



# SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 20 - 22, 2024

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

## FARMING for the FUTURE



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# WELCOME TO THE SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT!

On behalf of the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association, Arizona Western College Foundation, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and Yuma County Farm Bureau, we welcome you to the 18th Southwest Agriculture Summit. We hope you will take advantage of all the Summit opportunities beginning with the Jacob Louis Daily Golf Tournament and ending with The Harvest Dinner.

Thank you for joining us at this year's Southwest Ag Summit. Yuma Fresh just finished celebrating our 75th anniversary. With your continued participation and support of this event and our association, we will strengthen our commitment to connecting, protecting, and promoting Ag through Ag education and sharing up-to-date information with our industry for another 75 years.

The success of the summit has always been a result of a collaboration among our agricultural industry leaders, University research, teaching and extension faculty. We are honored to be working collaboratively this year to bring you greater presentation diversity throughout our three-day schedule. We build on the strength of the past 75 years of Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association's membership as well as the Yuma County Farm Bureau's general agricultural leadership. United, we have created the premiere agricultural

event that encompasses virtually every aspect of scientific, technical and practical crop production and related fields.

As an industry we continually need to look forward and that is the theme of this year's summit. There are many great opportunities that will be presented and it is exciting.

Yuma agriculture recognizes the unique role that the Arizona Western College and the University of Arizona play in both preparing students for the workplace and enhancing the skills of professionals already on the job. In this light, we will welcome local students to our 2024 conference as well, and invite them to see for themselves, that agriculture is certainly more than farming. We are well aware that the Summit would not be possible without our sponsors, community partners, media partners and many more that come together to ensure its success. I hope you will take advantage of all the Summit has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all.



*Mike Pasquinelli,*  
President  
Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association



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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**MORNING KEYNOTE 7:30–8:15a**

### “Farming for the Future”

**Guest Speakers:**

- **Paul E. Brierley**, CEO & EDD, Arizona Department of Agriculture
- **Walt Duflock**, Vice President of Innovation, Western Growers
- **Matt McGuire**, Chief Agriculture Officer, J.V. Smith Companies
- **Dr. Jeffrey C. Silvertooth**, Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Arizona

**Moderator: Steve Alameda**, Top Flavor Farms, Yuma Fresh Board Member

**AFTERNOON KEYNOTE 11:30a**

### “The Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate”

**Guest Speakers: Dr. Joaquin Ruiz**

As a rapidly drying climate threatens food and agriculture systems around the globe, Arizona's agriculture industry will need innovative solutions to continue producing more food using less water. Dr. Ruiz is the Vice President, Global Environmental Futures, at the University of Arizona and serves as the Director of Biosphere 2. As a scientist with equal abilities in chemistry and geology, Dr. Ruiz addresses many first-order problems in Earth Sciences ranging from the origins of life to present-day climate change. Dr. Ruiz served as the Co-Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on The Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate established by University of Arizona President Robbins in December 2022. The Commission published their final report in August 2023.





## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

### Jacob Louis Daily Golf Tournament

Mesa Del Sol Golf Club – 12:00p.m.



9:00a-5:00p **“Bridging the Gap” Approaches for Treating Preharvest Agricultural Water On-Farm** **Location: MAC 106**

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21



7:00a  
**Breakfast**



8:00a-12:30p  
**Field Demonstration**

**Complete Demo list & Time Schedule Pg. 8**



12:30-1:30p  
**Lunch**

1:30-4:30p **CEU**  
**Wildlife Deterrents**  
Christopher D. Carrillo, USDA/APHIS/WS, Phoenix, AZ  
**Sprayer Calibration**  
Brandon Phipps, Big W Sales, Yuma, AZ  
**Sprinkler Chemigation and Tank-mixing**  
Mario Avalos, Helena Chemical Co., Yuma AZ

1:30-4:30p **Food Safety** **Location: AL 101**

4:00-5:00p **Yuma Area Ag Council Member outreach meeting**  
**Location: 3C Building East Meeting Room**

4:00-5:00p **CEU - GROWERS AND GRANTS**  
**Location: South side main conference room**  
Grant programs are often a complex and underutilized tool for many growers. Join us for an open forum discussion on navigating your way through them. Expert panelists will share their experiences and best practices through the grant process from application to funding.

