

Florida Agronomy and Soil Initiative and Learning (FL-AGSOIL) Conference
February 19–20, 2026 | NFREC–Suwannee Valley,
8202 Co Rd 417, Live Oak, Florida

Day 1 — Thursday, February 19, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Affiliation
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Dr. Lakesh Sharma, introduces featured guests: Dr. Michael Dukes, Associate Dean Extension, and Dr. John Davis, Senior Associate Dean for Research	UF/IFAS
8:30–8:50 a.m.	Progress Toward Refining Leaf Nitrogen Standards for Florida Southern Highbush Blueberries	Dr. Hanna de Jesus, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS- Horticultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL
8:50–9:10 a.m.	Corn: New Nitrogen Recommendations and a Step Forward	Dr. Lakesh Sharma, Assistant Professor, Soil Fertility & Sustainable Agriculture	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences (SWES), Gainesville, FL
9:10–9:30 a.m.	Strawberry Fertility Management: Integrating Physiology, Modeling, and Remote Sensing	Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, Associate Professor of Horticulture	UF/IFAS- Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Gainesville, FL
9:30–9:50 a.m.	Why Sulfur Matters: Its Role in Crop Growth, Yield, and Quality	Dr. Ayush Sharma, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS- Horticultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL
9:50–10:10 a.m.	The Contribution of Cover Crops to N Cycling: Insights From 15n Work	Dr. Gabriel Maltais-Landry, Associate Professor, Soil Health and Nutrient Management	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences (SWES), Gainesville, FL
10:10–10:30 a.m.	Networking &	Refreshment	Break
10:30–10:50 a.m.	Why Standard Soil Tests May Overestimate Phosphorus Phytoavailability in Florida Soils	Dr. Guodong “David” Liu, Associate Professor, Nutrient Eco-Management for Horticultural Crops	UF/IFAS- Horticultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL
10:50–11:10 a.m.	Understanding Phosphorus Sorption and Strategies to Maximize P Use Efficiency in Organic Muck Soils	Niguss Solomon, Assistant Professor, Crops Nutrient Management	UF/IFAS- Everglades Research & Education Center, Belle Glade, FL
11:10–11:30 a.m.	Phosphorus Management for Potatoes in Florida: Current Challenges and New Research Developments	Dr. Lincoln Zotarelli, Professor, Irrigation & Fertigation Specialist	UF/IFAS- Horticultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL

11:30–11:50 a.m.	Connecting Soil Test Phosphorus to Fertilizer Recommendations	Dr. Franta Majs, Associate Scientist & Director, ANSERV Labs	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences, Gainesville, FL
11:50–12:10 p.m.	Nutrient Management Strategies for Sustainable Cotton Production in Florida	Dr. Hardeep Singh, Assistant Professor & Cropping Systems Specialist	UF/IFAS-West Florida Research & Education Center (WFREC-Jay), Jay, FL
12:10–1:10 p.m.	Lunch Provided		
1:10–1:30 p.m.	Soil Carbon Credits 101	Dr. Yang Lin, Assistant Professor (Soil Health)	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences (SWES), Gainesville, FL
1:30–1:50 p.m.	Building Soil Health and Mitigating Nitrate Leaching with Integrated Crop–Livestock Systems	Dr. José C. Dubeux, Professor (Forage Agronomy)	UF/IFAS- North Florida Research and Educational Center, Marianna, FL
1:50–2:10 p.m.	Petiole Nitrate-N Sufficiency for Optimum Yield of Florida Cotton	Dr. Ejaz Dar, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS-West Florida Research & Education Center (WFREC-Jay), Jay, FL
2:10–2:30 p.m.	How Corn Tissue Sampling Can Help Determine N Sufficiency	Karun Katoch, PhD Candidate	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences (SWES), Gainesville, FL
2:30–2:50 p.m.	Economic Analysis of Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Suwannee Valley	Dr. Kevin Athearn, Regional Specialized Extension Agent (Rural & Agribusiness Development)	UF/IFAS- North Florida Research and Educational Center- Suwannee Valley, Live Oak, FL
2:50–3:10 p.m.	Networking & Refreshment		Break
3:10–3:30 p.m.	Soilborne Pathogens, Microbiomes, and the Limits of Detection: Turning Complex Data into Disease Management Options	Dr. Nick Dufault, Associate Professor, Pathology	UF/IFAS- Plant Pathology, Gainesville, FL
3:30–3:50 p.m.	Are Resistant Cultivars and Nematicides Effective Options for The Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes in Row Crops	Dr. Zane Grabau, Associate Professor, Nematologist	UF/IFAS- Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, FL
3:50–4:10 p.m.	Management of The Cotton Jassid: a New Invasive Pest of U.S. Cotton	Dr. Isaac L. Esquivel	UF/IFAS- North Florida Research and Educational Center, Quincy, FL

