

SWFREC Update

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 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH
& EDUCATION CENTER

Center Director's Corner



Two new buildings are nearing completion on the SWFREC property: a building that will house the farm, fleet, and maintenance operations and a new dormitory for graduate students.

Funds for these construction projects resulted from \$15 million that was appropriated by the Florida legislature in 2006 for UF/IFAS infrastructure renovations. Of that amount, the SWFREC received \$1.1 million.

The new operations building includes a maintenance shop that measures 3,000 square feet and includes three bays for large farm equipment maintenance. The structure also includes a covered outdoor work area, air-conditioned office space, and new restrooms. The old mechanical shop will be converted into much-needed storage space for the center, and the farm maintenance building will be renovated to be



used for small equipment storage.

Clockwise, from below, right: Nearly-completed construction projects at the SWFREC include a new dormitory, four new greenhouses for entomology research, and the new farm operations/maintenance shop.



Inside this issue:

<i>New Facilities</i>	1
<i>Cooperator Assistance</i>	2
<i>Staff News</i>	2-3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

The new dormitory is 1,664 square feet under air conditioning and features four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a full kitchen. The house will sleep up to eight graduate students. One existing dormitory trailer will be torn down; another will be renovated in the future.

Additional construction projects at the center include four new greenhouses that will be used by Dr. Phil Stansly's entomology program. The structures are being built with entomology program funds.

As we enter fall and begin to plan our SWFREC Fall Vegetable Field Day, which will take place in late November or early December, we look forward to having our growers and other clientele out to the center to see these improvements firsthand.

Christine Waddill

cwaddill@ufl.edu



Newsletter to Be Available Solely Electronically

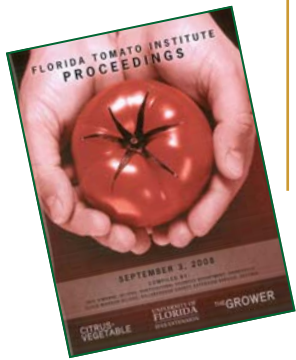
In support of “Think Before You Ink,” the University of Florida’s cost-reduction program and effort to increase environmental sustainability, future issues of the SWFREC Update newsletter will be available only by electronic means.

The publication is produced quarterly (in March, June, September, and December) each year and can be found via the SWFREC Web site at <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter/>. If you wish to be placed on a list to have the newsletter e-mailed to you each quarter, please contact Julie Carson, SWFREC media coordinator, at carsonj@ufl.edu.

Company Donation Assists Water Projects

Generous donations from T-Systems via area representative Kris Nightengale are being used on the SWFREC property in projects conducted by the water resources program. In a cooperative relationship for the past five seasons, the company has donated T-Tape drip irrigation materials to the program’s lysimeter projects, which assist area growers in determining the exact irrigation needs of plants grown on sandy soils.

Water resources scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla inspects the lysimeters.



SWFREC Staff News

- ◆ Two SWFREC specialists gave presentations at the UF/IFAS Tomato Institute in early September in Naples: Plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts’ talk was titled “Update on Late Blight on Tomato: Recent Late Blight Isolates in Florida and Updated Management Options,” and post-doctoral research associate Dr. Monic Ozores-Hampton’s talk was titled “Evaluation of TYLC Virus-resistant Tomato Varieties Under Commercial Conditions in Southwest Florida.” More than 220 growers, industry representatives, and other personnel from southwest Florida attended the conference.
- ◆ Entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly has given multiple presentations during the past three months. “Biological Control of Psyllids” was the topic of his talk during the 2008 Citrus Expo seminar program, which was modified and presented in September following the cancellation of the Expo itself due to tropical storm Fay. More than 200 growers attended the program in Lake Alfred, and more than forty participated via videoconference at the SWFREC, where Dr. Stansly made his presentation. He also spoke during the citrus squeezer at the center earlier this month. The program drew nearly eighty growers and focused on greening and psyllid scouting techniques, and his talk was titled “Why, When, and How to Monitor for Asian Citrus Psyllid.” And Dr. Stansly participated in a vegetable growers meeting in August that spotlighted Western Flower Thrips, presenting information along with Dr. Charles Mellinger of Glades Crop Care on “Vertical Integration in the Management of Pepper Weevil and Other Insects in Pepper and Whitefly and Other Insects in Tomato.” More than forty growers attended the workshop.



