



**NATIONAL EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE** February 3-5, 2026

# IR-4 Project NEC Photo Superlatives Contest

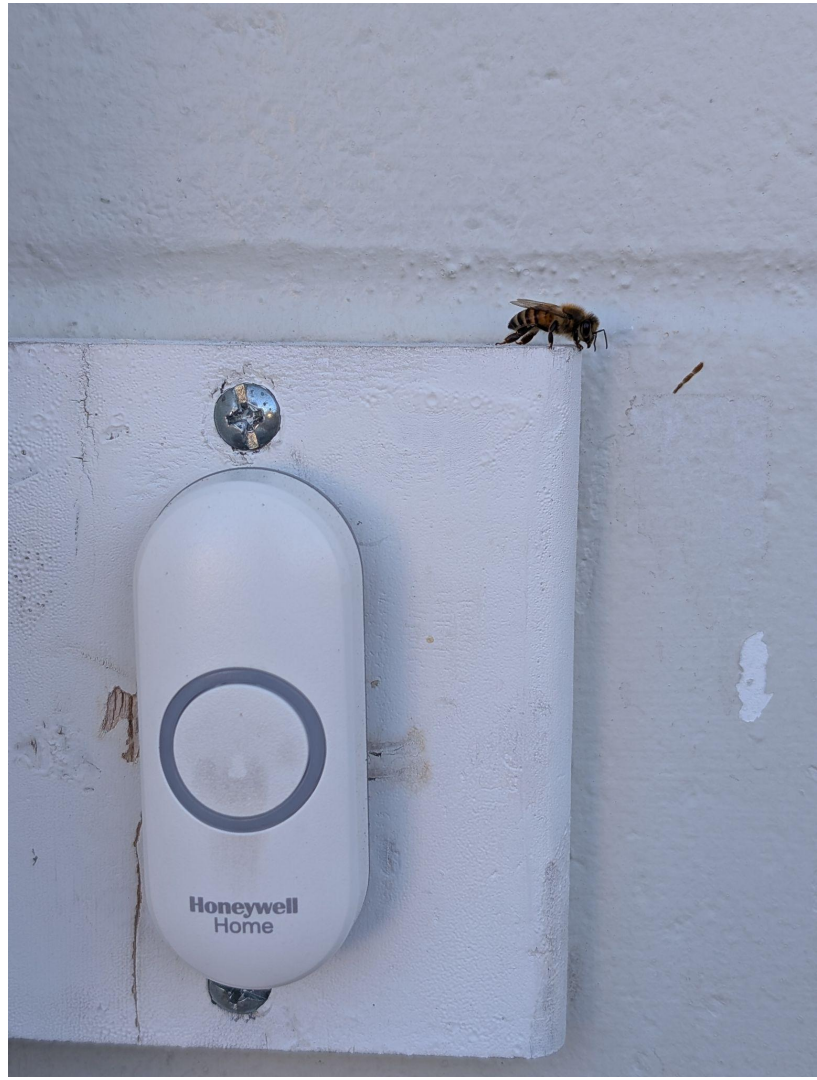




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**Critter Photos!**

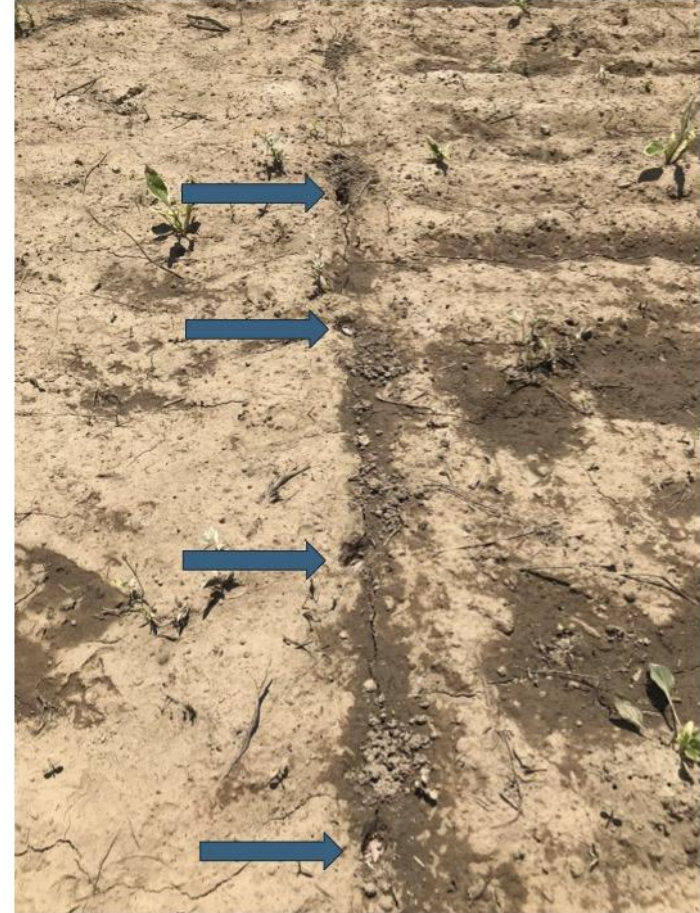
Little honeybee sitting  
outside a door one  
morning.



