

Breakout Sessions

9:15 am – 10:00 am | Boca 1

NAFTA and Its Impacts to Florida's Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Mike Joyner, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

Since NAFTA took effect, the Mexican fruit and vegetable industry has carved out more and more of the U.S. market. As Mexican fruits and vegetables have swamped Florida's market, they have systematically decimated our prices and market shares. Unfortunately, the new U.S. – Mexico – Canada (USMCA) Agreement contains no remedies to correct these impacts. Join us to learn more about how the Florida grower associations are working together to push for the adoption of a trade solution for specialty crop growers in the Southeast.



9:15 am – 10:00 am | Boca 2

Feral Swine Aerial Gunning Program, Human Dimensions and History of Introduction

JC Griffin, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

This session is intended to create awareness of the APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management's aerial gunning program and its potential benefits to landowners. Other topics discussed will be the human dimensions side of feral swine management in the state of Florida and a brief history of the introduction of feral swine to North America.



Breakout Sessions



9:15 am – 10:00 am | Boca 3

The Future of Cattle Traceability in Florida

Ken Griner, Florida Cattle Ranchers

The USDA has initiated a change to traceability tagging rules requiring a move to RFID tags. The Florida Cattlemen's Association is in the process of running a pilot program through a federal grant on the available tag technologies and readers. We want to ensure that the Florida Cattlemen and Cattlewomen have a voice in the future of any traceability decisions and designs. Come learn what is going on with Traceability and the Cattle Industry.



10:15 am – 11:00 am | Boca 1

Legislative & Regulatory Developments with Ag Labor

Michael Marsh, National Council of Agricultural Employers

The past year has been particularly active in the area of ag labor reform. From litigation, to rulemaking, to negotiations in Washington, D.C. Michael Marsh will bring his perspective to the discussion, highlighting the wins, losses and the issues still in process.



Breakout Sessions

10:15 am – 11:00 am | Boca 2

Understanding Illegal Tampering and the Right to Repair Movement

Natalie Higgins, Equipment Dealers Association & Stephanie See, Association of Equipment Manufacturers

This session will discuss the “Right to Repair” movement and the risks of illegal tampering in the agricultural equipment industry. It will also explain the industry’s commitment to ensuring that farmers and other end users can safely and efficiently maintain and repair their own equipment.



10:15 am – 11:00 am | Boca 3

Estate and Business Planning, More Important Than Ever

Bobby Gato, Frank Blossman & Joe Nicoletto, Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company

This session will explore the basic tools everyone needs as part of their estate plans. We will discuss the importance of wills, revocable trusts, special needs trusts, guardianship for minor children, power of attorney and medical directives. There will also be an update on the current estate tax laws. Every family, regardless of make-up or size of estate, needs a basic estate plan.

We will also explore business continuation planning and how important this planning is to maintain business value in the event of an owner’s death or disability. Business continuation planning must be coordinated with personal estate planning in order to protect both your family and your business. The session will conclude with “What are the next steps?”



Breakout Sessions



11:15 am – 12:00 pm | Boca 1

Save the Farmer ... Save the World!

Dr. Ed Osborne, University of Florida
Susan Osborne, FSU College of Social Work



Working in agriculture is a way of life that brings both immense rewards and unique stressful events and circumstances. The stressful nature of farming increases the susceptibility of farmers and farm families to high levels of anxiety, depression and other stress-related illnesses. Caring for your own health and wellness in this high stress profession is often overlooked but is just as critical as caring for your business. In this session, you'll learn the symptoms of stress, its impact on personal health and well-being and practical strategies for self-care and effective stress management.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm | Boca 2

Crop Insurance Basics

Philip East, Rural Community Insurance Services



In this session we will cover the basic steps in obtaining crop insurance and maintaining records. We will also cover the different types of insurance available in Florida and all crops currently listed by RMA.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm | Boca 3

On-Farm Biosecurity and Antibiotic Resistance

Dr. Matt Hersom, University of Florida



Farm biosecurity is not something everyone thinks about on a daily basis, but should we? This session will outline the basic tenets of biosecurity and the concern of antibiotic resistance on the farm. Biosecurity and antibiotics are topics every agricultural enterprise and consumer should be aware of.

Speakers

President's Celebration and Awards Banquet

Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation

Zippy Duvall is president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest agricultural organization. He was first elected in January 2016 and re-elected in January 2018. Zippy is a third-generation farmer from Georgia. In addition to a 400-head beef cattle herd for which he grows his own hay, Duvall and his wife, Bonnie, also raise more than 750,000 broilers per year.

