

Palm Beach County  
Extension

## Agriculture

### Belle Glade

2976 State Road 15  
561-996-1655

### Laura Powell

Manpower Development  
lea@ifas.ufl.edu

### West Palm Beach

559 North Military Trail  
561-233-1725

### Cesar Asuaje

Hispanic Farm Labor  
Crasuaje@ifas.ufl.edu

### Darrin Parmenter

Vegetables  
DMParmenter@ifas.ufl.edu

### Alyssa Dodd

Agriculture & Natural  
Resources  
adodd@ifas.ufl.edu



# Upcoming Events

## Monday ~ April 4, 2005

### West Palm Beach Office

8:00am General Standards/CoreTest Review (4 CEUs)

1:00pm Ornamental & Turf Test Review (2 CEUs)

all day Testing, Any Category

## Thursday ~ April 7, 2005

### Belle Glade ~ EREC Field Day

8:00am - 3:00pm

First Friday Seminar

## Wednesday ~ April 13, 2005

### Belle Glade Office

8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)

1:00pm Agricultural Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs)

all day Testing, Any Category

## Wednesday ~ April 27, 2005

### Methyl Bromide CUE ~ Allocation Update

11:30am - 1:30pm

Richard's Steakhouse ~ Boynton Beach

## Monday ~ May 2, 2005

### West Palm Beach Office

8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)

1:00pm Right-of-Way Test Review (2 CEUs)

all day Testing, Any Category

## Wednesday ~ May 11, 2005

### Belle Glade Office

Testing, Any Category

8:00am - 4:00pm

# Green Cay Produce

Farming Systems Research Inc.

Palm Beach County's only CSA farm

www.veggies4u.com

561-638-2755



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

# EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## Palm Beach County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

April/May, 2005

### Extension Agent Profile: Cesar Asuaje

Immigrants from Mexico and other countries in the tropics make up the majority of Florida's seasonal agricultural workers, a work force that is almost 200,000 strong, according to University of Florida (UF) estimates. Many of these workers move from job to job as the seasons change, operating farm equipment and applying pesticides to crops. Yet many of them can not read basic safety instructions or warning labels written in English, and some receive little instruction on farm safety. But Cesar Asuaje, a regional specialized Extension Agent with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), is on a mission to change that — one farm at a time.

Based at the UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension Service in West Palm Beach, Asuaje regularly travels to citrus groves, sugarcane fields, vegetable farms and other agricultural enterprises throughout South Florida, teaching pesticide and farm safety to Spanish-speaking migrant workers. He currently is offering the Extension education programs in the following 11 counties: Broward, Collier, Hendry, Hillsborough, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas and St. Lucie. Every year, workers fill Florida's fields, maintaining and harvesting crops that make the state a powerhouse in American agriculture.



In recent years, Hispanic workers have accounted for a growing number of injuries and fatalities in agricultural and related industries, such as landscaping. The language barrier is one reason they get injured. According to statistics from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), reports

*continued on next page*

## News & Notes

Based on a request by AMVAC, use of the herbicide Dacthal® (DCPA) will be terminated for a number of crops. Those of importance to Florida include beans, cucumber, eggplant, kale, pepper, potato, sweet potato, squash, turnip, and yam. (*Federal Register*, 2/16/05).

Based on a request by DuPont, tolerances are approved for use of the herbicide Assure® (quizalofop). Tolerances of importance to Florida include snap bean, cowpea hay and forage.

(*Federal Register*, 2/16/05).

Based on a request by Syngenta and IR-4, tolerances are approved for use of the insecticide/miticide Agri-mek® (abamectin). Tolerances of importance to Florida include avocado, herbs (excluding chives), mint, fruiting vegetables (group 8), and leafy vegetables except brassicas (group 4).

(*Federal Register*, 2/16/05).



"In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in a different format."

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

of fatal injuries among Hispanic farmworkers rose 18 percent from 1999-2002, while nonfatal injuries rose by 33 percent. In the landscaping industry — a sector of Florida agriculture that employs large numbers of immigrant workers — nonfatal injuries increased by 63 percent over the same three-year period.