**Organizer: Jesse Escoto, RDO Water**



5:00-7:00p  
**Opening Reception**

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00 – 7:30a **Breakfast and Opening Remarks**



**Location: 3C Conference Room**

Mike Pasquinelli, President, Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association

7:30 – 8:15a **Keynote: “Farming for the Future”**



**Guest Speakers:** Paul E. Brierley, CEO & EDD, Arizona Department of Agriculture  
Walt Duflock, Vice President of Innovation, Western Growers  
Matt McGuire, Chief Agriculture Officer, JV Smith Companies  
Dr. Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Arizona

**Moderator: Steve Alameda, Top Flavor Farms, Yuma Fresh Board Member**

8:15–9:30a **Trade Show**

## MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30a.m. – 11:30a.m.

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

#### REGULATORY UPDATE

(Requesting 1 Each AZ/CA PCA and 2 CCA )



**Location: AS112**

9:30–10:30a **California Pesticide Regulatory Update**

Renee Pinel, Western Plant Health Assoc.

10:30–11:30a **Arizona Pesticide Regulatory Update**

Jack Peterson, Arizona Dept. of Agriculture

**Moderator: Junior Evans, Corteva Agriscience**

### COLORADO RIVER WATER UPDATE AND PROJECTIONS

(Requesting 2 CCA)

**Location: MAC106**



9:30-10:00a **Colorado River Background and Introduction**

Jeff Silvertooth, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

10:00–10:30a **Colorado River Situation and Future Projections**

Bart Fisher, Palo Verder Irrigation District and State of California Colorado River Water Board member, Fisher Ranch, Blythe CA

10:30–11:00a **Colorado River Situation and Future Projections**

Hank Auza, Yuma County Water User's Association President and Yuma Ag Water Coalition representative, Barkley Co. of Arizona, Yuma AZ

11:00–11:30a **Question & Answer / Discussion**

**Moderator:** *Jeff Silvertooth, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ*

**LAB TO FIELD: FUNDAMENTALS OF PLANT DISEASE MANAGEMENT**



(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location:** *AS106*

9:30–10:00a **RNAi: An Alternative to the Control of Plant Diseases**

Dr. Johan Murcia, Postdoctoral Researcher, Yuma Co. Cooperative Extension

10:00–10:30a **Virus Epidemiology and Control: What is New Out There?**

Dr. Ioannis E. Tzanetakis, Professor of Plant Virology and Director, Arkansas Clean Plant Center for Berries

10:30–11:00a **What Does It Take to Bring Disease Resistance to Your Field? From Research Discovery to Commercial Seeds**

Dr. Céline Pesce, Project manager, Pathology trait, HM. Clause (Limagrain group)

11:00–11:30a **Dueling Downy Mildew: Exploring the Ever-Changing Nature of this Variable Lettuce Pathogen**

Emma Deutch, Plant Pathology Graduate Student, Michelmore Lab, University of California, Davis

**Moderator:** *Dr. Bindu Poudel-Ward, Yuma County Cooperative Extension*

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AGRICULTURE**



(Requesting 2 CCA)

**Location:** *AS105*

9:30–10:00a **Overview and Applications in Soil Mapping**

Dr. Elia Scudiero, University of California-Riverside

10:00–10:30a **Integration and Data Fusion for Agriculture Water Management and Accounting**

Dr. Andrew French, University of Arizona

10:30–11:00a **Remote Sensing and Robotics for Weeds and Pests**

Dr. Milt McGiffen, University of California-Riverside

11:00–11:30a **Variable Rate Fertilizer Management and Potential Improvements through AI Platforms**

Dr. Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona

**Moderator:** *Dr. Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona*



**SOIL HEALTH**

(Requesting 2 CCA)

**Location:** *Frances Morris Board Room*

9:30–10:15a **Keynote Talk on Soil Health Principles and Assessments**

Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Retired at USDA-ARS, Ames, IA

10:15–10:35a **The Desert Agriculture Soil Health Initiative (DASHI): Overview and Research Updates**

Dr. Joey Blankinship, Associate Professor, The University of Arizona

10:35–10:55a **Updates from the Research-based Soil Health Extension Program in Arizona**

Dr. Debankur Sanyal, Assistant Professor & Soil Health Extension Specialist, University of Arizona

10:55–11:15a **Soil Biological Health Indicators and its Application**

Dr. Luisa Ikner, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona

11:15–11:30a **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** *Debankur Sanyal, University of Arizona*

**HOW WEATHER AND WATER INFLUENCE PEST MANAGEMENT**



(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location:** *AS113*

9:30–10:30a **Influence of Weather on Desert Insects and their Management**

John Palumbo, University of Arizona, Yuma AZ

10:30–11:30a **Water Management and Pest Management – What's the Connection?**

Shaku Nair, University of Arizona, Maricopa Co. Cooperative Extension

**Moderator:** *Jennifer Weber, University of Arizona*

## FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT IN THE DESERT SOUTHWEST



(Requesting 2 CCA)

