

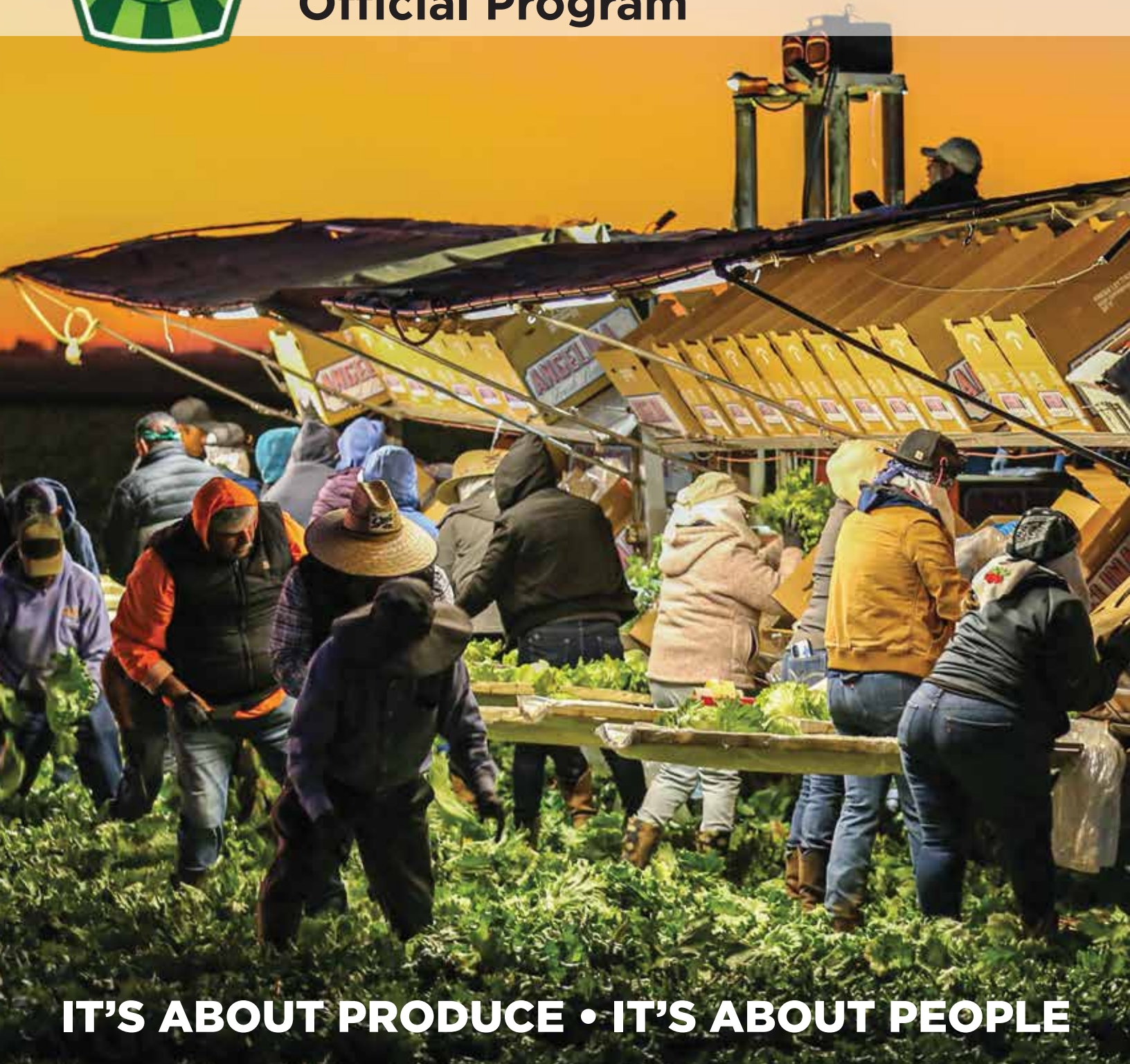


# SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT

## February 18 - 20, 2025

Arizona Western College, 2020 S Ave 8 E, Yuma, AZ 85365

### Official Program



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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 19th 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.

