

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. Funding the Future – Grower Assistance Programs – 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. – Pollination In Any Weather: How Temperature and Humidity Affect Flowers, Bees, and Berries – Dr. Rachel Mallinger, Associate Professor, Pollinator Ecology and Conservation, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.

2:45 p.m. Title TBA – Dr. Bruno Leme, Postdoctoral Associate, Blueberry Breeding and Genomics Laboratory, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla. and Mr. Steve Mantel, Founder, innov8.ag, USHBC Berry Smart Program.

3:15 p.m. Title TBA – 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.