



LEARN, SHARE, AND NETWORK

Networking and learning with technical experts about the most pressing issues, challenges, and opportunities for minority farmers, including new and beginning farmers, aspiring farmers, and young farmer entrepreneurs.

WEDNESDAY FEB 26, 2020

11:30 AM- 5:30 PM

3C-SCHOENING CONFERENCE

CENTER/SOUTH WING

2020 S AVE 8 E, YUMA, AZ 85365



College of Agriculture
& Life Sciences





PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

3C-SCHOENING CONFERENCE CENTER/SOUTH WING



11:30 AM-12:00 PM

REGISTRATION 3C-SCHOENING CONFERENCE CENTER/SOUTH WING

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

LUNCH & FIELD DEMONSTRATION/ TRADE SHOW

1:00 PM- 1:15 PM

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Tanya Hodges-Regional Academic Programs Coordinator- Yuma Distance Campus/ Dr. Jeffrey C. Silvertooth- Associate Dean and Director, Economic Development & Extension and Professor - Soil, Water and Environmental Science, The School of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

SESSION 1- ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR BEGINNING, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS James Mago, State Executive Director USDA/FSA

- **NEW FARMER PROGRAMS- Rick Lopez, USDA**
- **USDA/FSA FARM LOAN , FARM LOAN CHIEF, USDA/FSA- Fred San Nicolas**
- **NRCS CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS- Keisha Tatem & Rebecca de la Torre, USDA,NRCS**

2:15 PM -2:30 PM

BREAK AND SYMPOSIUM NETWORKING

2:30 PM - 3:10 PM

SESSION 2- FINANCES

- **Personal Finance - Trent Teegerstrom, University of Arizona**
- **How to use a small farm cost estimator - Trent Teegerstrom, University of Arizona**

3:10 PM - 3:25 PM

BREAK AND SYMPOSIUM NETWORKING

3:25 PM - 4:05 PM

SESSION 3-INTERDISCIPLINARY AGRICULTURE

- **Ways of promoting foods and products that make healthy eating simple- Christy Wilson, Owner Founder of Christy Wilson Nutrition Registered Dietician**
- **Using Data Science in Agriculture- Dr.Diana Saldana, University of Arizona-Yuma**

4:05 PM- 4:20 PM

BREAK AND SYMPOSIUM NETWORKING

4:20 PM - 5:00 PM

SESSION 4- AGRONOMY

- **Desert Irrigation- Dr. Aliasghar Montazar , University of California- Holtville Research Center**
- **Native bees and their impact in Agriculture- Samuel Discua, Research Scientist, Helena -Agri Enterprise**

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

5:30 PM- 5:45 PM

CLOSING REMARKS & SYMPOSIUM EVALUATIONS

5:45 PM - 8:30 PM

RECEPTION AND AG TRADE SHOW





James Mago, State Executive Director USDA/FSA

James Mago is director of the Arizona USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). He attended the University of Arizona where he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration.



Fred San Nicolas USDA/FSA Farm Loans , Farm Loan Chief, USDA/FSA

Fred A. San Nicolas II is a Farm Loan Chief with the USDA, Farm Service Agency Arizona State Office. He received his B.S degree in Finance and Economics from the University of Guam. Fred has been with the Arizona FSA for going on five years.



Rick Lopez, USDA-FSA New & Beginning Farmers Regional Coordinator

Richard (Rick) Lopez has been working for the US Government for 20 years. In 2016 he was one of three selected nationally to become a Regional Beginning Farmer/Rancher Coordinator. Rick covers all of New Mexico and Arizona



Keisha L. Tatem, State Conservationist of Arizona, USDA/NRCS

Keisha L. Tatem, began her professional career with NRCS as a soil conservationist student trainee in 1995. She spent over 10 years working directly with producers as a soil conservationist. Keisha holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Virginia State University.



Rebecca M. de la Torre , Assistant State Conservationist - Partnerships USDA/NRCS

Her 37-year career is a rich tapestry of experiences, details, international assignments, and positions at all levels from the local field office to the USDA Office of the Secretary. She leads the Partnerships Team in Phoenix State Office, which is responsible for Public Affairs, Outreach, Tribal Affairs, Partners, Civil Rights, Legislative Affairs, Earth Team and Employee Engagement.



Trent Teegerstrom, Associate Director for Tribal extension programs and Ag Economics extension specialist , UAZ

His main areas of concentration are production economics and risk management education. In Arizona, much of his work is focused on the continued development of the Arizona Vegetable Budgets, the Arizona Field Crop Budgets, the Cost and Return Estimates for the state's livestock industry, and the Arizona Farm Machinery cost estimates.



Christy Wilson, Owner Founder of Christy Wilson Nutrition Registered Dietician

Christy Wilson is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Christy has worked with the Farm Bureau, the Honey Board, California Strawberries, and other food and agriculture-related organizations (Welch's Grapes, Unilever, etc.) and her focus is typically centered on elevating nutritious foods through creative recipes, blogging and nutrition communications.



Diana Saldana, University of Arizona-Yuma

Dr. Saldana joined The University of Arizona-Yuma on June 2019 as a Director of Technology Programs. Dr. Saldana has more than 10 years of teaching and research experience. Her main research interests are Artificial Intelligence and Human-Computer Interaction.



Aliasghar Montazar, University of California- Holtville Research Center

Dr. Aliasghar Montazar joined UCCE on June 1, 2017 as an Irrigation and Water Management Advisor. Montazar has more than 15 years of research, extension, teaching, and technical consulting experience and has served in several leadership positions in agricultural water management and irrigation engineering in California and abroad.



Samuel Discua, Research Scientist, Helena -Agri Enterprises,

Samuel Discua is currently Research & Development Desert Manager at Helena Agri-enterprises. He conducts efficacy trials of newly developed products and research in crop health, fertility, and pest control. He obtained his MSc in Entomology at The Ohio State University and is a PhD candidate in Plant and Soil Sciences at Texas Tech University.



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The Southwest Ag Summit is the desert Southwest's premier agriculture industry show. The Summit is centered in the middle of some of the most diverse and productive agricultural land in the world and is surrounded by over .6 million acres of irrigated land all within 120 miles of Yuma, Arizona. The target audience includes those in Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California, and Northern Mexico.



Arizona Western College is a public community college located in Yuma, Arizona, United States. Arizona Western College offers educational, career, and life-long learning opportunities through innovative partnerships which enhance the lives of people in Yuma and La Paz counties. Over 11,653 students attend AWC, where they are offered 98 academic programs leading to the granting of an occupational certificate or the A.A., A.Bus., A.S., A.G.S., or A.A.S. degrees.



UA Yuma is a University of Arizona campus serving La Paz and all of Yuma County. We offer 16 majors to meet the needs of our local community, and also those of working students of all ages. By expanding your knowledge and skill-set to achieve a career that directly impacts your community, you'd be joining the ranks of other UA Yuma alumni who are successfully nourishing in their chosen career.



The United States Department of Agriculture provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. We have a vision to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.