This year's Summit theme is "It's About the People" as an industry we know the importance of our workforce. The planning committee has built a great program for our attendees looking at various issues agriculture is facing. Technology is moving rapidly and we need to keep moving with the changes as well as our workforce.

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 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.

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 2025 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



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

### MORNING | 7:30 AM "THE FUTURE OF THE COLORADO RIVER"

Join us to learn what the future holds for the Colorado River including negotiations for 2026 operational guidelines with our guest speakers:

- Jeff Silvertooth, Professor at University of Arizona
- Tom Buschatzke, Director at Arizona Department of Water Resources
- J.B. Hamby, Chairman at Colorado River Board of California and Colorado River Commissioner

### AFTERNOON | 11:30 AM "ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF YUMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE" GUEST SPEAKER: DR. GEORGE FRISVOLD



Hear highlights from the 2025 economic impact report on the importance of Yuma County agriculture and agribusiness. The report also quantifies the region's agriculture water use efficiency in comparison to other areas.



# SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

12:00p **Jacob Louis Daily Golf Tournament**  
Mesa Del Sol Golf Club



## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

7:00 a **Breakfast** | At the Arizona  
Western College Land Lab



8:00 a - **Field Demonstrations**  
11:45 a Details on page 9



8:00 a - **Food Safety:**  
11:30 a Increasing your understanding of  
environmental sampling  
Located in AL 101



11:45 a - **Lunch** | At the Arizona  
1:00 p Western College Land Lab

### CEUs | Grass Vendor Area

1:00 p - Pesticide Applicator Certification Materials  
1:15 p Jennifer Weber, University of Arizona

1:15 p - Respirators in the Field  
1:30 p Robert Rios, Arizona Dept. of Agriculture

1:30 p - Regulatory Q&A for Pesticides  
2:20 p - Mario Avalos, Helena Chemical Co.

2:30 p - Irrigation Water Treatment:  
3:20 p 7 Years of Learning  
- Jay Sughroue, BioSafe Systems  
- Channah Rock, University of Arizona

3:30 p - Aerial Drone Pesticide Application  
4:20 p Calibration and Regulation  
- Nick Copass, Keithly-Williams

2:00 p - **Food Safety:**  
4:30 p A Pre-Harvest Sampling Primer  
Located in AL 101

5:00 p - Opening Reception and  
7:00 p Located in 3C Building  
& Courtyard



Student Poster Session  
Located in the Frances Morris Boardroom

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

7:00 a **Breakfast & Opening Remarks**  
Located in 3C Conference Room  
Mike Pasquinelli, President  
Yuma Fresh Vegetable  
Association



7:30 a - **Morning Keynote Speaker:**  
8:15 a **The Future of the Colorado River**  
Guest speakers:  
- Jeff Silvertooth, Professor at University of Arizona  
- Tom Buschatzke, Director at Arizona Dept. of Water Resources  
- J.B. Hamby, Chairman at Colorado River Board of CA and Colorado River Commissioner



8:15 a - **Trade Show**  
9:30 a Located in 3C Building & Courtyard

### MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9:30 am - 11:30 am

**Integrated Pest Management  
Regulatory Update**  
(Requesting 2AZ/CA PCA and 2 CCA) | Room AS112



9:30 a - California Pesticide Regulatory Update  
10:30 a Renee Pinel, Western Plant Health

10:30 a - Arizona Pesticide Regulatory Update  
11:30 a Jack Peterson, Arizona Dept. of Ag

Moderator: Junior Evans, Corteva Agriscience

**Understanding Sustainability  
Initiatives for Desert  
Agriculture** (Requesting 2 CCA)  
Frances Morris Boardroom



9:30 a - Perspectives on Sustainability:  
11:00 a - Eric Morgan, Rooted Ag Inc.  
- Eric Peterson, Azzule  
- Kyle Keuchel, Syngenta  
- Brittany Gallahan, Elevated Foods

