



# Meeting Agenda



## Thursday, January 8, 2026

**7:30 AM Registration Open**

**8:00 AM Coffee with Sponsors**

**9:00 AM Opening Session**

**Keynote: Small Berry, Big Potential: The Strawberry West-East Connection**

Dr. Mark Hoffman | Viticulture and Strawberry Production Specialist,  
North Carolina State University

**10:05 AM Breakout Session I**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Creating a Strong Collaborative Foundation for Clemson's Small Fruit Research**

- Dr. Guido Schnabel | Plant Pathologist, Clemson University
- Melissa Munoz | Horticulture, Small Fruit Research Specialist, Clemson University
- Lindsey Thiessen | Plant Pathologist, Small Fruit Research Specialist, Clemson University

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Management of Thrips and Mites in Strawberries**

- Dr. Sriyanka Lahiri | Strawberry and Small Fruit Entomologist, University of Florida

**10:35 AM Breakout Session I**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **South Carolina Small Fruit Growers Association Annual Membership Meeting**

- Discussion Lead by SCSFGA President Michael Parker | Hickory Bluff Farms

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Post Harvest Handling of Small Fruit**

- Dr. Angelos Deltsidis | Assistant Professor in Postharvest Physiology, University of Georgia

**11:00 AM Breakout Session I**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Membership Discussion: Establishing Research Directions with Grower Insights for Clemson's Small Fruit Research Program**

- Moderator: Bob Hall | Bush-n-Vine Farms

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **NASGA Annual Membership Meeting**

**11:35 AM      General Session**  
**Keynote: Berries Can Help Shift the American Diet**  
Dr. Mary Ann Lila | Plants for Human Health Institute,  
North Carolina State University

**12:00 PM      Lunch**

**1:00 PM      Dessert with Sponsors**

**1:30 PM      Breakout Session II**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **In-Line Fumigation as the Alternative to Traditional Fumigation Application**
  - Justin Ballew | Clemson University
  - Zach Snipes | Clemson University

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Grower Profile**
  - Jake Carter | Southern Belle Farms

**2:00 PM      Breakout Session II**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Soil Health: Are Biologics and Probiotics Snake Oil or Helpful**
  - Tyler Jacoby | New Generation Agriculture

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Indoor Strawberry Propagation: Strives to Optimize Mother-Plant Performance in Vertical Propagation Systems**
  - Dr. Mark Hoffman | Small Fruit Specialist, North Carolina State University
- **Strawberry Transplant Physiology and Management Practices to Maximize Field Performance**
  - Dr. Shinsuke Agehara | University of Florida

**2:20 PM**

**2:35 PM      Afternoon Refreshments with Exhibitors**

**2:45 PM      In-Line Fumigation Rig Show and Tell - Outside**

- Justin Ballew | Clemson University
- Zach Snipes | Clemson University

**3:00 PM      Breakout Session III**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Invasion of the Robotics on Your Farm**
  - Dr. Matt Cutulle | Clemson University

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Propagation Traits Across Different Strawberry Varieties**
  - Dr. Ibraheem Olasupo | North Carolina State University
- **Strawberry Transplant Preconditioning for Indoor Propagation**
  - Pooja Tripathi | Ohio State University

**3:10 PM**



**3:25 PM      Breakout Session III**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Water Planning in South Carolina**
  - Rob Devlin | South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
  - Joe Koon | South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Grower Panel Discussion on Strawberry Plant Propagation**
  - Kyle Dick | EZ-Gro
  - Austin Wrenn | Fresh Pik
  - Nourse Farms Representative

**3:50 PM      Breakout Session III**

**SCSFGA | Chatham Ballroom A**

- **Pest Presures in Southeastern Small Fruit Operations**
  - Brett Blauuw | Entomology, Clemson University

**NASGA | Room 200-202**

- **Bed Formation and Application Method are Critical for a Successful Fumigation**
  - Dr. Stanley Culpepper | Weed Scientist, University of Georgia

**4:45 PM      SCSFGA and NASGA Reception | Georgia International Gallery**

**6:30 PM      Adjourn  
Enjoy Dinner Across the River!**