One of the many slugs next to a cranberry plot in Long Beach, Washington.



Pumpkin seeds were planted every 6". Sandhill cranes efficiently consumed the majority of the plot, pecking holes exactly where the seeds were planted.



Stink bug on  
blackberry.



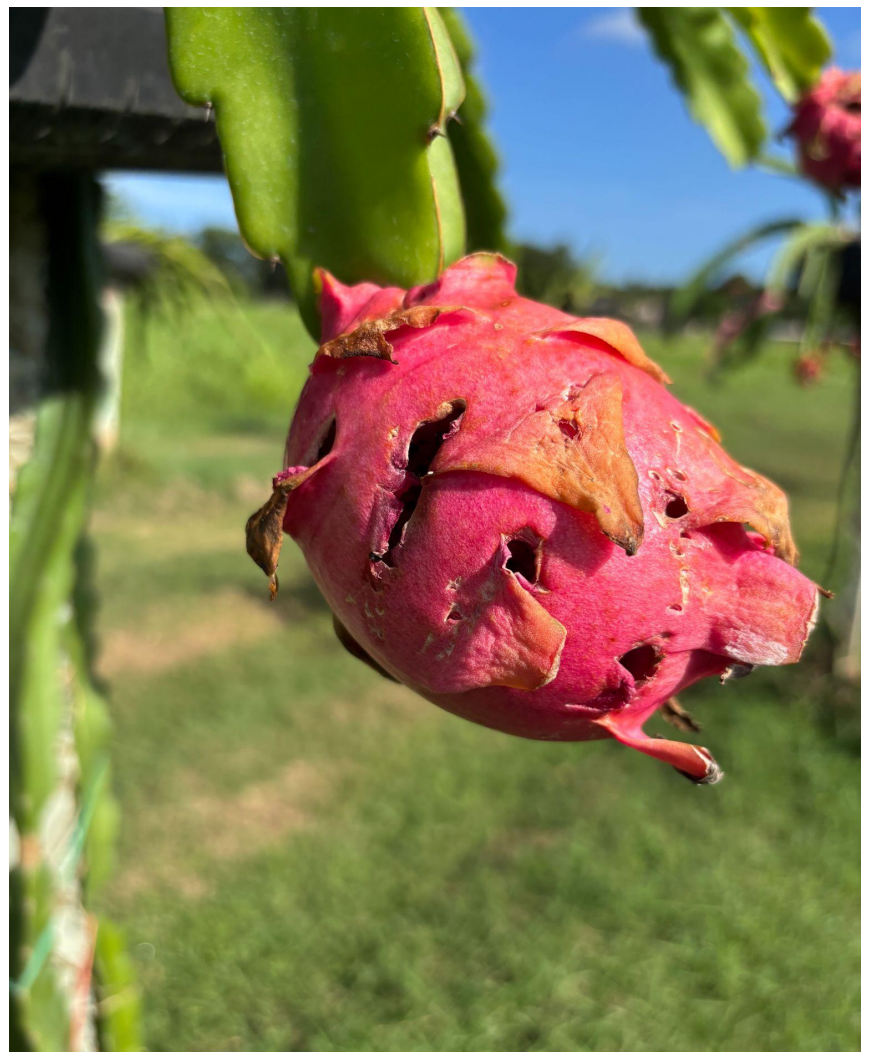
It's great to be a  
Florida Gator!