11:00 a - Question & Answer / Discussion  
11:30 a

Moderators: Stephanie Slinski, YCEDA  
Vicki Scott, Scott Resources

# SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

## MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 am - 11:30 am

**Colorado River Update: Outlook on Basin Wide Negotiations for the 2026 Operational Guidelines**  
(Requesting 2 CCA) | MAC 106



- 9:30 a - 10:00 a** Introduction  
Jeff Silvertooth, University of Arizona
- 10:00 a - 11:30 a** Colorado River Perspectives: Principal and Water User Discussion  
- Hank Auza, President, Yuma County Water Users Association  
- Bart Fisher, Trustee, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
- Elston Grubaugh, General Manager, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District  
- J.B. Hamby, Chairman | Colorado River Board of CA and Colorado River Commissioner | State of CA  
- Tom Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
- Question & Answer / Discussion

Moderator: Jeff Silvertooth, University of Arizona

**Why Organics Matter?**  
(Requesting 2 CCA) | AS 113



- 9:30 a - 9:45 a** The Organic Landscape in Arizona  
Sara El-Sayed, Arizona State University
- 9:45 a - 10:15 a** The Economic and Health Values of an Organic Label, Catherine Greene, USDA ERS
- 10:15 a - 10:45 a** Organic to Support a Resilient Food System, Kathleen Merrigan, Arizona State University
- 10:45 a - 11:15 a** Practicing Organic Production in AZ  
Sara Dolan, Blue Sky Organic Farms
- 11:15 a - 11:30 a** Panel Discussion  
Moderator: Sara El-Sayed, Arizona State University

**Irrigation Optimization**  
(Requesting 2 CCA) | AS 105



Liquid Ingenuity.

- 9:30 a - 10:00 a** Tree-Ring View of Colorado River Water Supply  
David Meko, University of Arizona
- 10:00 a - 10:30 a** Optimizing Irrigation systems and Water Management Practices at MAC and Arizona | Diaa Eldin Elshikha, University of Arizona
- 10:30 a - 10:37 a** Laurel Ag Industry Update  
Eddie Good, Laurel Ag and Water
- 10:37 a - 10:45 a** Rubicon Industry Update  
John Lind, Rubicon Water
- 10:45 a - 11:00 a** Yuma Program Updates: Solid-Set Flood Irrigation Patent and Irrigation Feedback survey Results  
Robert Masson, University of Arizona
- 11:00 a - 11:30 a** Colorado Master Irrigator Program: Training & Certification Lessons for Yuma | Brandi Baquera, Colorado Master Irrigator Program

Moderator: Robert Masson, University of Arizona

**Exploring Eco-Efficiency through Use of Predator Thresholds and Proactive Resistance Management in Cotton**  
(Requesting 2AZ/CA PCA) | AS 106



- 9:30 a - 9:40 a** Eco-Efficiency Optimizes Production and Environmental Impact  
Peter Ellsworth, University of Arizona
- 9:40 a - 11:00a** AZ Whitefly History, Introduction to Predator Thresholds and Supporting Inaction
- 11:00 a - 11:30 a** Visualizing and Measuring Refuges for Preventing resistance in Multi-Crop Systems
- Moderators: Macey Keith, Al Fournier and Victoria Reyes | University of Arizona

# SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

### LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

11:30 am  
"ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF  
YUMA COUNTY AGRICULTURE"  
DR. GEORGE FRISVOLD



Desert Southwest Cropping Systems  
Ali Montazar, University of CA

**3:00 p -**  
**3:30 p** Forecasting Root Zone Soil Moisture  
with Remote Sensing  
Elia Scudiero, University of CA

Moderator: Charles Sanchez, University of Arizona

### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

#### Vegetable IPM

(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA) | MAC 106



**1:30 p -** Developing Auditable IPM Programs  
**2:00 p** Eric Peterson, Azzule

**2:00 p -** The Emerging Viruses in Cucurbits  
**2:30 p** Working Group: : Improving cucurbit  
Virus management in the US through  
stakeholder education  
William Wintermantel, USDA-ARS

