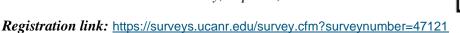


36th Annual Fall Desert Crops Workshop

December 3, 2025

AgWest Farm Credit

485 Business Pkwy, Imperial, CA 92251



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

Lunch - 12:05 (Courtesy of the Industry Sponsors)

For additional information on the workshop, please contact organizers Arun Babu ababu@ucanr.edu, Ali Montazar amontazar@ucanr.edu, Oli Bachie obachie@ucanr.edu, Jimmy Nguyen cgnguyen@ucanr.edu, Ana M. Pastrana Leon ampastranaleon@ucanr.edu, or Philip Waisen 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.

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