**Spotted  
Lanternfly  
Spray on newly  
planted IR-4  
Wine Grape  
Plots**



**Fruit damage caused by  
bird feeding on  
dragonfruit.**



**Mealybug destroyer  
larva hunting for  
mealybugs.**



**Birds nest with eggs!**



**Verifying the flow rate for  
their pineapple application  
set up on the Dole  
Plantation!**



After driving 4 hours to spray an herb trial in Illinois, when we arrived winds were about 15 mph. The grower rigged up a tarp that we could carry behind the applicator to block the wind during application.



Analyzing  
peppers and  
cranberries  
makes a  
festive photo!



**My sunflowers turned into 18 foot monsters and the hiboy sprayer only went to 15 feet, so I couldn't use it. There was no time to buy more equipment.**



**Foliar Broadcast  
application on  
sugarcane using a  
handmade 5-nozzle  
boom held at 10 ft high  
over plant canopy.**



**Tree injection  
application in  
California.**



**Vertical boom adapted  
with backpack setup for  
CO2 and mounted on  
moving dolly.**





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**Difficult Crop/  
Matrix Photos!**

# Hemp, CBD Extraction



Baby greens at 16 days after planting. The beet greens were only about ½ to 2 inches tall. It was challenging to harvest the minimum required weight in this decline trial. We to have enough plants left for an additional 9 sample collections and still have over 50% of the crop left.



# Sampling for Imidacloprid - Oyster in Washington State



**Harvesting hops bines.**





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**Best Work Photos!**

For a while my daughter was giving me stuffed animals to "take to work with me", so I had some fun with them posing for photos in the lab.



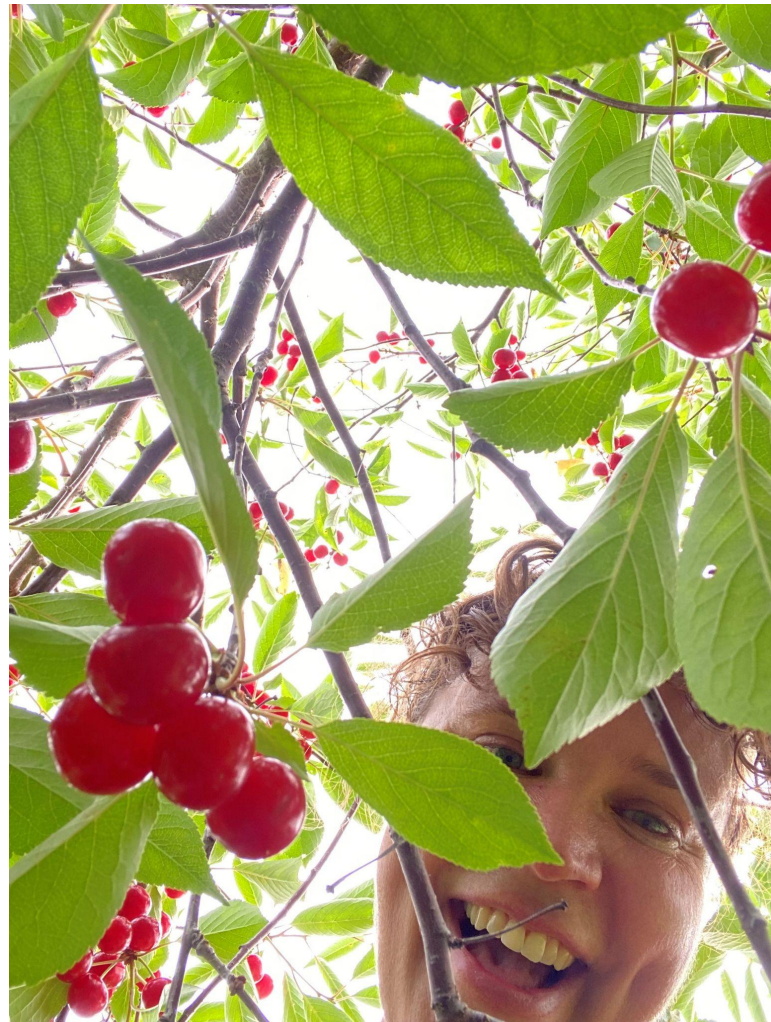
It was very cold in the lab because of a power outage, so I grabbed all of my knitted garments (and my cup of tea) usually on hand for work in the freezers and sent a picture to my former colleague who taught me how to knit.



