

2026 Southern Indiana Melon & Vegetable Growers Meeting

Date: Jan. 16 2026

Location: French Lick Resort & Casino, 8670 IN-56, French Lick, IN 47432

	Topics	Presenter(s)
8:30-9:00 am	Registration	
9:00-9:10	Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA) and southwest Purdue agricultural program updates	John Young and Wenjing Guan
9:10-10:00	Purdue vegetable pathology program update: gummy stem blight, cucurbit yellow vine disease, and fungicide trials	Cesar Escalante
10:00-10:50	2025 watermelon variety trial / Current knowledge on the use of cover crops for soilborne disease management	Wenjing Guan
10:50-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:00	Drones for pesticide application	Alex Helms
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:00	Irrigation: new regulation on Indiana water use, irrigation system uniformity, fertigation/chemigation system design	Lyndon Kelley
2:00-2:30	Insect research update – bumble bees and pollenizers in watermelon	Zeus Mateos Fierro and Amy Lynn Bagby
2:30-3:00	Food Safety research update: new sanitizer research with cantaloupes, cantaloupe crop developmental model	Scott Monroe
3:00-3:30 pm	Endangered species act: navigating the new pesticide label (PARP Regulatory talk)	Richard Beckort

The meeting registration fee is \$30, lunch included. Registration fee will be collected on-site by Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA). PARPs credits are available with additional \$10.

For questions about the meeting, and exhibit booths, please contact IVGA president John Young at jmyoungco@yahoo.com, or Illiana Watermelon Association president Rob Beets at Robert.Beets@syngenta.com.