

carolina farm  
stewardship association



NOV. 14 -16

40TH ANNIVERSARY

COLUMBIA, SC

# Sustainable Agriculture Conference

*Cultivated for the Carolinas. Rooted in Community.*

# Welcome to the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association 2025 Sustainable Agriculture Conference!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Columbia, and to the 40th Anniversary Sustainable Agriculture Conference!

We are grateful to be celebrating and reflecting on the progress we have made together with you. We invite you to dive into the knowledge, stories, and ideas shared throughout the weekend, and just as importantly, to savor the chance to reconnect with old friends and spark new connections.

This conference is more than an event. It reflects the grounding power of community through the highs and lows of food systems work, and reminds us that we are strongest when we lean on and learn from each other — especially during challenging times. Over the past forty years, we have come together amidst difficult circumstances, from climate disasters, economic downturns, even a global pandemic. And this year is no different. Despite economic uncertainty, political shifts, and setbacks across our sector, we continue to find joy, hope, and solidarity in each other and in the act of gathering for a common cause.

The CFSA team is grateful for the opportunity to bring us all together for this special gathering each year. We hope your time at the Sustainable Agriculture Conference leaves you energized and inspired to keep building community and driving meaningful change in your corner of the Carolinas and beyond.

From seed to soil, and policy to practice, the future of local food and farming in the Carolinas will be driven by people like you. To the next forty years!

Roland McReynolds  
CFSA Executive Director



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## ABOUT THE COVER ART

CFSA extends our gratitude to Lori Ann Griggs, the artist behind this year’s program cover art, “Volunteers.” A painter from Hartsville, SC, Lori Griggs creates vibrant impressionist paintings of the world around her either en plein air or in her studio. She has exhibited throughout the Southeast. Find her work: [www.lorianngriggsfineart.com](http://www.lorianngriggsfineart.com)

## ABOUT THE ICONOGRAPHY

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Sustainable Agriculture Conference, this program features archival drawings and graphics originating from CFSA newsletters and programs of yesteryear! Some were even hand drawn by CFSA Finance, Administration, & HR Director Cheryl Ripperton Rettie, who has been a member of the CFSA staff team since 2005. We hope you enjoy these pieces of our organization’s history as much as we do!

## PROGRAM CHANGES

It’s possible there may be a few changes to the program that were made after printing. Please visit the Registration Area for updates.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we gather this weekend upon the ancestral homelands of the Cherokee and Congaree, let us honor the often untold histories of these original land stewards. We invite you to visit <https://native-land.ca/> to trace the roots beneath your own home and use it as a launching point for deeper understanding and mindful action.

# CFSA Board & Staff

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# Conference Schedule


<b>Friday, November 14</b> Pre-Conference Activities	<b>Saturday, November 15</b> Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center	<b>Sunday, November 16</b> Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
<p><b>Half-Day AM: 8:30 am - 12 pm</b></p> <p>Scaling Up for Organic Wholesale</p> <p>Urban to Rural Farm Tour</p> <p>Big Harvests in Small Spaces: Urban Mushroom Farming</p> <p>Organic Production &amp; Conservation: Strengthening Farmer-NRCS Collaboration</p> <p><b>Half-Day PM: 1 - 4:30 pm</b></p> <p>Agritourism on a Working Farm Tour</p> <p>Advocacy &amp; Leadership Seminar</p>	<p>Registration &amp; Check-In <i>Registration Area, Upper Floor</i> 7 am - 5 pm</p> <p>Trade Show; Seed &amp; Plant Share; Bookstore <i>Columbia Ballroom A/B</i> 7:30 am - 5:30 pm</p> <p>7:30 - 9 am Coffee and breakfast <i>Columbia Ballroom C</i></p> <p>8:30 - 9:45 am Workshop Session A</p> <p>10:15 - 11:30 am Workshop Session B</p> <p>11:30 am - 1:30 pm Midday Break</p> <p>12:30 - 1:15 pm Policy in the Plaza <i>Back Patio</i></p> <p>1:30 - 2:45 pm Workshop Session C</p> <p>3:15 - 4:30 pm Workshop Session D</p> <p>4:45 - 6 pm Affinity Group Meetups; Open Networking <i>See Opposite Page for Locations</i></p>	<p>Registration &amp; Check-In <i>Registration Area, Upper Floor</i> 7 am - 12 pm</p> <p>Trade Show; Seed &amp; Plant Share; Bookstore <i>Columbia Ballroom A/B</i> 7:30 am - 12 pm</p> <p>7:30 - 9 am Coffee and breakfast <i>Columbia Ballroom C</i></p> <p>8:30 - 9:45 am Workshop Session E</p> <p>10:15 - 11:30 am Workshop Session F</p> <p>12 - 1:30 pm Closing Lunch &amp; Keynote Panel: Community and Collaboration for a Resilient Food Future <i>Columbia Ballroom C</i> <i>Tickets required</i></p>
<p><b>Food and Meals:</b> The conference includes locally-sourced breakfasts and refreshments on Saturday and Sunday. To find area eateries supporting local farms, grab a copy of our Columbia Local Food Guide at the Registration Area! Sunday's Closing Lunch &amp; Keynote Panel is a ticketed event; scan the QR code to purchase. CFSA thanks Kris Reid of Slow Food USA for serving as the Sustainable Agriculture Conference's Food Coordinator.</p>		

