**Workshop on the Biology and Identification of Phytoseiid Predatory Mites in Agriculture**

When: September 11, 2024, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM

Where: **Location**: University of California Kearney Research and Extension Center, 9240 Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648.

Register using [this link](https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=43118)

**Workshop fees**: $100. Covers the cost of renting phase contrast microscope, workshop supplies and lunch. Make checks payable to “UC Regents” and write “Predatory Mite Workshop” in the memo and mail it to *Jasmin Del Toro at 22963 Carson Avenue, Exeter, California, 93221*

***Instructors: Beth Grafton-Cardwell (retired IPM Extension Specialist UC Riverside), David Haviland (UCCE Farm Advisor Kern County) and Sandipa Gautam (UCCE IPM Advisor Lindcove Research and Extension Center)***

This course will teach students about the importance of predatory mites in agricultural crops and the basics of how to identify them to species level. Each student will have their own phase contrast microscope and access to a set of slide-mounted specimens to work through “The Key to Genera of *Phytoseiidae Found on Crop Plants in California”.*

8-8:30 registration

8:30-9:15 - The common species of phytoseiids in California crops and why is it important to study them: Beth Grafton-Cardwell

9:15-9:45 – Higher taxonomy of mites and identification of phytoseiids to family level: David Haviland

9:45-10:00 – Dissection scope examination of live material of phytoseiids and prey

10:-00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:15– How to collect mites/ how to slide mount mites/how to use a phase contrast microscope: David Haviland

11:15-11:30 – Four categories of phytoseiids as defined by Jim McMurtry: Beth Grafton-Cardwell

11:30-12:00 – Anatomy of the phytoseiid mite: Beth Grafton-Cardwell

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:45–Guided identification of *Phytoseius persimilis*, *Euseius tularensis* and *Galendromus occidentalis* using the key

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-3:15 – Student identification of unknown mites within the key

3:15-4:00 – California crop systems and phytoseiid distribution, host plants and prey: David Haviland

4:00-4:30 – Group discussion of experience with predatory mites and the need for research projects

*4.5 Other Continuing education units have been requested for this course*