

2024 FBGA Fall Meeting and Short Course
Thursday, October 24, 2024
Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland, FL

8:00 a.m. Visit Trade Show

9:00 a.m. Welcome – *Dr. Nathan Boyd, Associate Center Director (Gulf Coast Research and Education Center) and Professor of Horticulture, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

9:15 a.m. Research update on the nitrogen fertilization of evergreen blueberry - *Dr. Gerardo Nunez, Assistant Professor, plant physiology, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

9:45 a.m. FBGA research committee update – *Dr. Phil Harmon, Professor, Plant Pathology Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

10:00 a.m. Break – visit trade show

10:30 a.m. Exploring the opportunities ahead with USHBC, *Ms. Amanda Griffin, Vice President Engagement and Education, U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC).*

NABC advocacy and the dynamics of passing the Farm Bill, *Ms. Alyssa Houtby, Government Affairs Director, North American Blueberry Council (NABC).*

11:30 a.m. Summary of the 2024 Florida blueberry season - *Mr. Doug Phillips, blueberry Extension coordinator, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

11:45 a.m. FBGA business meeting - *Mr. Leonard Park, FBGA President presiding*

12:00 p.m. Lunch and trade show

1:15 p.m. Choosing a herbicide program for Florida blueberry – *Dr. Peter Dittmar, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

1:45 p.m. UF blueberry breeding program update: current and future – *Dr. Patricio Munoz, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

2:15 p.m. Retailer Insights with USHBC – Video of Kasey Cronquist interview with Albertsons Companies National Vice President of Produce Shawn Peery.

2:45 p.m. Workforce Updates for Agricultural Employers – *Mr. Jamie Fussell, Director of Labor Relations, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA).*

3:15 p.m. Research update on chilli thrips management, *Dr. Oscar Liburd, Professor and Program Leader, Fruit and Vegetable Entomology, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. and Mr. Allan Busuulwa , PhD Student, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

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