## Sunday Closing Lunch & Keynote Panel: *Community and Collaboration for a Resilient Food Future*

Sunday, 11/16 | 12 - 1:30 pm | Columbia Ballroom C | Tickets Required

*Sandi Kronick, Happy Dirt; Keisha Rainey, Roots & Rain and South Carolina Black Farmers Coalition; Ben Dubard, Wild Hope Farm; Tina Prevatte Levy, Firsthand Foods*

Join CFSA Executive Director Roland McReynolds and a panel of farmers and food systems leaders to discuss how members of the sustainable agriculture community are taking care of each other and building resilience in the face of increasing weather variability, economic uncertainties, and rollbacks of vital environmental, health, and land use policies. Hear from panelists about the strategies and practices they're employing to build successful partnerships, how they're navigating the setbacks and challenges of the current food and farming landscape, and what direct actions we can take to effect positive transformations in our communities.



SCAN QR CODE WITH  
PHONE CAMERA TO BUY  
TICKETS FOR SUNDAY  
CLOSING LUNCH &  
KEYNOTE PANEL

# Activities

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## Policy in the Plaza

**Saturday, 11/15 | 12:30 - 1:15 pm | Back Patio**

Join CFSA's Policy Team on the patio behind the Convention Center (look for the picnic tables) to learn about state and national policy issues, share any issues you're encountering on the ground, and network with each other. This gathering is for everyone, from policy newbies to policy pros!

## Rooted in Community: A Networking Space by the Women of Color Farmers Network

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Congaree B**

Join the Women of Color Farmers Network, a project of Toxic Free NC, for an informal and welcoming networking space designed to celebrate our collective work, wisdom, and resilience. This gathering offers an opportunity to connect over seed swapping, story sharing, and good conversations with Women of Color farmers who are growing food & healing herbs, and building power in their communities across North Carolina and beyond.

## Farmer Veterans Meetup

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Senate A**

Join Kara Rutter, President of Project Victory Gardens, and Matt Rutter, Chapter President of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of South Carolina, for an informal meetup to learn more about programs for service members transitioning into agriculture and connect with other farmer veterans in the Carolinas.

## Affinity Space for Jewish Farmers & Community Havdalah

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Senate B**

Connect with fellow Jewish farmers, slow down, and dive into ritual together – some traditional, some lovingly made up! Havdalah marks the transition between Shabbat (the seventh day of rest spanning from Friday to Saturday eve) and the start of the new week. The rituals of Havdalah include blessings over grape juice, smelling spices, seeing a flame of a braided candle, and blessing in-betweeness/distinction. No experience necessary. This space is open to Jewish farmers and their friends and family. If you are not sure if this space is for you, stop by our Trade Show exhibit booth to chat.

## Encuentro for Latino Growers, Friends, & Allies

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Lincoln A**

Interested in meeting fellow Latino growers? Are you a friend and ally of the Latino community? Join us at the meetup and learn about how Latino farmworkers and advocates are self-organizing and leading unique efforts to establish a cooperative sustainable farm and emergency farmworker housing in North Carolina. Led by El Futuro es Nuestro (It's Our Future) and Central Carolina Community College.

## Farmer-to-Farmer Grower Meetup

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Hall of Fame**

Bring your wins and challenges to share during this advanced farmer dialogue led by Michelle Hochkeppel of High Mowing Seeds, Farmer Jesse Frost of Rough Draft Farmstead, and Cherie Jzar of Deep Roots Community Planning Solutions. Bring your questions and have a snack.