- ◆ The SWFREC HLB Lab, which opened this past February, has surpassed the 4,000 sample mark. Lab personnel are testing citrus samples for Huanlongbing (HLB), or what is most commonly known to growers as citrus greening disease, a bacterial disease transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid, a leafhopper insect.
- ◆ Water resources scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla was awarded the 2008 Best Technical Publication Award by the Watershed Council of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the World Environmental and Water Resources Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May. The awarded publication is titled “Accuracy of Hydrodynamic Modeling of Flood Detention Reservoirs” and was co-authored by Dr. Fouad Jaber, a former post-doctoral research associate at the SWFREC who now is an assistant professor/extension with Texas A & M University.
- ◆ A group of faculty members and post-docs from the University of Munich in Germany visited the SWFREC in July. Members were in the state to attend the meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences in Orlando, then traveled to southwest Florida to gather more information about growing practices in the area. SWFREC soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan hosted the group and provided information about area modeling efforts in vegetable production on seepage irrigation. Project reports detailed a nitrogen study being conducted by post-doctoral research associate Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, Dr. Morgan’s C-139 basin phosphorus project, and a modeling project just being initiated at SWFREC. In addition, Dr. Shukla spoke to the group about his lysimeter project, and Dr. Morgan discussed the irrigation and fertilizer injection practices being followed in the new SWFREC citrus concept grove. The group then traveled to the C-139 basin vegetable farm of grower Ed Tuten, where members learned about production practices, best management practices, and water issues facing growers in the area, as well as the relationship between growers and UF/IFAS.
- ◆ Soil and water scientist Dr. Ed Hanlon participated in a workshop on land use and water issues in Flagler County in June. In July, he teamed with Dr. Shukla to present “Impoundments: Research-based Alternative Management Concepts” to the South Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and Indian River Citrus League growers at the UF/IFAS REC in Fort Pierce. In August, Dr. Hanlon participated in the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences symposium in Gainesville. And this fall, he is teaching a distance education class, Environmental Soil, Water, and Land Use, to twenty-five UF M.S. and Ph.D students.
- ◆ Refereed and trade journal articles published recently:

W. Wall, W. Dozier, **R.C. Ebel**, B. Wilkins, F. Woods, W. Foshee. 2008. Vegetative and floral chilling requirements of four new kiwi cultivars of *Actinidia chinensis* and *A. deliciosa*. *HortScience*, 43:644-647.

M. Nesbitt, **R.C. Ebel**, W. Dozier Jr. 2008. Production practices for Satsuma mandarins grown in the southeastern United States. *HortScience*, 43:290-292.

R.C. Ebel, M. Nesbitt, F. Dane, W. Dozier. 2008. Freeze risk and protection measures of Satsuma mandarins grown in the southeastern United States. *HortScience*, 43:287-289.

R. Rouse. 2008. Florida citrus preparation for 2008 hurricanes. *Citrus Industry*, 89(7):11-12.

T. Obreza, M. Zekri, **E. Hanlon**, A. Schuman. 2008. Leaf and soil sampling, testing, and interpretation. *Citrus Industry*, 89(7):17-20.

M. Rogers, **P. Stansly**, L. Stelinski. 2008. A coordinated attack. *Florida Grower*, 101(8):20-22.

- ◆ On September 11, SWFREC faculty and staff members raised the flag and lowered it to half-staff while sharing a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives in the tragic events that occurred seven years ago.



Before citrus samples can be processed and tested for greening disease, they must be prepared in the HLB Lab.



From left: A German guest, Dr. Shukla, Dr. Morgan, and post-doc research associate Dr. Kamal Mahmoud discuss Florida vegetable production.



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION CENTER**

2686 State Road 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142

Phone: 239-658-3400
Fax: 239-658-3469
E-mail: swfrec@ifas.ufl.edu



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Upcoming Events

October 7: *Florida Mini-Greening Summit.* 9:45am-12:00pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. Presentations will provide updates on psyllid control research, greening bacteria research, horticultural greening management research, and citrus canker research. Attendees will receive two CEUs for the restricted pesticide and certified crop advisory program. For more information and to register, phone the Hendry County Cooperative Extension office at 863-674-4092.

October 15: *Certified Crop Advisor Training.* 7:30am-5:30pm, SWFREC (via videoconference; program originates from the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred). CEU opportunities: soil/water management, 5 CEUs; crop management, 5 CEUs. Registration fee: \$100 (\$120 at the door), payable to: CRE Foundation, Attn. Jane Wilson, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850-2299. For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/cca/>.

October 24: *Homecoming Holiday.* In observance of UF's homecoming football weekend, all UF/IFAS research and education centers will be closed today.

Late November/early December: *SWFREC Fall Vegetable Field Day.* Date to be announced. Check SWFREC Web site for updated information, agenda, and speaker lineup: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

