

## Specialty Crops Program: Lime Field Day Training

By: Harry Fisher, Specialty Crops Program Office of the Deputy Administrator



L to R: Aron Sanchez, Manuel Saldivar, Richard Ruiz, Noe Carreon (TCIP), Kip Panebianco, Jennifer Hale, Steve Eguino (SCI).



*Classroom in the sun*

industry sources. Value in our market reporting is a direct result of shared market information.

Industry members who attended this event were pleased and appreciative of the insight and training provided by TCIP and SCP.

To discuss fruit and vegetable training options tailored to your local needs contact the Specialty Crops Inspection Training and Development Branch at 540-361-1120 or [scitrainingbranch@usda.gov](mailto:scitrainingbranch@usda.gov).

On August 4, 2023, The Texas International Produce Association (TIPA) hosted a “Lime Grades & Standards Training Day” in Pharr, TX. Specialty Crops Program (SCP) Federal Program Managers, Standardization Specialists and a Market News Reporter joined the Texas Cooperative Inspection Program (TCIP) to engage with lime growers, shippers, distributors, packers, and warehouse operators, many of them from Mexico. This was a free training event to help the lime industry better understand the USDA guidelines of grading, lime standards and market news lime reporting.

The day was split into a morning and afternoon session. The morning session consisted of a classroom-style PowerPoint presentation and a live lime grading demo performed by a TCIP supervisor and training officer. Industry was able to ask questions to both USDA and TCIP representatives. Questions were asked and answered in English and Spanish. The afternoon session included visits to local warehouses where attendees were able to see the difference between yellowing and blanching on limes under various lighting, including bright sunlight!

The SCP Market News reporter answered questions regarding lime FOB reporting and provided insights into the trust relationship reporters have with