



# CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

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25

## 2025 AGENDA

### Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- 12:30 - 5:00 PM **REGISTRATION DESK**
- 1:30 - 4:30 PM **FARM TOURS** | 4Roots & Southern Hill Farms
- 4:00 - 6:30 PM **WELCOME RECEPTION & ACTIVITY**

### Thursday, March 6, 2025

- 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM **REGISTRATION & INFO DESK**
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM **BREAKFAST & WELCOME SESSION**
- 9:15 - 10:15 AM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Savoring the Seasons: A Guide to Meal Planning with Local Foods**  
*Sydney Kelly*

**Food for Thought: A Strategic Approach to School Gardens**  
*Jeannine Rizzo*

**Climate & Plant Community Diversity: Considerations for Understanding Florida Food Forests**  
*Cara Rockwell*

**Engaging Your Students & School District in Reducing Student Food Waste**  
*Melissa Terry*

10:15 - 10:30 AM **BREAK**

10:30 - 11:30 AM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**From Roots to Cells: Engaging Hands-On Activities for K-12**  
*Becky Sponholtz & Jennifer Morgenthal*

**Food Safety on the Farm**  
*Kirby Quam*

**Boosting Flavors: Transforming School Meals**  
*Chef Jorge Sanchez*

**Growing Together: How Community Partners Can Strengthen School Garden Programs**  
*Kellie Antonowicz*

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM **LUNCH & KEYNOTE**

1:30 - 3:00 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Local Farmers Guide to Florida Farm to School**  
*Kirsten Rodriguez, Tracy Nazarro, Vincent Moore*

**Florida Farm to School: Meet the Team**  
*Michael Carter, Bela Delgado, Jason Dial*

**Cultivating Community Partners**  
*Lana Chehabeddine, Fredando Jackson, Jenna Kaczmarski*

3:00 - 3:15 PM **BREAK**

3:00 - 5:00 PM **FARMERS MARKET EXPO**

5:00 - 7:00 PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

# Friday, March 7, 2025

7:30 - 10:00 AM

**REGISTRATION & INFO DESK**

7:45 - 8:30 AM

**BREAKFAST: ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENT & AWARDS**

8:45 - 9:45 AM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Let's Get Cooking! Local Foods in School Meals**  
*Chef Cyndie & Dr. Beverly Gerard*

**Opportunities to Source High-quality Fresh Farm Surplus & Maximize Farm Profits**  
*Dr. Lisa Johnson*

**Getting Agroecology to Schools: Plants for Food & Nature**  
*Dr. Zachary Brym*

**Healthy Plates, Happy Planet: Addressing Food Waste in Child Nutrition**  
*Leann Edwards*

9:45 - 10:00 AM

**BREAK**

10:00 - 11:00 AM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Food Forests for Schools**  
*Debi La Belle & Eddie Recinos*

**Cultivating Kids & Crops: One School Garden at a Time**  
*Wendy Fuschetti*

**Behind the Farm to School Curtain: Procurement & Economics**  
*Alyssa Martin & Craig Clemmer*

**Sowing a Garden Grant: Lessons Learned**  
*Skye Grundy*

11:00 - 11:15 AM

**BREAK**

11:15 AM - Noon

**CLOSING SESSION: COOKING DEMO** *with Chef Jorge Sanchez*



**Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*