**2:30 p -** Onion Downy Mildew Under Low  
**3:00 p** Desert Conditions: Winter 2024  
Ana M. Pastrana, University of CA

**3:00 p -** Update on Organic Insecticide Trials  
**3:30 p** Targeting Vegetable Insect Pests  
Wilfrid Calvin, University of Arizona

Moderator: John Palumbo, University of Arizona

#### Soil Health Management in the Desert (Requesting 2 CCA) | AS 112



**1:30 p -** Do Water Sanitizers Impact Soil  
**2:00 p** Health?  
Taylor Arp, University of Arizona

**2:00 p -** Does Soil Health Influence Food  
**2:30 p** Quality?  
Joey Blankinship, University of Arizona

**2:30 p -** An Agronomist's Perspective for  
**3:00 p** Soil Health Monitoring  
Bhupinder Singh, University of Arizona

**3:00 p -** Approaches to Improve Sustainable  
**3:30 p** Organic Production Systems in Yuma:  
Organic Lettuce Project as a Case  
Study  
Ali Mohamed, University of Arizona

Moderators: Debankur Sanyal and Channah Rock,  
University of Arizona

#### Emerging Technologies in AI for Desert Agriculture

(Requesting 2 CCA) | AS 105



**1:30 p -** The Artificial Intelligence for  
**2:00 p** Sustainable Agriculture Project and  
Recent Accomplishments  
Elia Scudiero, University of CA

**2:00 p -** Alfalfa Yield Mapping Using Satellite,  
**3:00 p** Drone and Ground Sensors  
Ahmed Kayad, University of CA

**3:00 p -** CROPMANAGE as a Time Specific  
**3:30 p** Water-N Management Tool for the

#### Lab to Field: Current Plant Pathology Research Efforts to Combat Plant Diseases

(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA) | AS 113



**1:30 p -** Area-Wide Population Dynamics of A.  
**1:50 p** flavus str AF36 in Tree Nut Cropping  
Systems  
Dakota Salyer, University of Arizona

**1:50 p -** Growth and Competition Between  
**2:10 p** Biocontrol and Aflatoxin-Producing  
Genotypes of Aspergillus flavus in  
Soil  
Ally Dalaya, University of Arizona

# SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

## AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

### Lab to Field: Current Plant Pathology Research Efforts to Combat Plant Diseases

(Requesting 2 CEU and 2 CCA)

AS 113



- 2:10 p - 2:30 p** Influence of Aflatoxin Biocontrol on Fumonisin Contamination in Maize  
Sallu Nepal, University of Arizona
- 2:30 p - 2:50 p** Diagnostic, Management and Field Trials on Late Blight of Celery  
Bindu Poudel-Ward, University of Arizona
- 2:50 p - 3:30 p** RNAi: An Alternative to the Control of Plant Diseases  
Johan Murcia, University of Arizona

Moderator: Bindu Poudel-Ward, University of Arizona

### Ag-Tech: Innovations in Weed Control and Vegetable Crop Technologies



(Requesting 2 AZ/CA CEUs) | AS 115

- 1:30 p - 2:00 p** Niqo Robothinner™: An AI-Powered Spot Sprayer for Lettuce Thinning  
Jaisimha Rao, Niqo robotics
- 2:00 p - 2:30 p** Sharpshooter: Precision Application System Powered by Bullseye Aim & Apply Technology  
Gabe Sibley, Verdant Robotics, Inc.
- 2:30 p - 3:00 p** Ecorobotix: First Desert Season and Experiences Using ARA and What can be Expected Next Season  
Katerina Lee, Ecorobotix
- 3:00 p - 3:30 p** Field Scale Steam Applicator for Soilborne Pest Control  
Mark Siemens, University of Arizona