**Location: ASI15**

- 9:30-10:30a **Fertilizer Considerations for the Desert Southwest**  
Robert Masson, University of Arizona, Yuma Co. Cooperative Extension
- 10:30-10:50a **TRUE Organic Product Updates**  
Ramy Colfer, Cody Benton, and Jay Harper  
TRUE Organic Products
- 10:50-11:10a **YARA Products Updates**  
Patrick Giannetti and Sebastian Korob, YARA International
- 11:10-11:30a **Nutrient Ag Solutions Product Update**  
Kyle Deol, Nutrient Ag Solutions

**Moderator: Robert Masson**, University of Arizona, Yuma Co. Cooperative Extension

## LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Joaquin Ruiz**

*"The Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate"*



## AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m.



### VEGETABLE IPM

(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location: MAC106**

- 1:30-2:00p **Diseases of Concern for Coastal California Vegetable Crops**  
Steve Koike, TriCal Diagnostics, Hollister, CA
- 2:00-2:30p **Fusarium Wilt and Downy Mildew of Lettuce in the Desert**  
Stephanie Slinski, University of Arizona, YCEDA, Yuma, AZ
- 2:30-3:00p **Development of a Monitoring Tool for Managing Tospovirus Damage in Lettuce**  
Shianna Rodriguez, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

### Recent IPM Developments for Desert Insect Control

John Palumbo, University of Arizona, Yuma, AZ

**Moderator: John Palumbo**, University of Arizona, Yuma, AZ

## QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SALT BALANCE FOR CROPPING SYSTEMS IN THE LOWER COLORADO REGION



(Requesting 2 CCA)

**Location: ASI05**

- 1:30-2:10p **Updated Water Management Information for the Lower Colorado River Region**  
Dr. Andrew French, University of Arizona
- 2:10-2:50p **Salt Balance in the Lower Colorado River Region**  
Dr. Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona
- 2:50-3:30p **Emerging Tools for Water and Salinity Management in the Lower Colorado River Region**  
Toby Torrey, University of Arizona

**Moderator: Dr. Charles Sanchez**, University of Arizona

## AG-TECH: INNOVATIONS IN WEED CONTROL AND VEGETABLE CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES



(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location: ASI12**

- 1:30-1:50p **How AI will Impact Agriculture**  
Brent Shedd, Verdant Robotics
- 1:50-2:10p **Laserweeding: The Future of Weed Control**  
Brett Goodwin, Carbon Robotics
- 2:10-2:30p **Ecorobotix ARA Ultra-High Precision Spot Spraying: Efficiency on the Fields and Main Benefits**  
Olivia Soares De Camargo and Marcus Lung, Ecorobotix
- 2:30-2:50p **Field Experiences and Knowledge Gained from Vulcan AI Weeder's First Desert Season**  
Greg Chiocco, FarmWise
- 2:50-3:10p **Agmechtronix Gen 3 – The Culmination of 20 Years of Row Crop Automation**  
Ryan Herbon, AgMechtronix

3:10-3:30 **Band Steam Application for Disease and Weed Control in Carrot and Lettuce Seedline**

Steve Fennimore, UC Davis

**Moderator: Mark Siemens, University of Arizona**

**BROAD ACRE CROPS: NEW PRODUCTS, NEW TOOLS, NEW CROPS**



(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location: ASI13**

1:30-1:55p **Cross-Commodity Resistance Management: Building a New Tool**  
Naomi Pier, University of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ

1:55-2:20p **Non-Target Effects of Plinazolin & Sefina Insecticides in Cotton**  
Isadora Bordini, University of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ

2:20-2:45p **Commercial use of Predators: when Inaction Pays**  
Peter Ellsworth, University of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ

2:45-3:10p **Exploring the Benefits of Guayule: A Sustainable Choice in the Southwest Low Desert**  
Debankur Sanyal, Peter Ellsworth, and Naomi Pier University of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ

3:10-3:30p **Options in Cotton Defoliation**  
Macey Keith, San-Agrow

**Moderator: Naomi Pier, University of Arizona, Maricopa, AZ**

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WEED CONTROL**

(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

**Location: ASI15**

1:30-2:10p **New Weed Control Technologies Developed by BASF**  
Kevin Caffrey, BASF

