

Desert Ag & Natural Resources Symposium
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

One Full Day Program

University of California Riverside, Palm Desert Campus
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211
Tel: (760) 834-0800, E-mail: palmdesert@ucr.edu

For question / further information regarding, please contact the main organizers;

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WG co-chair and UCCE Imperial County CD;

Etaferahu Takele, Farm Management Economics Advisor, southern California,
ettakele@ucanr.edu, (951) 683-649, UCCE Riverside CD

Janet Hartin, Environmental Horticulture advisor, San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles
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The Desert region is home to one of the most important agricultural areas in California with vast areas of open space and critical natural resources, which also contains an interstate and an international boundary with some of our state's most important economic partners. The Desert Workgroup (DWG) of the UCANR team recently performed a needs assessment, recognizing the unique agricultural, cultural, and natural resources of the region compared to coastal and northern California. Based on the survey we concluded that the DWG, our collaborators, and our clientele require a paradigm shift from a narrow, single discipline and piecemeal focus to a more regional, interdisciplinary approach that anticipates and addresses challenges in a way that can serve as a model for the rest of the state. Similarly, the low staffing density and vast geographic distances compared to our ANR colleagues in other regions put us at a disadvantage for representation, support, and collaboration. Our diverse clienteles are currently underserved, but continued growth in the region presents tremendous potential for enhancing the mission, initiatives, and reputation of UCCE as well as an opportunity for multistate and international collaboration that benefits the region and the state of California.

Hence this one full day forum, to be known as the Desert Agriculture and Natural Resources Symposium or organized by the Desert Workgroup of the UCANR in collaboration with three low deserts serving UCCE counties (Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino) and regional California Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA) branch. The symposium will bring together representatives from the desert farm and natural resources communities, related industries, and academics working in the desert. The symposium will focus on unique regional issues shared by southern California, Arizona and northwestern Mexico. We envision that this symposium will have a direct impact in the Desert region and immensely benefit growers, natural resources managers, industries, local governments as well as local, state, and federal agencies. An additional benefit is the direct input of our clientele on how our programs should be shaped on a regional level. Additionally, the close exchange of information among desert researchers will facilitate collaboration amongst UCANR, Arizona and Mexico.

The conference will highlight programs and research efforts from throughout the Division that are related to the desert. Discussions and presentations may include, but not limited to:

1. UCANR Strategic Initiatives to 2025
2. Irrigation and Production agriculture (Insects, nematodes, pathogens and weeds of the desert agriculture, irrigation and economics);
3. Livestock Production and Feed Quality
4. Natural Resources, Landscape/turf;

Who Should Attend? ANR-affiliated academics including advisors, specialists, AES faculty, program directors and academic coordinators, programmatic staff, growers, PCA's, allied industry and the desert farming and farm-related community will benefit immensely from attending this conference.

Biography of the Keynote Speaker (s) –

- (I) **The Main / Plenary session** – this is a preliminary session in which everyone attends. The following items are suggested to be covered during the main session. The timing of each item shall be determined depending on the whole time for this period and the number of speakers.

	Time (TBA)	Items of the session	Person in charge
1	8:15 AM	Moderator and opening remarks	Oli Bachie (DWG)
2	8:20 AM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Janet Hartin/ Eta Takele
3	8:25 AM	Keynote speaker (UCANR statewide issues)	Wendy Powers
4	8:55 AM	The UCANR Strategic Initiatives	Mark Bell
5	9:15 AM	County Desert Agricultural issues	Eta, Janet, Oli (CDs)
6	10:00 AM	Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner	Ruben Arroyo
15 Minutes Break			
7	10:30 AM	Women for Agriculture, Desert Golf Court issues	Ellen Way ¹ & Jim Schmid ²
8	10:45 AM	The IC Farm Bureau & grower's concerns	Jimmy Abatti, (IC FB)
9	11:00 AM	The Economics of Desert Farming	Eta Takele
10	11:15 AM	Campus-County Continuum Research at UCR Research Stations and the Involvement of CE advisors	Peggy Mauk
11	11:30 AM	The Salton Sea	David Bradshaw

^{1,2}Co-President, Coachella Valley Chapter of CA Women for Agriculture and BOD, Desert Chapter of Golf Course Superintendents Association, respectively

Lunch Break (11:45 AM to 12:15 PM (45 minutes))

(II) The Breakout sessions – the breakout session will run from 12:30 – 4:30 PM (4 hours). Each of the sessions however, can decide on the number of speakers and length of a talk for each speaker. Each of the sessions shall be organized in a way they will have pest management topics to accommodate CEU units for PCAs, CCAs, etc. The number of speakers and time allotted for each speaker may vary from session to session. Suggested persons to be charge of the breakout sessions are as follows;

