



CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

2025

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**

Bringing the Farm to School an Overview
Hakeem Holmes

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 - 12:00 PM CLOSING SESSION: COOKING DEMO *with Chef Jorge Sanchez*



**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**

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