**Dragonfruit application  
in the Pomoaho  
field station.**



**During a residue harvest; I had to snap a selfie with this photogenic crop!**



**RFC team,  
Canadian  
colleagues &  
Roger Batts in  
front of cotton  
bale**



**Food &  
Environmental  
Toxicology Lab  
attended the Food  
Science & Human  
Nutrition Luncheon**



## Passion Fruit Field Day



The New IR-4 Project  
Empty Active File  
Room at NC State  
(during Covid).



Oregon State University team (spelling out "O-S-U") with the Largest Frying Pan (Long Beach, WA). We got to goof around a bit after a very early morning spraying cranberries.



A beautiful day at Snyder Farm doing one of my favorite farm tasks (transplanting tomatoes) with one of my favorite people (my son Aaron who worked two summers at the Snyder Farm as a Rutgers student intern).



**Western Region  
Group Photo 2023  
NEC Puerto Rico**



## Cacao bean pod tasting!



# Tasting the star fruit on the Puerto Rico NEC Crop Tour



Photo of a carrot harvest with the field plots on muck soil in the background (yes, the soil is black).



At harvest completion, the coffee harvest team celebrates that no findings were observed at the field audit.



# Sampling papaya in Hawaii!

**IR-4**  
Project 



**Planting basil!**





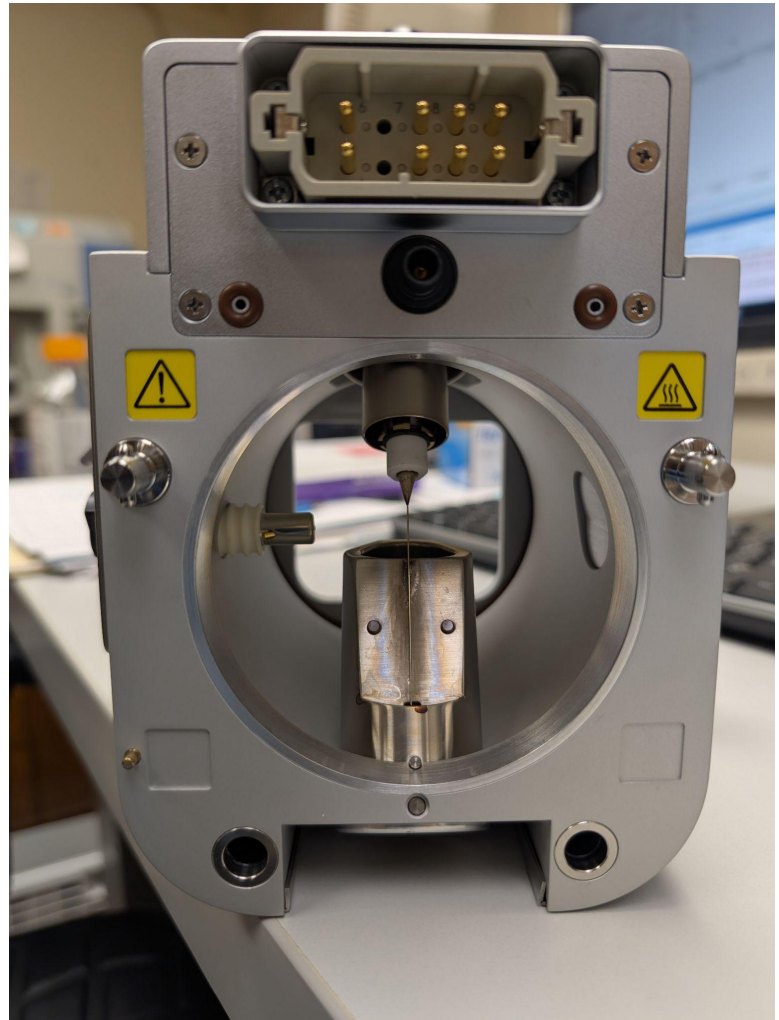
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**Emergency Photos!**

**Bubbles in a solvent line! This one is definitely an "emergency" because it's just a needle wash line, not an actual solvent line. Annoying and could potentially result in carryover, but not world-ending.**



My probe needle fell out of its base! Thankfully, I had another one on hand for such an "emergency."