In December 2017, Duvall was appointed to the White House Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. That same year, he was honored by the National 4-H Council as a founding luminary. He currently serves on the boards of the Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation and Connected Nation, a technology organization working to bring affordable high-speed Internet to all Americans.

Prior to being elected AFBF president, Duvall served for nine years as president of the Georgia Farm Bureau. As GFB president, Duvall's service on the AFBF Board of Directors included roles on the AFBF Trade Advisory Committee, including several international trade missions, and on the AFBF Finance Committee. He also was recognized with several state appointments, including then-Gov. Sonny Perdue's Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Georgia Development Authority. His many state honors include Georgia Dairy Family of the Year.

Duvall's long leadership history includes service as a county commissioner, on the Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee and on the Georgia Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He also served on the AFBF Board of Directors as chair of the national Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee in 1987.

Zippy and Bonnie have been married for more than 38 years and raised four children: Vince, Corrie, Zeb and Zellie. They now enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren. They attend New Hope Baptist Church in Greshamville, Georgia, where Zippy is a deacon.



Member Breakfast Keynote Speaker

Jason Brown, First Fruits Farm & Wisdom for Life Ministry

A native of Henderson, N.C., Jason Brown is a community advocate, a former professional athlete and a man of faith.

Brown studied interpersonal communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill while on an athletic scholarship. His greatest accomplishment at Carolina was meeting the love of his life and wife, Dr. Tay Brown. After he graduated in 2005, he was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens. As a free agent in 2009, Brown signed a five-year contract with the St. Louis Rams, played three years and was released in March 2012. With several lucrative offers on the table from the Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers and the San Francisco 49ers, Brown decided instead to take a leap of faith and walk away from the NFL.

After his departure from the NFL, Brown moved back to North Carolina and purchased a 1,000-acre farm in Louisburg. 2014 turned out to be a breakthrough year for First Fruits Farm. The farm hosted the first annual youth fishing derby, welcomed graduates from North Carolina State University, and collaborated with many faith and service organizations. The Brown's farm has yielded more than 200,000 lbs. of produce which was given to food pantries and churches throughout the Triangle area. Thousands of volunteers have lent helping hands in gleaning and harvest events. In work through Wisdom of Life Ministries and the First Fruit Farms, Jason and his wife are demonstrating how to live a life of purpose. Brown serves as a great example of community development through agriculture.



Speakers

Legislative Luncheon Speaker

Senator Wilton Simpson

Florida Sen. Wilton Simpson lives in Trilby with his wife Kathy and their son Wilton Jr. His daughter, Lauran, and her husband, Kenten, are proud parents of Addy, born in May of 2014, and Emy, born in May of 2017.

Sen. Simpson is an entrepreneur. He is the head of Simpson Environmental Services, which specializes in asbestos removal, mold remediation, duct cleaning and general contracting.

He also owns and operates Simpson Farms, an egg-laying operation, home to over one million chickens that supply eggs for Florida's families through supermarkets all over the state.

Sen. Simpson was first elected to the state Senate in 2012 where he served as the chairman of the Community Affairs Committee until 2016. He was reelected subsequently and currently serves as Chairman of the Innovation, Industry and Technology committee, and as Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He is a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Rules Committee and Joint Legislative Budget Commission.

He served as the Senate Majority Leader of the Republican Caucus from 2016-2018. Sen. Simpson represents District 10, composed of a portion of Pasco, and all of Hernando and Citrus counties.



Commissioner of Agriculture Environmental Awards Breakfast

Nikki Fried, Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Nicole “Nikki” Fried, Florida’s 12th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is a lifelong Floridian, attorney and passionate activist.

Born and raised in Miami, Commissioner Fried graduated from the University of Florida, where she received her bachelor’s, master’s and juris doctorate degrees. While in law school, she served as student body president, the first woman to hold the position in nearly two decades.

Prior to being elected, Fried worked as an advocate in Tallahassee representing at-risk children and the Broward County School Board and championed the expansion of the patient access to medical marijuana.

As an attorney, she was head of the Felony Division at the Alachua County Public Defender’s Office and worked at law firms as a government consultant, advocating on behalf of clients before the Florida Legislature. Working in private practice in South Florida, she defended homeowners against foreclosure during the 2007-2008 housing crisis.

Throughout her career she has served with numerous organizations including the Young Lawyers Board of Governors, Broward Days Board of Directors, Legal Needs of Children Bar Committee, LeRoy Collins Institute, Girls Scouts of Southeast Florida, University of Florida Governmental Relations Advisory Committee, University of Florida Board of Trustees, Florida’s Children First and others. Fried is a member of Florida Blue Key, the oldest and most prestigious leadership honorary in the state of Florida.



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