

2025 FBGA Fall Meeting and Short Course
Thursday, October 23, 2025
Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland, FL

8:00 a.m. Visit Trade Show

9:00 a.m. Welcome – *Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dean for Research and Executive Director of Academic Affairs, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.*

9:20 a.m. Using Pesticidal Tactics and Rotations to Manage Chilli Thrips Populations - *Dr. Oscar Liburd, Professor and Program Leader, Fruit and Vegetable Entomology, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

9:50 a.m. Summary of the 2024 Florida Blueberry Season - *Mr. Doug Phillips, blueberry Extension coordinator, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

10:10 a.m. Break – visit trade show

10:40 a.m. Title TBD – *Ms. Cat Canone, FBGA Executive Director.*

11:10 a.m. Workforce Updates for Agricultural Employers – *Mr. Jamie Fussell, Director of Labor Relations, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA).*

11:40 a.m. FBGA business meeting - *Mr. Kyle Straughn, FBGA President presiding*

12:00 p.m. Lunch and trade show

1:15 p.m. Optimizing Irrigation Scheduling: Tools and Strategies for Florida Blueberry Growers – *Dr. Sandra Guzmán, Assistant Professor, Irrigation, Hydrology, and Best Management Practices (BMP's), University of Florida. Fort Pierce, Fla.*

1:45 p.m. The Four R's of Fertilization: A Blueberry Perspective - *Dr. Gerardo Nunez, Assistant Professor, plant physiology, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.*

2:15 p.m. Title TBD [cross pollination research – via Zoom] – *Dr. Rachel Mallinger, Associate Professor, Pollinator Ecology and Conservation, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.*

2:45 p.m. Title TBD [new yield estimation AI technology]

3:15 p.m. Title TBD [USHBC fee assessment, items benefiting growers in new federal legislation] – *Ms. Brittany Lee, USHBC Florida Delegate and Board Member, and Ms. Alyssa Houtby, Government Affairs Director, NABC.*

4:00 p.m. Distribution of signed CEU forms.