

EXPO Events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

8:00 am	Registration
8:00 am - 6:00 pm	Trade Show Open
9:30 am - 11:00 am	Concurrent Educational Sessions
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch
	President's Welcome <i>Garrett Howell, NC Vegetable Growers Association</i>
	NCVGA Business Meeting <i>Cathy Price Horton, Executive Director</i>
	NC State University Representatives <i>Dr. David Monks & Dr. Frank Louws</i>
	Keynote Speaker <i>Will Brinkley, Tarheel Farmer</i>
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Concurrent Educational Sessions
	General Session - <i>Garrett Howell, NC Vegetable Growers Association, President</i>
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Part 1: Labor Issues and FOIA Coalition: <i>Michelle Grainger, NC Sweetpotato Commission</i>
	Part 2: Telling Our Story: Promoting Agriculture in a Modern World <i>Will Brinkley, Tarheel Farmer, Michelle Grainger, NC Sweetpotato Commission</i>
4:30 pm	Refreshments in the Trade Show: Reception with Host Bar, Assorted Pickles (provided by Mt. Olive Pickle Company) Live Auction
6:00pm	Dinner On Your Own

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

7:30 am - 11:00 am	Trade Show Open
9:30 am - 11:00 am	Concurrent Educational Sessions
11:00 am	Adjourn

TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 2, 2025
TRADE SHOW OPEN - 8:00 AM TO 6:00 PM
MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS - 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM
LUNCH 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

- Session 1 PICKLING CUCUMBER** - Tommy Batts, NC Cooperative Extension
1 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1 hr CCA Credits
9:30 - 10:00 Cucurbit Downy Mildew and Anthracnose Updates: *Lina Quesada-Ocampo, NC State University*
10:00 - 10:30 New Information on Cottony Leak and Downy Mildew Resistant Cultivars: *Rob Last, Clemson Extension, Tony Keinath, Clemson University*
10:30 - 11:00 NC Pickle Producers Association Meeting: *Pickle Growers*
- Session 2 SWEETPOTATO** - Brittney King, Clemson Extension
1 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1.5 hr CCA Credits
9:30 - 10:00 Nematode Management Updates: *Adrienne Gorny, NC State University*
10:00 - 10:30 Weed Survey Results and Weed Control Update: *Kai Goble, Katie Jennings, NC State University*
10:30 - 11:00 Nitrogen Rate Effects on Yields: *Baker Stickley, Jonathan Schultheis, NC State University*
- Session 3 PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE** - Cody Craddock, NC Cooperative Extension
0.5 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1.5 hr CCA Credits
9:30 - 10:00 Tomato Russet Mite Management in Covered Structures: *Lorena Lopez, NC State University*
10:00 - 10:30 Fundamentals of Bell Pepper Production Under High Tunnels: *Emmanuel Emmanuel Torres Quezada, NC State University*
10:30 - 11:00 Tunnel Pickle Trials: *Joe Rowland, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association*

TUESDAY AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS - 1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM

- Session 1 FARM STAND/LOCAL MARKET** - Bruce McLean, NC Cooperative Extension
1.5 hr CCA Credits
1:30 - 2:00 Local Market Access and Crop Scheduling: *John Gurganus, NC Cooperative Extension*
2:00 - 2:30 Grower Panel: How We Use Social Media to Market Our Farm: *Curtis Smith, T.C. Smith Produce, Leah Williams, Williams Produce, Lauren Clemmons, Heritage Fresh Market*
2:30 - 3:00 Influencers & Agriculture - Growing Your Farm's Reach: *Janice Wright, Rooted In NC*
- Session 2 TOMATO & PEPPER MANAGEMENT** - Bill Kleiner, NC Cooperative Extension
1.5 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1.5 hr CCA Credits
1:30 - 2:00 Pepper and Cucurbit Anthracnose: Emerging Issues and Management: *Lina Quesada-Ocampo, NC State University*
2:00 - 2:30 Tomato Spray Program & Pepper Phytophthora Management: *Inga Meadows, NC State University*
2:30 - 3:00 Thrips Management Options on Tomatoes and Peppers: *Mandeep Tayal, Jim Walgenbach, NC State University*
- Session 3 FOOD SAFETY:** Chip Simmons, NC Cooperative Extension
1.5 hr CCA Credits
1:30 - 2:00 What's New in the Food Safety World? 2025 Food Safety Updates for Farms: *Elena Rogers, NC Cooperative Extension*
2:00 - 2:30 Cleaning and Sanitation: Important Resources for Fresh Produce Growers: *Elena Rogers, Chip Simmons, NC Cooperative Extension*
2:30 - 3:00 Where the Rubber Meets the Road: How to Do a FSMA Pre-Harvest Water Assessment! *Chip Simmons, NC Cooperative Extension*
- General Session** - Garrett Howell, NC Vegetable Growers Association, President
3:30 - 4:00 Part 1: Labor Issues and FOIA Coalition: *Michelle Grainger, NC Sweetpotato Commission*
4:00 - 4:30 Part 2: Telling Our Story: Promoting Agriculture in a Modern World *Will Brinkley, Tarheel Farmer, Michelle Grainger, NC Sweetpotato Commission*
4:30 pm Auction, Refreshments in the Trade Show
6:00 pm Dinner on Your Own

Please visit our Trade Show, which will be open continuously throughout the Expo!

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER, 3, 2025
TRADE SHOW OPEN - 7:30 AM TO 11:00 AM
MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS - 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM

- Session 1 COLE CROPS** - Lisa Rayburn, NC Cooperative Extension
0.5 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1.5 hr CCA Credits
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Multistate Evaluation of Heat-resistant Broccoli Cultivars for Spring Production in Eastern United States:**
Emmanuel Torres Quezada, NC State University
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Effect of Planting Dates and Preplant Nitrogen on Broccoli Production in North Carolina:** *Tomas Quezada Baez, Emmanuel Torres Quezada, NC State University*
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Opportunities and Limitations of Mating Disruption for Diamondback Moth:** *Jim Walgenbach, NC State University*
- Session 2 CUCURBITS** - Sarah Richardson, NC Cooperative Extension
1.5 hr NC/SC Pesticide Credits, 1.5 hr CCA Credits
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Demystifying Phytophthora Crown and Fruit Rot Management Strategies for Cucurbits:**
Doug Higgins, Virginia Tech
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Managing the Rindworm Complex, and other IPM Updates, with a Focus on Watermelon and Zucchini:**
Tom Bilbo, Clemson
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Adaptive Disease Management Strategies for Watermelon Anthracnose:** *Doug Higgins, Virginia Tech*
- Session 3 ORGANIC PRODUCTION** - Karen McSwain, Carolina Farm Stewardship
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Why Consider Organic?** *Nicole Delcogliano, Organic Growers School*
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Steps to Becoming Certified Organic: Demystifying the Process:** *Jill Beaver, Clemson*
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Becoming Organic: Farmer Experiences:** *Farmer Panel*

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Convention Hotel Information



Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort

9800 Queensway Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC

Phone: 800-876-0010

To Call In to make Reservations:

- ◆ Dial (800) 876-0010
- ◆ Press Option 2 for Embassy Suites Myrtle Beach Resort. You will need to identify yourself as an attendee of the Expo.
- ◆ Use the following **SRP code**:
- ◆ Room Rate: \$158.00
- ◆ Oceanfront Suites & Oceanview Suites
- ◆ Full Cooked Breakfast Buffet

For More Information please call

North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association

P.O. Box 158 Angier, NC 27501

Phone: 919-413-9544 Fax: 984-480-2002

www.ncvga.com