Sessions	Moderator (s)
(A) Irrigation & Crop production	Pratap D, Milt M, Ali M.
(B) Landscape	Janet Hartin
(C) Livestock Production	Brooke Latack

(1) Breakout – Session A: Irrigation and Crop production (12:15 – 5:30 PM)

12:15 **Instruction to the session**

12:20 **Strategies for Improving Irrigation Efficiency in the Low Desert Region:** Ali Montazar, UCCE, Irrigation and water management advisor, Imperial & Riverside counties, Holtville, CA;

- 12:40 **Alternative Low Water Use Crops in the Low Desert** – Khaled Bali, UCCE Irrigation Water Management Specialist, Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Parlier, CA;
- 1:00 **Irrigation Management for Salinity Control**, Todd Skaggs, US Salinity Laboratory, USDA agricultural Research Service, Riverside, CA;
- 1:20 **Pests, Soil health and Biochar**- Milt McGiffen, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist & Plant Physiologist, UCR, Riverside, CA;
- 1:40 **Update on the Diamondback Moth in the Desert**- John Plaumbo, University of Arizona;
- 2: 00 **Insect and Disease Problems of Vegetable Crops in the Coachella Valley**- – Jose Aguiar, Vegetable Crops Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Riverside County, Indio, CA;
- 2:20 **Management of Canker Disease on Table Grapes in the Coachella Valley** – Carmen Gispert, Area Viticulture/Pest Management Advisor, UCCE, Riverside County, Indio, CA;
- 2:40 – 2:55 PM - BREAK**
- 2:55 **Downy mildew and other diseases of vegetables in desert production** - Alexander Putman, Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension and Assistant Plant Pathologist, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA;
- 3:15 **Bell Pepper Nematodes of the Coachella Valley and other Desert fields** - Antoon Ploeg, Associate Nematologist & Associate CE Nematology Specialist, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA;
- 3:35 **Weeds of Low Desert Region and Their Identification**, Pratap Devkota, Weed Science Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Imperial & Riverside Counties, Holtville, CA;
- 3:55 **Climatic factors and bunch management influence date fruit skin separation** - Sonia Rios, Area Subtropical Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Riverside & San Diego Counties, Moreno Valley, CA;
- 4:15 **Causes of Sugarbeet Seedling Mortality and Emergence Failure in the Imperial Valley**- Steve Kaffka, Extension Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences and Director, California Biomass Collaborative, UC, Davis, CA;
- 4:35 **DPR Laws and Regulations Update** – Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner’s office, Moreno Valley, CA;

5:35 **Session Adjourns;**

(2) Breakout – Session B: Natural Resources / Landscape (12:15 – 5:30 PM)

12: 15 **Diseases of Landscape Trees** – Akif Eskalen, Department of Plant Pathology UCR, CA;

1:15 **Update on the South American Palm Weevil** - Mark Hoddle, UCR, Riverside, CA;

2:15 – 2:30 PM – BREAK

2:30 **Identification and Control of Invasive Plants in the Coachella Valley** - Chris McDonald, UCCE, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego Counties;

3:30 **Disease-Resistant Landscape Trees for the Coachella Valley** - Janet Hartin, UCCE, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego Counties;

4:30 **DPR Laws & Regulations Update**-Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

5:30 **Session Adjourns**

(3) Breakout – Session C: Livestock and Feed Quality (12:30 – 4:30 PM)

12:30 **Instruction to the session**

12:35 **TBD (forage analysis/quality)** – Daniel Putnam, Agronomist and Forage Specialist, UC Cooperative Extension, Davis, CA;

1:05 **U.S. forage exports: Markets, trends, and challenges** – Bill Plourd, President/CEO El Toro Export, LLC;

1:35 **Bovine tuberculosis in California and Mexico** – Dr. Andrea Mikolon, DVM, MPVM, Binational Liaison for Animal Health, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health and Food Safety Services;

2:05 **TBD (poultry)** – Dr. Alisha Olmstead, DVM, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health and Food Safety Services;

2:35 – 2:50 BREAK

2:50 **Heat stress and dairy cattle productivity, a challenge to solve in Northwestern Mexico** – Leonel Avendaño-Reyes, Research Professor, Instituto de Ciencias Agrícolas at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Mexico;

3:20 **Physiological and metabolic responses to heat in livestock** – Miguel Cervantes, Researcher, Instituto de Ciencias Agrícolas at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California;

3:50 **Desert Livestock Research Update** – Brooke Latack, Livestock Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Holtville, CA;

4:20 **Final Comments**

4:30 **DPR Laws & Regulations Update**-Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

5:30 **Session Adjourns**