

2025 FBGA Spring Meeting & Field Day

March 6, 2025

Plant Science Research and Education Center

2556 West Highway 318

Citra, FL 32113

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – **Visit exhibitors**

9:00 a.m. – **Welcome - Dr. J. Scott Angle**, senior vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

9:15 a.m. – **Best practices for grafting blueberries - Ms. Valentina Goles**, graduate research assistant, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

9:35 a.m. – **Update on nitrogen BMP research for blueberry – Dr. Hanna de Jesus**, postdoctoral associate, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

9:50 a.m. – **Blueberry canopy light interception – Dr. Md Zohurul Kadir Roni**, postdoctoral associate, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

10:10 a.m. – **Break – Visit exhibitors.**

10:30 a.m. – **Growing larger berries: water influx and cell division – Mr. Scott Cruz**, graduate research assistant, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

10:50 a.m. – **Phosphorus fertilization in southern highbush blueberry – Dr. Gerardo Nunez**, Horticultural physiologist, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

11:10 a.m. – **Fundamental shifts in the U.S. Blueberry market: An overview of production and trade – Dr. Zhengfei Guan**, Economist, Food and Resource Economics Department, Gulf Coast research and Education Center, Wimauma, Fla.

11:30 a.m. – **Panel discussion on mechanical harvesting of Florida blueberries – Mr. Ryan Atwood**, H&A Farms; **Mr. Kyle Hill**, H&C Harvesting; **Mr. Kyle Straughn**, Straughn Farms; and **Mr. Cameron Allison**, Wild Goose Farms.

12:00 p.m. – **Preview and instructions for the Field Tour.**

12:10 p.m. – **Lunch and visit with exhibitors.**

1:00 p.m. - **Depart for tour of research projects including** - a drone demonstration, pine bark research, phosphorus fertilizer study, fall blueberry production, and blueberry rootstock research.

2:45 p.m. – **Return to conference center.**

3:00 p.m. – **Adjourn.**