## Certified Naturally Grown Networking & Interest Meeting

**Saturday, 11/15 | 4:45 - 6 pm | Congaree A**

Join Erin Torgerson, Programs Coordinator and Certification Specialist for Certified Naturally Grown (CNG), for an informal gathering to connect with CNG growers, swap stories, share resources, and learn more about the program. This is a great opportunity to meet CNG farmers and ask questions about the program requirements, cost, standard, and certification process.

## Seed & Plant Share

**Saturday, 11/15 & Sunday, 11/16 | Columbia Ballroom A/B**

Long-time seed saving champions Doug Jones and Lee Barnes will have their ever-popular Seed & Plant Share set up in the Trade Show all weekend – stop by to talk shop and swap seeds and cuttings. Bring some of your favorites to share and take home new plant projects free of charge. Please label your seeds and cuttings with the collection date/year, variety or common name, original source, zone hardiness, and other key information for growing.

## Conference Bookstore

**Saturday, 11/15 & Sunday, 11/16 | Upper Hallway**

Visit the official conference bookstore hosted by two independent, Carolina-based vendors: Liberation is Lit and Cuentos y Cafe Books. At the bookstore, you'll find a curated collection of titles on soil health, seed saving, sustainable farming practices, gardening, homesteading, herbal medicine, and beyond. Find several titles from conference speakers, including Ira Wallace, Christopher Parker, Pam Dawling, and Jesse Frost.

## Self-Guided Art Activity: Paint with Your Food!

**Saturday, 11/15 & Sunday, 11/16 | Upper Hallway**

Participants will engage with the beautiful colors of plant based paints such as flowers (marigolds, cosmos), berries (blueberries, blackberries), and spices (paprika, turmeric) to create watercolor art, experimenting with ingredients like lemon juice or baking soda to change the color. Hosted by Christina Smith-Galloway of Sows and Grows.



# Workshop Descriptions

## Workshop Session A | Saturday, 8:30 – 9:45 am



### **Managing Pests Without Pesticides | Richland A | Sponsored by Juneberry Ridge**

*Nathan Vannette, Growing Green Family Farm*

Climate change has brought record rainfalls, extended droughts, warmer winters, later frosts, and hotter summers, which have introduced new insect species and diseases, posing further challenges for farmers in the Southeast. Nathan shares his bioactive approach to pest management, focusing on biodiversity, attracting beneficial and predatory insects, and balancing the ecosystem to control pest populations naturally.

### **Understanding and Winning NRCS Support | Richland B**

*Jaimie McGirt, Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)*

When it comes to USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), it can feel like "apply apply apply, deny deny deny," especially for historically underserved producers. Jaimie is back with this highly interactive session to offer the farmer's perspective on applying to and succeeding with NRCS conservation programs like EQIP and CSP. Leave with a deeper understanding of the 'language' of NRCS, what to do before applying, and navigating the financial assistance process.

### **Ecological Health Indicators for Any Landscape | Richland C | Sponsored by Vitalis Organic Seeds**

*Ashton Thompson, Juneberry Ridge*

The Savory Institute's Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV™) is a landscape assessment methodology that tracks biodiversity, soil health, and ecosystem function in large grassland environments. In this session, Ashton distills the most practical, teachable, and digestible parts of this holistic, outcome-based monitoring approach, which can be applied at any acreage level. Using examples from Juneberry Ridge, Ashton shows how farmers and land stewards can measure regenerative outcomes by evaluating soil quality, plant life, animal presence, and overall ecosystem function.

### **Variety Selection for Cut Flower Growers | Congaree A | Sponsored by Tilmor**

*Tasha Trujillo, Palm Pike Flower Farm*

We can all get carried away in a seed catalog, especially when it comes to flowers. But not all varieties are bred for retail, from productivity and reblooming ability to stem length and vase life. Tasha shares how to pick flower varieties for cut flower production, specifically for market growers in the Carolinas, drawing on her experience selling wholesale and direct-to-consumer.

