

The Crop Rotator

Your Voice Matters to the Field Crops IPM Team at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension!

We invite you to share your insights and experiences with our Field Crops Programs through this brief, anonymous survey. **Your feedback is important to the success and effectiveness of our programs**, which include a wide range of activities such as Extension meetings, workshops, field days, publications, the “AZ-AG Newsletter”, and our hands-on services in pest and disease management, and plant and insect diagnostics. Our mission is to deliver quality, scientifically-backed educational materials, focusing on critical areas such as insect, weed, disease, nematode, and soil health management. Your input will play a crucial role in shaping our programs, ensuring they meet the needs of the desert agricultural community and positively impact your industry in Arizona. Your participation is highly valued and contributes significantly to our continuous improvement.

Please follow the link below to access the survey. It should take less than five minutes to complete, and your responses will remain anonymous - <https://qr.page/g/3XdEl894Sb4>

If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Naomi Pier at nmpier@arizona.edu.

We thank you for your time and support!



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Purchase Local AZ Project Funding

Purchase Local Arizona is a food purchasing program administered by [Pinnacle Prevention](#) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program is funded by USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. Purchase Local Arizona strengthens local and regional food systems and helps underserved communities get nutritious, Arizona-grown food.

Starting March 1, projects proposals can be submitted with a maximum project amount of \$30,000.

Purchase Local Arizona (PLAZ) is a local food purchasing program administered by [Pinnacle Prevention](#) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program is funded by USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The Goals of PLAZ are:

1. to support Arizona farmers, ranchers, and food producers; prioritizing those from socially disadvantaged groups; and
2. to distribute fresh nutritious foods to underserved communities across Arizona.

Through 2025, Purchase Local Arizona will strengthen local and regional food systems by working collaboratively with food producers, aggregators, distributors, food security organizations, food banks & pantries, and tribal partners and help underserved communities in Arizona get nutritious, seasonal, Arizona grown food.

Open Now: The Spring 2024 Application Period

STEP 1: Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document to learn about the program and the application process.

STEP 2: Download and complete the [Project Proposal & Budget Template](#).

STEP 3: Fill out the PLAZ Application and upload your Budget Template.

The online form will accept submissions for review between **March 1st and March 31st 2024**. Click here to [Start Application](#).

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions no later than April 5th 2024.



Join us Tuesday, March 5th @ 11a

We will be hosting a brief webinar to offer an overview of the Purchase Local AZ program and how to get involved -as a food producer or community partner- including assistance with the current application process.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Irrigation System Success Through Proven Maintenance Strategies in the Field

When: **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

Where: [Maricopa Ag Center](#), 37860 W Smith Enke Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85138
and Via Zoom

Speakers: The event will have speakers representing irrigation companies, farmers, scientists, and technicians

Who should

attend: Growers, PCAs, Ag industry representatives and anyone interested in agriculture in Arizona

Registration link: <https://maintainsystems.rsvpify.com>

Zoom link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/88668178449>

[CLICK HERE](#) for Agenda

For further questions, contact:

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Join Us in Enhancing Irrigation Efficiency Through Soil Moisture Sensor Research

We are launching a project (further details provided below) **to install soil moisture sensors for a year in farms throughout the state of Arizona**, aiming to help farmers track and manage soil moisture for better irrigation. **Given the project's limited funding, we will be applying a first-come, first-served approach.**

Project Focus:

Our goal is to gain a better understanding of soil moisture dynamics to empower farmers like you with more efficient irrigation management strategies. By participating, you contribute directly to the development of tools that can enhance your decision-making process regarding when and how much to irrigate.

Your Contribution:

We are offering the installation of a soil moisture sensor on your farm, a device that will collect valuable data crucial to improving irrigation models and apps developed by Dr. Peter Waller from the University of Arizona. Your insights and experiences are integral to this research, and we believe the results will directly benefit farmers across the state.

Data Confidentiality:

Your privacy is paramount to us. Any data collected from the soil moisture sensors will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. If you choose to share your irrigation data, rest assured that it will be kept strictly confidential. Presentations of research findings will anonymize all information, ensuring no mention of specific farm names.

Benefits to You:

Participating in this research not only advances our collective understanding of soil moisture but also provides you with insights to manage your irrigations more efficiently, potentially leading to improved crop yields.

Installation Details:

We will handle the installation of the sensors ourselves, but we may need a bit of assistance from you or a farm helper for an hour or two every time we need to install or remove the sensor. Your involvement during this phase is minimal, and we will ensure the process is as smooth as possible.

Next Steps:

If you are interested in being part of this initiative or have any questions, please respond to this email. We will then provide you with additional details, including the installation process and a tentative timeline for the study.

If you are interested in participating or if you like more information, contact:

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