

# 36th Annual Fall Desert Crops Workshop

December 3, 2025

**AgWest Farm Credit**

485 Business Pkwy, Imperial, CA 92251



**Registration link:** <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=47121>

| Program (8:00 am – 12:05 pm)                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30                                              | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8:00                                              | <b>Overview and Introduction</b> – Oli Bachie, Agronomy Advisor, UCCE Imperial County                                                                                                                     |
| 8:05                                              | <b>Opening remarks</b> – John Hawk, Imperial County Chairman of Board of Supervisors                                                                                                                      |
| 8:15                                              | <b>Self-introduction from new UCCE Area Director</b> – Chandra Richards                                                                                                                                   |
| 8:20                                              | <b>Transforming desert irrigation: Leveraging soil sensors and Open ET for water-wise farming</b> – Ali Montazar, Irrigation and Water Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial County                           |
| 8:35                                              | <b>Simplified soil salinity mapping and monitoring</b> – Elia Scudiero, Associate Research Agronomist, UC Riverside & USDA-ARS Salinity Laboratory                                                        |
| 8:50                                              | <b>Lettuce downy mildew: disease challenges, resistance-breaking strains, and management strategies</b> – Ana M. Pastrana, Plant Pathology Advisor, UCCE Imperial                                         |
| 9:08                                              | <b>Exploiting the Strategic Weaknesses of Nutsedge</b> – Milt McGiffen, Vice Chair for Extension, Vegetable Crops Research, UCR                                                                           |
| 9:26                                              | <b>Impacts of organic and conventional nematicides on plant-parasitic and beneficial nematodes on cantaloupe</b> – Philip Waisen, Vegetable Crops Advisor, UCCE Riverside County                          |
| 9:44                                              | <b>Regulation updates for neonicotinoid pesticides and spray days</b> – Sandra Ramirez, Agricultural Biologist, Imperial County Ag Commissioner's Office                                                  |
| Break (10:02 - 10:17)                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:17                                             | <b>Closure of the Spreckels Sugar, Impacts and Potential Alternatives</b> – Oli Bachie, Agronomy Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties                                                |
| 10:32                                             | <b>IVC Agricultural Education, Ag Technology, and Benefits to the Local Farms</b> – Efrain Silva, Dean, Economic and Workforce Development Division, Imperial Valley College.                             |
| 10:47                                             | <b>Influence of Agricultural burning on Bermudagrass mite damage and seed yield</b> – Arun Babu, Entomology Advisor, UCCE Imperial County                                                                 |
| 11:05                                             | <b>Benefits and drawbacks to integrating livestock into cropping systems</b> – Brooke Latack, Livestock Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties                                    |
| 11:20                                             | <b>From Policy to Practice: FSMA Produce Safety Rule Enforcement and the Latest LGMA Metrics Revisions</b> – Jimmy Nguyen, Food Safety and Organic Production Advisor, UCCE Imperial and Riverside County |
| 11:35                                             | <b>Industry update</b> – Victor Lopez, Rockwood Ag. Services Company; Jose Cabrera-Davila; BASF; Brian Guess, Lallemand Plant Care & Sean Fuchs, Valent U.S.A.                                            |
| Lunch - 12:05 (Courtesy of the Industry Sponsors) |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

For additional information on the workshop, please contact organizers Arun Babu [ababu@ucanr.edu](mailto:ababu@ucanr.edu), Ali Montazar [amontazar@ucanr.edu](mailto:amontazar@ucanr.edu), Oli Bachie [obachie@ucanr.edu](mailto:obachie@ucanr.edu), Jimmy Nguyen [cgnguyen@ucanr.edu](mailto:cgnguyen@ucanr.edu), Ana M. Pastrana Leon [ampastranaleon@ucanr.edu](mailto:ampastranaleon@ucanr.edu), or Philip Waisen [pwaisen@ucanr.edu](mailto:pwaisen@ucanr.edu), or call us at (442) 265-7700

Continuing Education Units Requested with CA DPR, Arizona Dept. of Ag and Certified Crop Advisor: **Pending**

If you require any accommodations in order to participate in this event, please submit your request to emails listed above.

**"UC ANR is an equal opportunity provider- and employer."**