Moderator: Mark Siemens, University of Arizona

### Organic Agricultural Practices

(Requesting 2 CCA) | AS 106



- 1:30 p - 2:00 p** Advancing Sustainable Organic Production Systems in Arizona  
Ali Mohamed, University of Arizona
- 2:00 p - 2:20 p** Maintaining Desert Organic Fields during Summer: Assessing a new approach of Sudan Grass Cover Cropping  
Ali Montazar, University of CA
- 2:20 p - 2:40 p** Summer Cover Crops for Managing Soil Health, Nitrogen and Nematodes  
Philip Waisen, University of CA
- 2:40 p - 3:00 p** Cover Cropping for Weed Management in Organic Production Systems  
Oli Bachie, University of CA
- 3:00 p - 3:15 p** Organic Fertilizer Overview and Trial  
Ramy Colfer, True Organic Company
- 3:15 p - 3:30 p** Organic Product Evaluation Trial  
Robert Masson, University of Arizona

Moderator: Robert Masson, University of Arizona

### Food Safety

Frances Morris Board Room



- 1:30 p - 3:30 p** Using Sampling to Make Informed Food Safety Decisions

Speakers will provide insights into what's new with preharvest product sampling and testing from a laboratory, trade association, LGMA and customer perspective followed by a panel discussion and Q&A.

- Rafael Davila, Eurofins
- Greg Komar, California LGMA
- Teresa Lopez, Arizona LGMA
- Drew McDonald, Taylor Farms
- Sonia Salas, Western Growers

