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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organic Soil Fertility for Vegetables and Strawberries

Organic vegetable and strawberry production are vital parts of agricultural on the Central Coast. There have been many changes over the years in the scale of production, but there continue to be challenges in soil fertility. The University of California Cooperative Extension, Monterey County and the UC Vegetable Research and Information Center are presenting a short course that pulls together recent research on soil fertility management for organic vegetable and strawberry production. The course is intended to provide information to help growers and consultants better understand and manage nitrogen and phosphorus management.

The event will take place on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Agricultural Center Conference Room at 1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA. In the morning, session topics will include the mineralization of forms of nitrogen for crop growth from soil organic materials, soil amendments, as well as dry organic fertilizers. The in-season use of liquid organic fertilizers in drip irrigation systems will also be discussed. In the afternoon there will be presentations on a wide range of topics including phosphorus nutrition, nitrogen management in strawberries, the role of soil microbes in plant nutrition, the value of nitrate in irrigation water and the impact of cover crops on nitrogen nutrition. Speakers include researchers that are conducting projects on the above-mentioned topics.

The cost for registration is \$70 if received by January 30, 2019 and \$90 thereafter. The course fee includes light refreshments, lunch and handout materials. Class size is limited, so early enrollment is encouraged. For more details and to register, see <http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu> or call (831) 759-7353.