2026 FBGA Fall Meeting and Short Course
Thursday, October 15, 2026
Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland, FL

AGENDA

8:00 a.m. Visit Trade Show

9:00 a.m. Sponsor recognition.

9:05 a.m. Welcome – *Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dean for Research and Executive Director of Academic Affairs, IFAS, University of Florida.*

9:20 a.m. Summary of the 2026 Florida Blueberry Season - *Mr. Doug Phillips, blueberry Extension coordinator, IFAS, University of Florida.*

9:40 a.m. Present and Future of UF Blueberry Breeding – *Dr. Patricio Munoz, Associate Professor, Blueberry Breeding and Genomics, IFAS, University of Florida.*

10:10 a.m. Break – visit trade show

10:40 a.m. Weather Happens … Florida Recovers: Key FSA Updates for Producers – *Ms. Marcinda Kester, State Executive Director, USDA FSA.*

11:10 a.m. USHBC and NABC Update – *Ms. Brittany Lee, Vice Chair USHBC, and Mr. Teddy Koukoulis, Chair NABC.*

11:40 a.m. Florida Strawberry Growers Win Preliminary Commerce Ruling on Mexican Imports – *Mr. Kenneth Parker, Executive Director, Florida Strawberry Growers Association.*

12:00 p.m. Lunch and trade show, FBGA business meeting

1:15 p.m. Results from Three Years of Studying Chilli Thrips Behavior – *Dr. Oscar Liburd, Professor, Entomology Department, IFAS, University of Florida.*

1:45 p.m. Lessons Learned from Pruning as a Freeze Recovery Tool – *Dr. Gerardo Nunez, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida.*

2:15 p.m. Linking Colletotrichum Diversity to Fungicide Sensitivity and Anthracnose Management – *Dr. Flávia Rogério, Dr. Erica Gross, Dr. Brantlee Spakes, and Dr. Phil Harmon (presenting), Plant Pathology Department, IFAS, University of Florida.*

2:45 p.m. Potential Economic Feasibility of Grafted Blueberry Plants – *Dr. Kevin Athearn, Regional Specialized Agent III, Ms. Valentina Goles, MSc., Biological Scientist II, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida.*

3:15 p.m. Distribution of signed CEU forms.