2:10-2:50p **Importance of the IR-4 Project and Impact to Arizona's Vegetable Industry**  
Roger Batts, IR-4 Project, North Carolina St. University

2:50-3:30p **Alternatives to Dacthal for Broccoli and Onions**  
Marco Pena, University of Arizona

**Moderator: Marco Pena, University of Arizona**



**BUSINESS BREAKOUT**

**Location: East Meeting Room**

1:30-3:30p **Saving Taxes through Retirement Strategies for Business Owners**  
Tom Rush, Yuma Investment and Wealth Management Group



**FOOD SAFETY: A LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

**Frances Morris Board Room**

1:30-1:40p **New Supervisor/Foreman Training Program**  
Yuma Safe Produce Council

1:40-2:00p **A Shipper's Perspective**  
Tony Banegas, VP Quality, Food Safety, and Industry Relations, Bonduelle Americas

2:00-2:20p **Using Data to Improve Food Safety**  
Sonia Salas, Assistant Vice President-Science, Western Growers

2:20-2:35p **The Audit: Do We Need a Revolution?**  
Vicki Scott, Scott Resources

2:35-2:55p **Integrated Food Safety Systems**  
Teresa Lopez and Danielle Runion, Arizona Department of Agriculture

2:55-3:15p **Utilizing Available Science for Preventive Controls**  
Trevor Suslow, Trevor Suslow Consulting, LLC

3:15-3:30p **Speaker Q & A**

**Moderator: Amanda Brooks, Harrison Farms**

**PLANT BREEDING SHORT COURSE: THEORY, METHODS, AND PLANT BREEDING INDUSTRY**

**Frances ASI06**

1:30-2:30p **Plant Breeding 101**  
Robert Masson, University of Arizona, Yuma Co. Cooperative Extension

2:30-3:30p **Plant Breeding 102**  
Dr. Hikmet Budak, Agricultural Professor, Arizona Western College

**EVENING EVENT  
HARVEST DINNER**

Colorado River State Historic Park – 6:00p.m.

# Summit Vendor & Exhibitor Map

## 3C BUILDING & COURTYARD

Breakout sessions located in the Agriculture & Science Building



## SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT VENDOR BOOTHS

AC-Planta.....77	Bioflora.....15	KW.....57	Sym-Agro Inc.....20
Ag Water Chemicals.....74	BioSafe Sytems.....46	KW.....58	Syngenta.....50
AgDirect.....4	BowSmith.....70	KW.....59	The Catalyst Group.....13
Agmechtronix.....14	Carbon Robotics.....52	Lida.....65	True Organics.....11
Agri Spray Dones.....61	Chemguric Agricultural Chemicals...56	MCAS.....72	U of A Agri Sciences.....31
Agribusiness Succession	Cypress Agri Tech.....27	MGK.....47	Valent.....5
Advisors, LLC.....69	Desert Control Americas.....17	N-Drip.....49	Veda Farming.....53
AgTech Logic.....48	Ecorobotix.....62	Novozymes.....29	Verdant Robotics, Inc.....28
ALLO Fiber.....66	Ed Whiteheads.....51	PAR/STAR.....8	Western Region CCA.....78
Amid.....54	EMPIRE-CAT.....55	Pathotrak, Inc.....76	Wonderful Laboratories.....19
Aqua Spy.....12	Eurofins.....75	Primus Auditing Opts.....64	YARA.....2
AWC.....32	Farm Inc.....18	Rain for Rent.....25	Yuma County Farm Bureau.....16
AZ-NRCS.....41	Farmwise.....71	RDO Equipment.....22	Yuma Fresh.....3
AZDA.....30	First Interstate Bank.....67	RDO Water.....21	Yuma Investment Group.....6
BASF.....10	GOAG!.....33	Smart Steam Applications for	Yuma Safe Produce Council.....34
Beneficial Insectary.....26	Green Leaf.....63	Agriculture, LLC.....45	
Big W.....7	Gro Pro.....23	Sprague's.....1	
Bingham.....9	Helena.....60	Sutton Ag Enterprises.....24	