### **Pasture Partners: Building Healthy Farms with Multi-Species Livestock Systems | Congaree B | Sponsored by Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)**

*Nicole Correa & Chris LeMaster, Clemson University Cooperative Extension*

This introductory workshop is for new and beginning farmers interested in improving animal welfare, pasture health, and farm efficiency through multi-species livestock systems. Nicole and Chris discuss the basics of humane handling, fencing and infrastructure needs, rotational strategies for using multiple species effectively, and how to implement practical biosecurity measures. Whether you're raising goats, sheep, cattle, or poultry – or a mix – this session helps build a system that benefits animals and the soil.

### **Capitalizing on Culinary Partnerships | Hall of Fame**

*Ben Geiger, Garden Window Farm*

This session explores building relationships in the culinary world to create additional revenue streams, from finding the right people to work with to strategies for getting your foot in the door. Ben discusses the types of partnerships his farm has formed in the food and beverage industries, farm-to-table events, and growing unique crop varieties to appeal to different demographics.

### **Farm Finances 101: Bookkeeping Basics for New & Growing Farms | Lincoln A | Sponsored by Cedar Grove Law**

*Alex Edquist, Good Agriculture*

Starting a farm is exciting, but without a solid financial foundation, it is easy to get overwhelmed or miss out on profits. This session is for new and growing farmers who need to get their books in order but feel like it's always the last thing on the list. Alex walks through how to set up your books correctly, the importance of financial statements, time-saving tools for tracking expenses and staying organized, and costly mistakes.

## Workshop Session A Cont. | Saturday, 8:30 – 9:45 am

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### Growing Careers, Opportunities, and Healthier Communities with SC Nonprofits | Lincoln B

*Elise Ashby, The RobinHood Group; Ken Harvin, SC Association for Community Economic Development; Ashley Page Bookhart, SC Association of Farmers Markets; Michael Brown, Sustaining Way; Greg Perry, SC Community Loan Fund*

This panel brings together agriculture-based nonprofit leaders, advocates, and community organizers from across South Carolina to discuss how nonprofits create meaningful change for sustainable agriculture in the state. The discussion emphasizes how agriculture nonprofits grow more than food — they grow futures — by connecting career development, community health, and land stewardship. These organizations are planting seeds of transformation that will nourish South Carolina for generations.

### First Steps to Online Sales: Small Farm E-commerce Basics | Senate A | Sponsored by Farm Trader

*Stan Kamithi, Tangaza.io*

This introductory session focuses on basic sales and marketing strategies to build a customer base and is tailored for farmers with little to no retail experience. Stan covers leveraging online platforms to grow sales and establish a market presence, empowering small farms to thrive in the digital marketplace.

### Farming and the Art of Rest: Lessons from Jewish Tradition | Senate B

*Liel Green, Jewish Farmer Network*

This session explores Shabbat — the ancient Jewish practice of pausing every seventh day — as a powerful framework for regenerative rest. Rooted in thousands of years of agrarian tradition, Shabbat offers farmers a time-tested structure for resisting burnout, setting boundaries, and reconnecting with land, self, and community. Whether or not you come from a Jewish background, Liel shares how this sacred rhythm offers insights into how intentional rest can support us in building more balance with the work we love.

## Workshop Session B | Saturday, 10:15 – 11:30 am

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### Establishing A Profitable No-Till Market Garden | Richland A | Sponsored by Earth Tools

*Noah Poulos, Wild East Farm*

The team at Wild East Farm has quickly built up a profitable no-till market garden in their first three years of operation. Utilizing methods like deep compost mulch, biointensive planting, and cover cropping while focusing on high-value crops, the farm sells over \$100k worth of vegetables out of its 1/2-acre gardens. Noah describes methods and techniques for producing tremendous value from a small space within a reasonable work schedule.

### Alliums Year-Round | Richland B

*Pam Dawling, Twin Oaks Community*

In the Southeast, onions and some of their allium relatives can be grown every month of the year. Pam covers planting, caring for the crop, harvesting, storage (when possible), and saving seed stock for replanting. In addition to bulb onions and garlic, this workshop includes leeks, perennial alliums, scallions, garlic scapes, elephant garlic, shallots, pickling onions, and many unusual alliums.

### Seed Starting 101 | Richland C | Sponsored by the Barnes-Berry Family Trust

*Laura Collins, Herbalicious Farm*

This session covers starting seeds for a diversified vegetable operation, from direct sowing to seeding in a greenhouse. Laura reviews timing, seeding methods, caring for seedlings, and transplanting, with examples of her successes and failures. She also discusses seeding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and garlic.