Moderator: Lupe Camarena, Nature Fresh Farms & Yuma Safe Produce Council

## EVENING EVENT

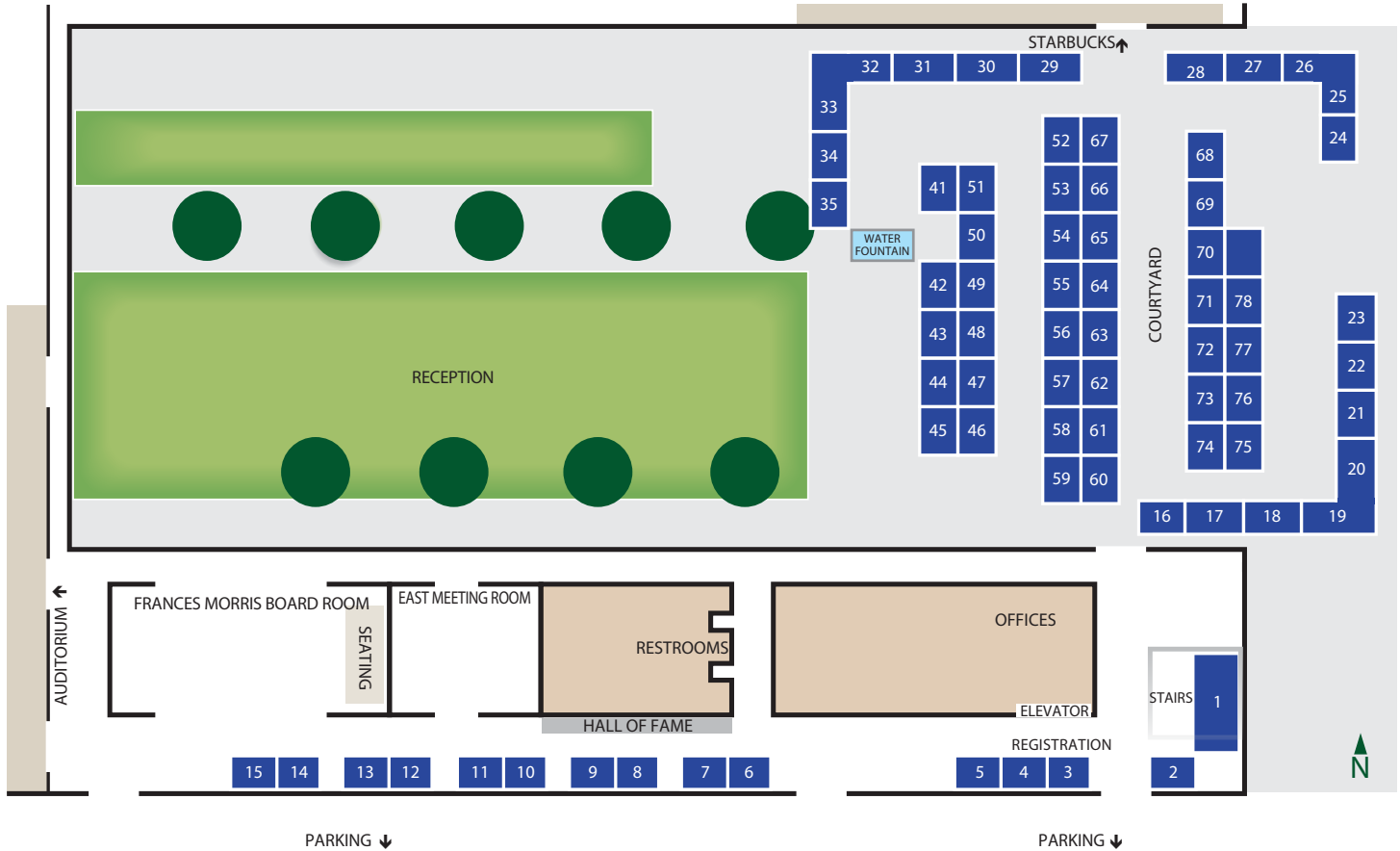
Harvest Dinner

6:00 pm | Yuma Fair Grounds, Legacy Building

# SUMMIT VENDOR MAP

## 3C BUILDING & COURTYARD

Breakout sessions located in the Agriculture & Science Building ▶



## SOUTHWEST AG SUMMIT VENDOR BOOTHS

Ag Direct.....	4	GOAg!.....	33	Summit-Agro.....	20
Agribusiness Succession Advisors.....	69	Green Leaf Ag.....	63	Sutton Ag Enterprises.....	24
Allo Fiber.....	66	Helena.....	60	Syngenta.....	50
Arizona Western College.....	32	KW.....	57	The Catalyst Group.....	13
AZDA.....	30	KW.....	58	True Organics.....	11
AZ-NRCS.....	41	KW.....	59	TV.....	73
BASF.....	10	Niqo Robotics.....	12	U of A Agri Sciences.....	31
Bermad, USA.....	76	PAR/STAR.....	8	Valent.....	5
Big W.....	7	PBM Sprayers.....	74	Verdant Robotics.....	28
Bingham Equipment.....	9	Primus Auditing Ops.....	64	Watreze.....	70
Biosafe Systems.....	46	Rain for Rent.....	25	Western Growers.....	15
CDG Environmental.....	67	RDO Equipment.....	22	Western Region CCA.....	78
Chemiguric.....	56	RDO Water.....	21	YARA North America.....	2
Ed Whiteheads.....	51	Sapropel Organics USA.....	65	Yuma County Farm Bureau.....	16
Empire.....	55	Senenergy Petroleum.....	61	Yuma Fresh.....	3
Eurofins.....	75	Sow Biochar.....	72	Yuma Investment Group.....	6
Farm Inc.....	18	Spragues.....	1	Yuma Safe Produce Council.....	34





