

**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

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 Florida blueberries – Mr. Ryan Atwood, H&A Farms; Mr. Kyle Hill, H&C Harvesting; and Mr. Kyle Straughn, Straughn 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.