1:45-3:45. Opportunities in Florida’s Expanding Hydroponic Industry

Speakers:

1. **Robert Hochmuth,**
   UF/IFAS Multi County Extension Agent,
   Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center

   Robert Hochmuth is a County Extension Agent IV with 32 years of experience. His current position is 50% multi-county in nature supporting the commercial greenhouse and field vegetable Extension program in the Suwannee Valley region of Northeast Florida. The position’s other 50% of responsibility is to serve as the statewide co-leader for educational programs in the area of small farms and alternative enterprises.

2. **Dilcia Toro,**
   Program Assistant
   UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center

   Dilcia Toro is a program assistant at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center. Dilcia is responsible for managing field trials and managing the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises website. Her work has focused on best management practices in vegetable and row crops and greenhouse production. She holds an agronomy degree from Zamorano University and a masters in Extension from UF.

3. **Frank Giglia,**
   Signature Supply Inc., Lakeland, FL

   Frank Giglia, a graduate of the University of Florida, owns and operates Signature Supply, Inc., a Lakeland, Florida based company which focuses on sunlight management that effects micro-climate control in protected culture. He is also a member of the UF/IFAS SHARE Council and has worked with many of the IFAS Research Centers as well as facilities at Texas A&M and Cornell University.

4. **Wanda Laughlin,**
   Senior Agricultural Assistant Supervisor
   UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center

   Wanda Laughlin is a Senior Agricultural Assistant Supervisor at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center in Live Oak, where she manages the Protected Ag / Hydroponic program. Wanda’s background was in commercial bedding plant plug and poinsettia production before joining UF in 2002.