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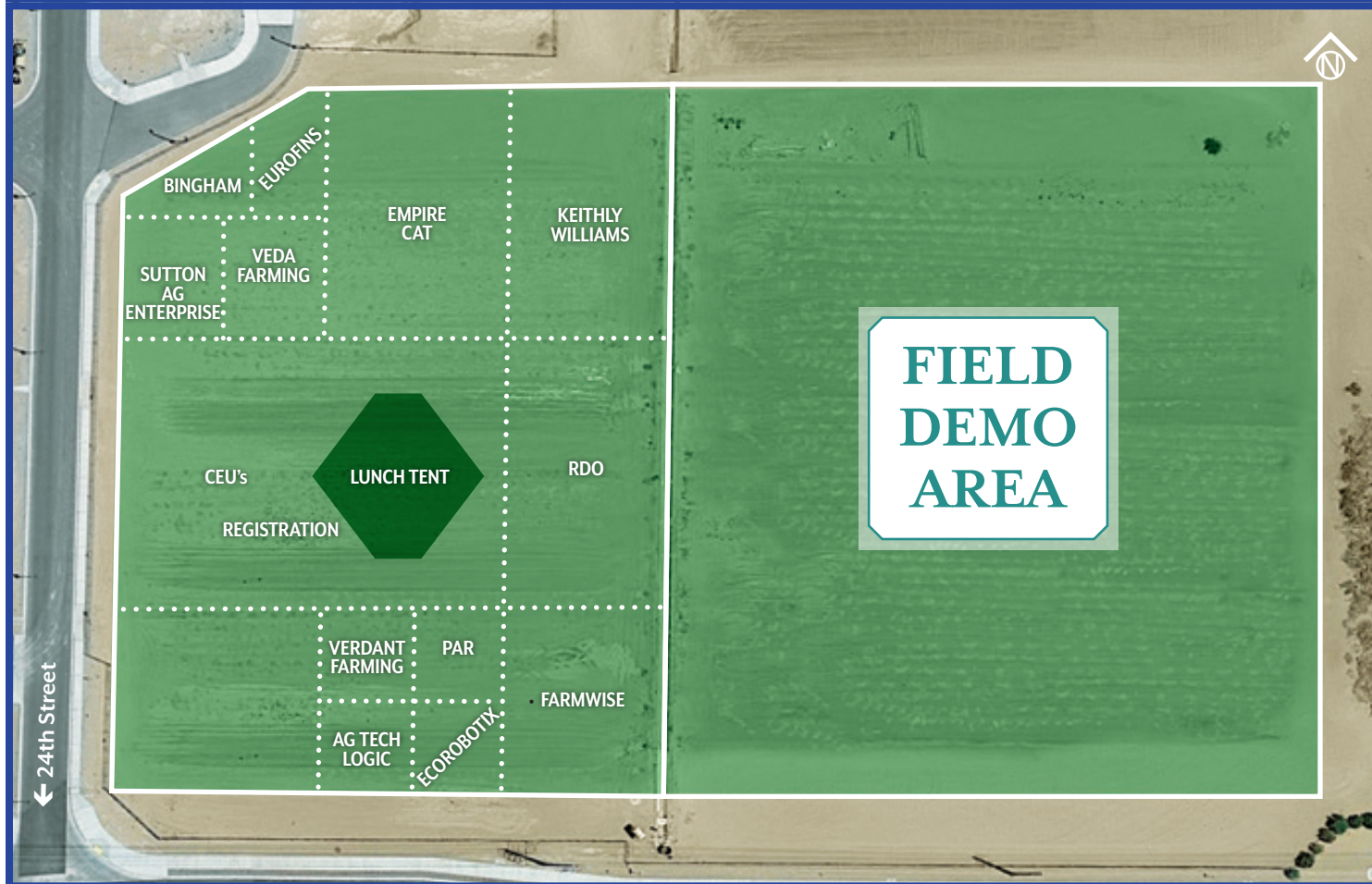
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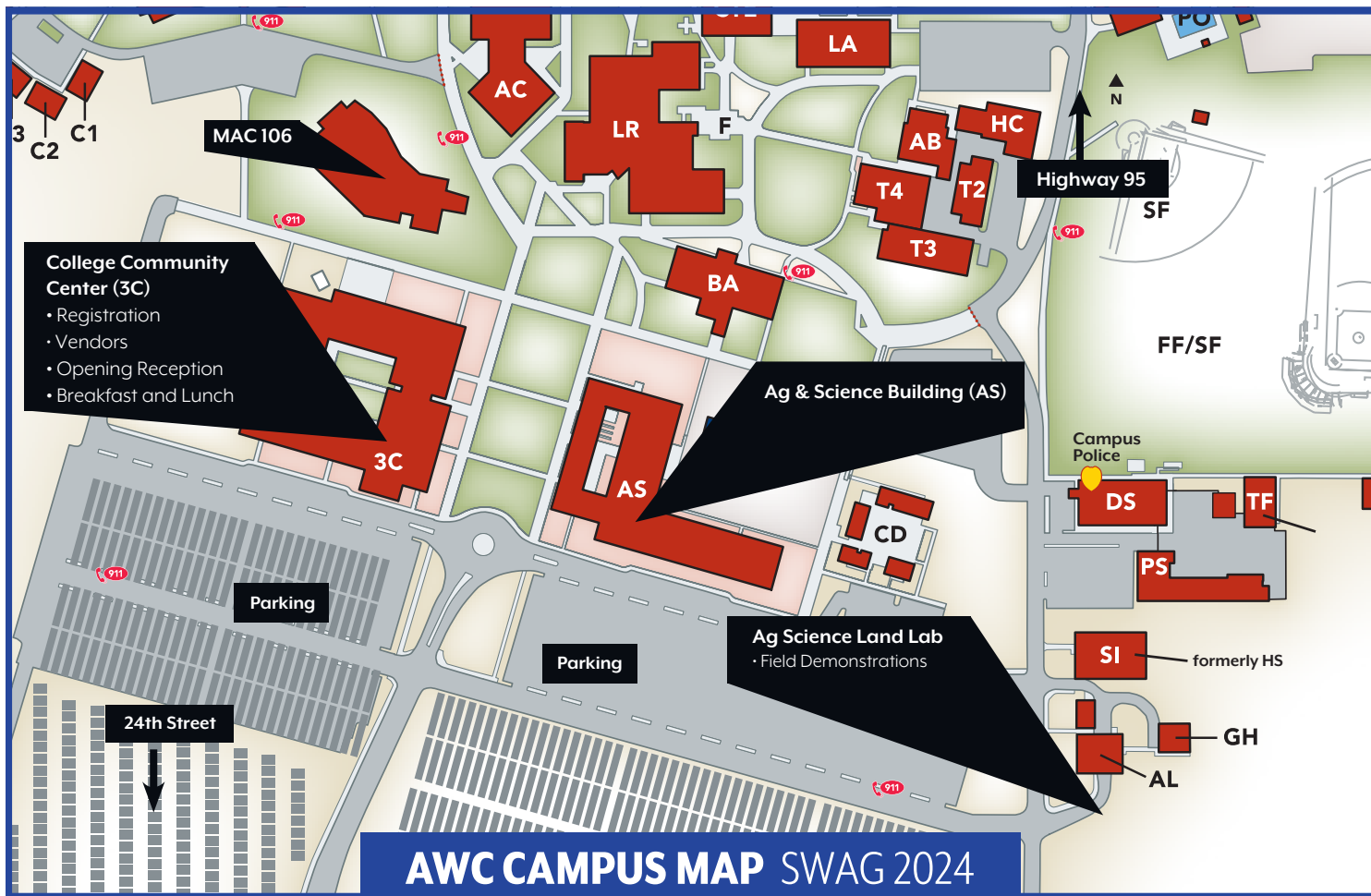
# Outdoor Vendor Area



