize drawings that were conducted throughout the day. They included:

B & L ACE Hardware, the EE-TO-LEET-KE Grill at the Seminole Indian Casino, the Harvest Café at Harvest for Humanity's Jubilation, Lozano's Mexican Restaurant, McDonald's, Rib City Grill, Sewing by Patrice, Taps Automotive, and Winn-Dixie Supermarket. A special thanks to all of these businesses for their continued generosity to the Farm Safety Day!



In a survey conducted of fifteen farms in south Florida that enroll their employees in UF/IFAS programs such as the Farm Safety Day, 87 percent stated that such programs (offered in both Spanish and English) “definitely” have helped in reducing non-fatal accidents on their farms during the last four years. And 80 percent stated that these programs “definitely” help improve the overall safety behavior of their farm operation employees.

SWFREC Staff News

The following are refereed journal articles published by SWFREC faculty from January-June 2006. Beginning with the September issue of "SWFREC Update," these articles will be listed on a quarterly basis.

Dr. Kent Cushman, vegetable horticulturalist:

Cushman, K.E., R.M. Moraes, P.D. Gerard, E. Bedir, B. Silva, and I.A. Khan. 2006. Frequency and timing of leaf removal affect growth and podophyllotoxin content of American mayapple in shade. *HortScience* 41:582-585.

Bedir E., M. Tellez, H. Lata, I. Khan, K.E. Cushman, and R.M. Moraes. 2006. Post-harvest and scale-up extraction of American mayapple leaves for podophyllotoxin production. *Industrial Crops and Products* 24:3-7.

Dr. Ike Ezenwa, assistant scientist of agronomy:

Ezenwa, I.V., R.S. Kalmbacher, J.D. Arthington, and F.M. Pate. (Submitted). Creeping Signalgrass versus Bahiagrass for Cow and Calf Grazing in Florida. *Agronomy Journal*.

Dr. Ed Hanlon, soil and water scientist:

Luo, Y. G., R. M. Muchovej, R. N. Gallaher, and E. A. Hanlon. 2006. Response of Lima Bean to Inorganic Nitrogen and Broiler Manure Sources and Rates. *Commun. Soil Sci. Plant Anal.*, 37: 1–17.

Dr. Kelly Morgan, soil and water scientist:

Morgan, K. T., T. A. Obreza, J. M. S. Scholberg, L. R. Parsons, and T. A. Wheaton. 2006. Citrus Water Uptake Dynamics on a Sandy Florida Entisol. *Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.* 70(1):90-97.

Morgan, K. T., J. M. S. Scholberg, T. A. Obreza, and T. A. Wheaton. 2006. Size, Biomass, and Nitrogen Relationships with Sweet Orange Tree Growth. *J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 131(1):149-156.

Dr. Pam Roberts, plant pathologist:

French-Monar, R.D., Roberts, P.D., and Jones, J.B. 2006. Characterization of *Phytophthora capsici* associated with roots of weeds on Florida vegetable farms. *Plant Dis.* 90:345-350.

Dr. Fritz Roka, agricultural economist:

Burns, J.K., F.M. Roka, K-T Li, L. Pozo, and R.S. Buker. 2006. Late-season 'Valencia' Orange Mechanical Harvesting with an Abscission Agent and Low-frequency Harvesting. *HortScience* 41(3):660-663.

Dr. Bob Rouse, citrus horticulturalist:

Bowman, Kim D. and Robert E. Rouse. 2006. US-812 citrus rootstock. *HortScience*. 41:832-836.

Obreza, T.A. and R.E. Rouse. 2006. Long-term response of 'Hamlin' orange trees to controlled-release Nitrogen fertilizers. *HortScience* 41:423-426.

Dr. Sanjay Shukla, water resources scientist:

Jaber, F.H., S. Shukla, and S. Srivastava. 2006. Recharge, upflux, and water table response for shallow water table conditions. *Hydrological Processes* 20: 1895-1907.

Jaber, F.H. and Shukla S. 2006. Effects of soil moisture sensor spacing and zone of influence on recharge calculation. *Soil Science* 171(4): 305-312.

Jaber, F. H., S. Shukla, E. A. Hanlon, T. A. Obreza, and P. Stofella. 2006. Groundwater Phosphorus and Trace Element Concentrations from Organically Amended Sandy and Calcareous Soils of Florida. *Compost Science and Utilization* 14(1): 6-16.



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Upcoming Events

August 23-24: *2006 Florida Citrus Expo.* 8am-4pm Wednesday, 8am-2pm Thursday, Lee Civic Center, Fort Myers, FL. Free admission to citrus industry trade show and UF/IFAS educational seminars coordinated by SWFREC. For more information, contact SWFREC, 239-658-3400, or go online at www.citrusindustry.net/expo.html.

September 6: *UF/IFAS Tomato Institute.* 9am-3pm, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Naples, FL. Free admission. For more information, contact Dr. Kent Cushman, SWFREC, 239-658-3400.



Events in Pictures

Left: Nearly 107 growers and industry reps participated in the SWFREC Spring Vegetable Field Day in May, where Jimmy Knowles, an engineer in the Water Resources Program, helped describe the lysimeter project. Right: Fetching candy from the "clutches" of the gator was a highlight for children who visited the SWFREC booth at the Florida Cattlemen's Association Convention in June in Marco Island. More than 300 industry personnel passed by the booth.