Day 2 — Friday, February 20, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker	Affiliation
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Welcome & Day 2 Kickoff	Conference Chair	UF/IFAS
8:30–8:50 a.m.	Evaluating Growers' Perceptions and assessing the Impact of Agronomic decisions on Corn Yield, Profitability, and Efficiency: A three-year multivariant Analysis	Vivek Sharma Assistant Professor, Precision Water Management	UF/IFAS-Agricultural & Biological Engineering (ABE), University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
8:50–9:10 a.m.	Sensor-Based Nitrogen Management In Georgia: Insights From Different Crops and Sensor Types	Invited Speaker: Dr. Leonardo Bastos, Assistant Professor, Integrative Precision Agriculture	Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, University of Georgia, GA
9:10–9:30 a.m.	Update of Nitrogen Management Project in Cold-Hardy Citrus Production in North Florida	Mohammad Sahid, Assistant Professor	UF/IFAS- North Florida Research and Educational Center, Quincy, FL
9:30–9:50 a.m.	Developing Phosphorus Rate Recommendation Guidelines for Snap Bean Production on Calcareous Soils in South Florida	Dr. Bayabil, or Sakiur Rahman, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS- Tropical Research and Educational Center, Homestead, FL
9:50–10:10 a.m.	From Data Silos to Decision Support: Building an Assessment-Ready Data Infrastructure for Florida Cooperative Extension Services	Christian Christensen, Ph.D. Director of Artificial & Business Intelligence	UF/IFAS- Extension Administration, University of Florida
10:10–10:30 a.m.	Networking &	Refreshment	Break
10:30–10:50 a.m.	An Update on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Rate Study in Citrus Production in Different Agroecologies of Florida	Dr. Davie M. Kadyampakeni, Associate Professor	UF/IFAS- SWES, UF/IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center (CREC), Lake Alfred, FL
10:50–11:10 a.m.	Calcium Management in Peanut in Florida	Dr. Hardeep Singh, Assistant Professor & Cropping Systems Specialist	UF/IFAS-West Florida Research & Education Center (WFREC-Jay), Jay, FL
11:10–11:30 a.m.	Florida Sugarcane Today: Production in South Florida and Expansion Potential in Central and North Florida	Dr. Ricardo Lesmes, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS- Everglades Research & Education Center, Belle Glade, FL
11:30–11:50 a.m.	Phosphorus Fertilizer Management for Lettuce Grown on Muck Soils	Dr. Shabnam Sadeghibaniani, Postdoctoral Fellow	UF/IFAS- Everglades Research & Education Center, Belle Glade, FL
11:50–12:10 p.m.	Snap Bean Nitrogen Management in North Florida	Dr. Lakesh Sharma, Assistant Professor, Soil Fertility & Sustainable Agriculture	UF/IFAS-Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences (SWES), Gainesville, FL
12:10–1:10 p.m.	Lunch Provided	& Adjourned	