## Visit Our Participating Field Demonstrations



- 8:00a **Forigo Modula Jet** – Veda Farming
- 8:15a **Laser Weeder** – Carbon Robotics
- 8:30a **Oliver High Density Cultivator** – Sutton Ag Enterprise
- 8:45a **Vulcan Triple Beds Intra-row Weeding & Cultivation** – Farmwise
- 9:00a **Stout Smart Cultivator** – Bingham Equipment
- 9:15a **Kult Kress iSelect Auto-Weeder** – Kult Kress
- 9:30a **Fendt Tractor** – Empire
- 9:45a **DJI Agrospray T40** – Keithly-Williams
- 10:00a **I.C. Light by Stakatee** – Sutton Ag Enterprise
- 10:15a **Ecorobotix ARA Ultra-High-Precision Sprayer** – Ecorobotix
- 10:30a **TBA** – Mantis Ag Technology
- 10:45a **TBA** – Ag Tech Logic
- 11:00a **Spudnick Babyleaf Harvester** – RDO Equipment
- 11:15a **Surepoint Quick Draw 3000** – RDO Equipment
- 11:30a **Stanley X-30 with Pro Plant** – Keithly-Williams
- 11:45a **Mechanical 5500 Transplanter** – Keithly-Williams
- 12:00p **Checci Magi Dual 12 Gold Transplanter** – Keithly-Williams
- 12:15p **Checci Magi Baby Compact Transplanter** – Keithly-Williams



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**Marine Corps Air station Yuma**  
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**Email: blake.hash@usmc.mil**

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