Driving through a grower's field a ditch jumped up out of nowhere and I ended up with only 2 wheels touching the ground! Luckily we work with very kind people and they brought a tractor over to pull us out.



**A small alligator  
walked through  
the parking lot.  
Once spotted by  
humans, he hid  
under Andrew's  
car!**



**A UPD Officer who also works with wildlife captured the lost gator and returned him to a better home.**



Where is my sprayer and tractor? This is a photo of the building after a tornado went through the research center. The destroyed area is where I formerly stored my tractor and sprayer.





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**Coollest Crop!**

## Hops on their vines in Prosser, WA!



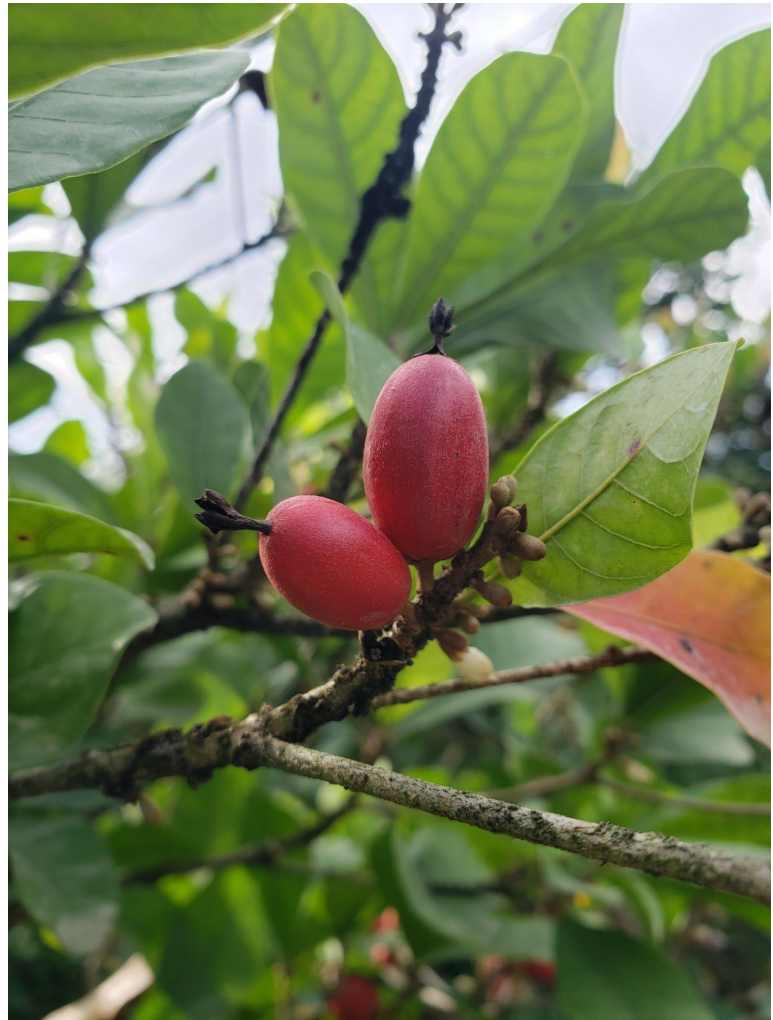
**Can you name this crop??  
Okra has the most  
beautiful flower which then  
turns into such an  
interesting vegetable.  
In my opinion, this is as  
cool as crops get in  
Michigan!**



## Cacao Pod!



# Miracle Fruit!



## Dragon Fruit Bud!



**Mushrooms—  
conducting  
mushroom trials  
at Lambert  
Spawn in  
Coatesville, PA.**



Cacao Beans on  
drying racks on  
O'ahu.



Photo I took  
during  
California  
Specialty Crop  
tour of grower  
producing 6  
types of lettuce  
for Costco.



## Cacao Harvest!



## Prickly Pear harvest in Salinas, CA.



Hops vines full of  
cones ready to  
harvest.

**IR-4**  
Project 



**Thank you for  
submitting your  
photos!**

***VOTE!* for your  
favorites via this  
code or the NEC  
web page.**

