

2027 Southern Indiana Melon & Vegetable Growers Meeting

Date: Jan. 15 2027

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

Time	Topics	Presenter(s)
8:30–9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:00–9:15 a.m.	Updates from Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA) and Purdue Extension	John Young (IVGA) Laura Ingwell (Purdue Extension Entomologist, Indiana Horticulture & Small Farm Conference Co-Chair)
9:15–10:00 a.m.	Sample Submission for Diagnostics (PARP) Fungicide Efficacy Trials in Cucurbits, 2026 (PARP)	Cesar Escalante (Purdue Extension Plant Pathologist)
10:00–10:50 a.m.	Practical Applications of AI in Farm Management	Chad Fiechter (Assistant Professor of Agricultural Finance, Purdue University)
10:50–11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00–11:40 a.m.	Watermelon Pollinators and Pollinizer Plants (PARP)	Amy Bagby (Graduate Student at Purdue Entomology Lab) and Wenjing Guan (Purdue Extension Horticultural Specialist)
11:40 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Automated Pest Trapping and Demonstration (PARP)	Grace Wang (Graduate Student at Purdue Entomology lab)
12:00–1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30–2:00 p.m.	Into the Weeds – Herbicide and Policy Updates (PARP)	Steve Meyers (Purdue Extension Specialty Crop Weed Scientist, Indiana Pesticide Review Board member)

2:00–2:40 p.m.	Understanding Cantaloupe Shelf Life	Wenjing Guan, Katheryn Parraga (Purdue Food Safety Research and Outreach Specialist) and Scott Monroe (Purdue Extension Food Safety Specialist)
2:40–3:00 p.m.	Food Safety Updates	Scott Monroe
3:00–3:30 p.m.	PARP Regulatory Update	Richard Beckort (Purdue Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator)

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 Renee Goodwin reneegoodwin@freyfarms.com