Since June 2001, Asuaje has taught basic worker safety classes to over 1,500 workers. He believes the classes have made a difference in the way his students approach safety in the field. His success is difficult to quantify — the program is new and statistics on migrant worker accidents can be difficult to collect — but the classes are growing in popularity with agricultural producers who want to provide training to workers in their native language.



High demand for the worker safety program has led Asuaje to begin offering other Spanish-language classes. His office is one of the few places where Florida residents can take Spanish-language classes toward a license to apply pesticides — something that can give hope to workers that struggle with English training programs. The test for the pesticide license certification is in English, and applicants need some basic reading skills in English to be successful in the examination. But, instructions in Spanish can make a difference in how well the students grasp the basic concepts of the class. “We start with Spanish and include more and more English as the class goes along.” Asuaje explains. “It’s good because if someone has a problem understanding something, we can work it out in Spanish, which is easier.” Workers with acceptable reading skills seem to benefit the most, while those who have lower reading skills will begin the learning process for pesticide license certification plus the training in agriculture.

For 2005, Asuaje and Darrin Parmenter, Vegetable Extension Agent for Palm Beach County, are planning to develop a Food Safety training program. The goal is to offer a food safety training program in English and Spanish to local packing houses and vegetable farms. If you any questions please feel free to contact them.

Article courtesy of Tim Lockette. Original article appeared in IFAS' *Impact Magazine*, vol. 20, no.2

## Manpower Development Agent

Laura Powell, Manpower Development Agent, will be leaving Palm Beach County Extension after more than five years of service. Laura and her husband are excited about returning to her hometown, Winter Haven, where they will be closer to family and friends. Over the past five years, Laura has taught hundreds of pesticide certification and training classes throughout South Florida. The University of Florida and Palm Beach County are committed to filling her position quickly and until that position is filled, the pesticide classes will be taught by other extension agents. If you have any questions regarding pesticide licensing or teaching please call either Extension office (996-1655 or 233-1725).

# Disease Profile

## Disease Profile: Bacterial Spot

During this time of year, it is not uncommon to see bacterial spot (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Vesicatoria*) infestation in the bell pepper fields of South Florida. Optimal conditions for bacterial spot are high moisture, high relative humidity and warm temperatures (75 to 90 degrees F). Initial signs include small, yellow, slightly raised spots appearing on young leaves. On older leaves, the spots tend to be darker, water-soaked, and not noticeably raised. Over time, the spots can enlarge to 1/8 to 1/4 inch and become brown with a dark margin. During periods of high rainfall or humidity, spots on leaves may coalesce causing “blight” symptoms and abscission. Bacterial spot can be a seedborne disease and can spread rapidly in the transplant bed or by workers and machinery in the field.



Pronounced bacterial spot on bell pepper, 2005.

Control can be accomplished by planting disease-free transplants and not working transplants while they are wet. It is also important to maintain a preventative bactericide program in the transplant bed, as well as in the field during the growing season. It is also recommended to use cultivars resistant to the specific races of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* known to occur in the production area.

For more information, go to the “2005 Florida Plant Disease Management Guide: Pepper” at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PG052>.

## Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp

Palm Beach County's eighth annual safety day camp will take place on Thursday, May 12 at the Canal Point Community Center. More than 250 fourth grade students from elementary schools throughout the Glades area will participate in a day filled with interactive learning stations. This year's safety topics include drowning prevention, chemical safety, large equipment safety, fire safety, severe weather safety, seatbelt safety, and more. If you or your organization is interested in volunteering to help with the camp, or if you would like to make a donation to help support the camp, please call the Belle Glade office at 561-996-1655. This camp has continued to be successful for so many years due to the overwhelming support of the community. Thank you!

## Website

Palm Beach County Extension has a new website! Linda Seals, our Master Gardener Coordinator has been working hard for several months to get the site up and running. While some of the agriculture pages are still under construction, we invite you to take a look at what we have so far. You can find our website at <http://www.pbcgov.com/coopext/home>. Please let us know what you think, and what types of information you would like to see on our website in the future.