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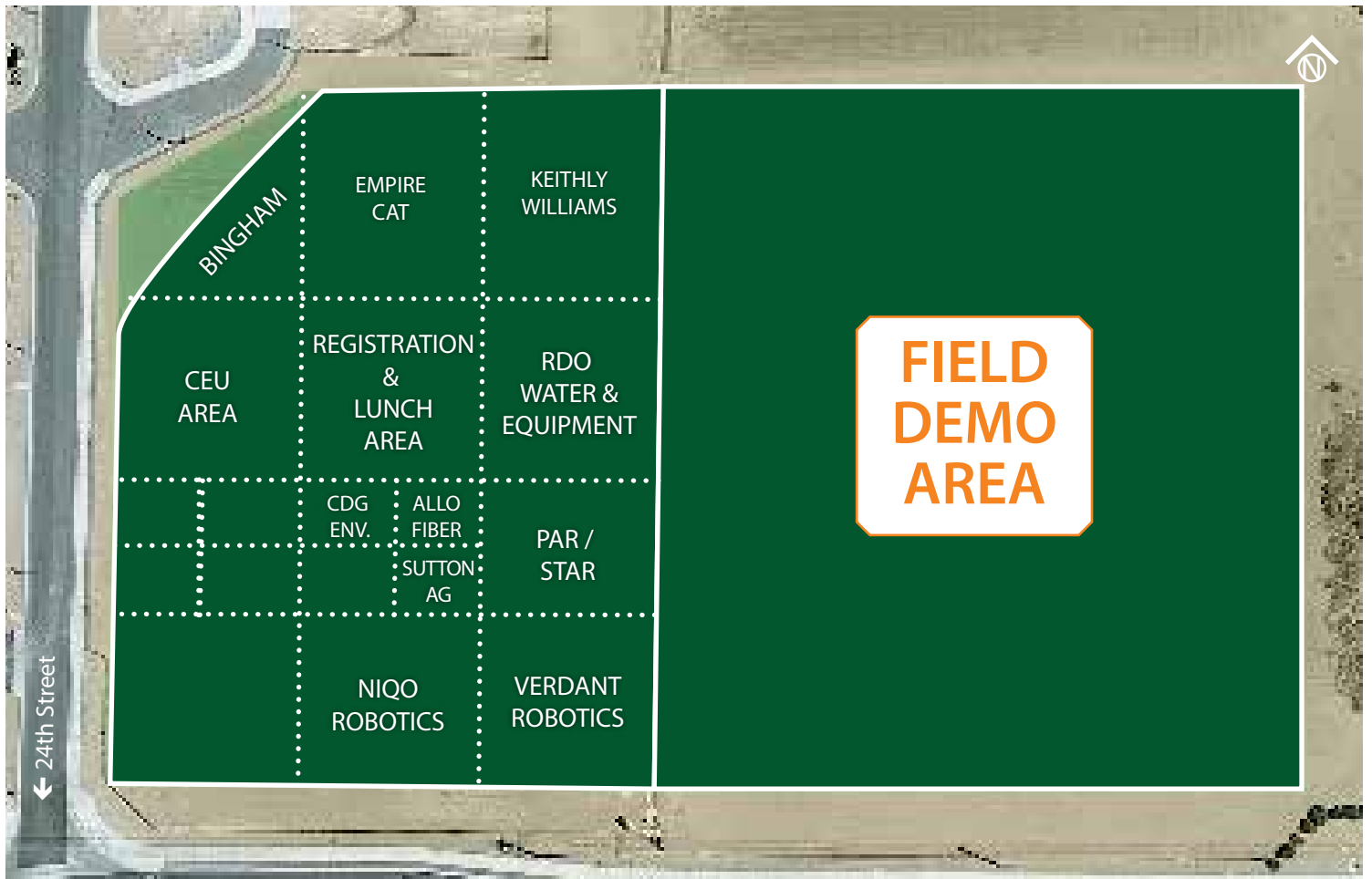
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# FIELD DEMONSTRATIONS



