



# Advances in Southwest Desert Agriculture Research, Organic Production, and Food Safety: A Research Symposium

September 19, 2024

AgWest Farm Credit, 485 Business Pkwy, Imperial, CA 92251

**Registration link:** <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=43407>

**8:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**

- 8:30 **Registration**
- 8:50 **Welcome & introductions** – **Oli G. Bachie**, *UCCE Imperial and County Director*
- 9:00 **Insect Pest Management in Low Desert Agriculture: A Beginner's Perspective** – **Arun Babu**, *Entomology Advisor, UCCE Imperial County*
- 9:15 **Weed management for early-stage seedling growth of guayule** – **Oli G. Bachie**, *Agronomy & Weed Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside & San Diego Counties*
- 9:30 **Summer Cover Cropping and Composting Treatments in the Imperial Valley** – **Ali Montazar**, *Irrigation and Water Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside & San Diego Counties*
- 9:45 **Summer Cover Crops for Managing Soilborne Disease, Nitrogen, and Soil Health in Coachella Valley** – **Philip Waisen**, *Vegetable Crops Advisor, UCCE Riverside and Imperial Counties*
- 10:00 **How effective are soil and plant sensing technologies to detect and monitor water stress in cantaloupe production?** – **Jairo N Diaz-Ramirez**, *Director of Desert Research and Extension Center, UC ANR*

## Break (10 minutes)

- 10:25 **Preparing for Onion Diseases: Effective IPM Strategies** - **Ana Pastrana Leon**, *Plant Pathology Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside & San Diego Counties*
- 10:40 **The nature and prediction of sugar beet cyst nematode suppressiveness in the Imperial Valley** - **J. Ole Becker**, *Dist. Prof. of Cooperative Extension in Nematology & Nematologist, Dept. of Nematology, UC Riverside*
- 10:55 **Growth performance and carcass characteristics of beef x dairy crossbred cattle in the feedlot** - **Brooke C. Latack**, *Livestock Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties*
- 11:10 **Overview of Food Safety Research from the Western Center for Food Safety, UC Davis** - **Michele Jay-Russell**, *Research Microbiologist, University of California, Davis*
- 11:25 **Investigating the occurrence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in produce** - **Erin Leigh DiCaprio**, *Associate Professor of Cooperative Extension, Dept. of Food Science and Technology, UC Davis*
- 11:40 **Microbial Risk Assessment of Soil Amendments in Organic Romaine Lettuce, California's Low Desert, 2023 Season** – **Cuong (Jimmy) Nguyen**, *Food Safety and Organic Production Advisor, UCCE Imperial and Riverside Counties*
- 11:55 **Adjourn/Lunch**

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

**APPROVED CEU CREDITS: CALIFORNIA (DPR-1418-24 - 1.5 hrs.) and PENDING Arizona Dept. of AG (.75 hr.)**