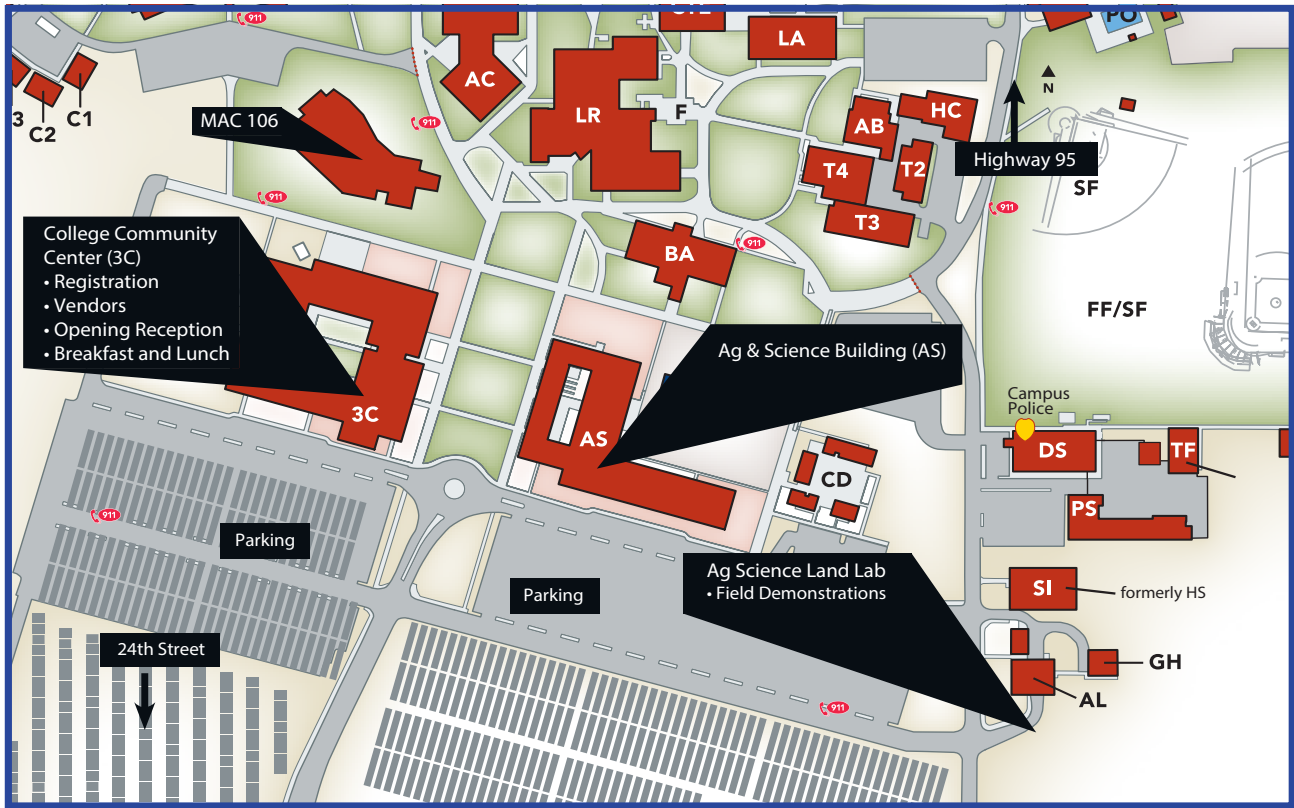
Wednesday, February 19 | Breakfast at 7:00 am | Demos start at 8:00 am



- 1 Sutton Ag | Checchi Magli Seedpro
- 2 Mantis Ag | Mantis Ag Technology Auto-thinner
- 3 Verdant | Sharpshooter in Action
- 4 Niqo Robotics | Niqo Robothinner: An AI powered Lettuce Thinner
- 5 Sutton Ag | Oliver Colibri HD Weeder
- 6 Keithly-Williams | Stanhay X30 Planter
- 7 RDO Equipment | Monosem MS Planter
- 8 Keithly-Williams | Ecrobotix Ara Ultra High Precision Sprayer
- 9 Empire | Fendt 700 Series Tractor
- 10 Sutton Ag | Steketee Camera Guided Cultivator
- 11 Keithly-Williams | Ariel Spray Drone T50
- 12 Keithly-Williams | Ariel Drone Truck Mounted Mixing Station
- 13 CDG | In Field Harvester Sanitation
- 14 Skysense AI | Skysense AI drone stand count and weed control
- 15 Bingham Equipment | Degelman Pro-Till

**Raffle prizes to be given away throughout the day!**

# ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE CAMPUS MAP



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