### Holistic Farm Management for Economic and Ecological Health | CANCELED AS OF 11/11/25

*Chris Sermons, BioWay Farm*

This workshop is part retrospective and part how-to on building a farm through holistic management. Join Chris as he reflects on his 20+ years of starting and guiding the trailblazing BioWay Farm — a working farm and a 120-acre managed nature preserve. Chris discusses the challenges associated with such an audacious and complex endeavor. From the origin story to the present, Chris shares his thought process, covering everything from farm type, labor, markets, standard operating procedures, and lessons learned.

## Workshop Session B Cont. | Saturday, 10:15 – 11:30 am

### Not Your Neighbor's Farm: Unlocking Your Agritourism Sweet Spot | Congaree B | Sponsored by the South Carolina Agritourism Association

*Kara Rutter, Project Victory Gardens*

Are you tired of copying cookie-cutter farm tours or pumpkin patches that work for someone else? Does the thought of school buses fill you with dread? This hands-on workshop flips the script. Using the Agritourist Motivational Typology (minus the academic fluff), Kara uncovers what your ideal visitors crave — and how to design experiences that reflect your farm's unique identity. Leave this session with tools to stop chasing trends and start to build authentic, profitable connections that grow your agritourism brand.

### Break Free from Burnout, Part 1: Laying the Foundation for a Scalable Farm Business | Hall of Fame | Sponsored by the NC Farm School

*Jessica Evans, Evans Family Farm*

Part 1 of this two-part workshop (Part 2 held during Workshop Session C) focuses on reclaiming your time, identifying bottlenecks, and setting a solid foundation for growing your business. Jessica guides participants through mapping out what is holding their farm back, creating a vision for sustainable expansion, breaking free from burnout, and building a business model that doesn't rely solely on you.

### Consumer Attitudes About Poultry Quality: Analyzing Survey Results to Inform Successful Marketing Strategies | Lincoln A

*Dr. Kathleen Liang, NC A&T State University*

The poultry industry has experienced significant challenges due to risky events like bird flu outbreaks and price volatility. This workshop reports results from a national survey in 2024/2025 that examines consumer preferences regarding poultry meat products (e.g., antibiotic-free, organic, free-range, and price), and links these attributes to ways regional and local producers can achieve effective marketing strategies.

### Growing Food Systems Change from the Ground Up with Grassroots Action | Lincoln B

*Brett Rapkin-Citrenbaum, NC Food Systems Advocacy Coalition & Community Food Strategies; Shy Palmer, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association; Kenya Joseph, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council; Dawna Ledbetter, West Marion Inc.*

Grassroots advocacy relies on community-level mobilization to build widespread support and create public pressure to move policy goals forward. Brett and Shy facilitate an engaging panel discussion that builds practical knowledge about local and state policy advocacy, highlighting stories of community-led food system transformations. Panelists share their experiences and strategies in building community support, organizing campaigns, and encouraging civic engagement around policy goals.

### Scaling Local Food Systems Through Collaboration: The Power of Food Hub Networks | Senate A | Sponsored by the Land Loss Prevention Project

*Stefanie Jaeger, Local Food Marketplace; Deirdre Tanner, GrowFood Carolina*

Resilient local food systems adapt, grow, and thrive through strategic collaboration. In this dynamic session, Stefanie and Deirdre demonstrate how food hub networks make it easier for buyers to access a wider variety of local products and support producers and hubs in scaling their businesses sustainably. This session covers different types and models of food hub networks, case studies demonstrating their impact, key strategies for building and maintaining a successful network, and what to consider before starting or joining one in your region.

### Cultivating Connection: Marketing Through the Power of Story | Senate B | Sponsored by Certified SC

*Daniel James, HERD Ventures*

Authentic storytelling is one of the most powerful tools farmers and producers have to connect with their communities, grow their customer base, and build trust in their brand. Daniel explores how thoughtful, story-driven marketing can transform how agricultural businesses engage with their audiences, online and in person. The session provides farmers and producers with practical strategies and achievable goals to strengthen their social media presence and overall marketing.



## Workshop Session C | Saturday, 1:30 – 2:45 pm



### Soil Health Hot Takes and Bingo Breaks | Richland A | Sponsored by No-Till Growers

*Mallory Choudoir & Debjani Sibi, NC State University; Biswanath Dari, NC A&T State University*

Not all healthy soils are the same, but all healthy soils share certain physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. Mallory discusses best practices and strategies for maintaining and improving soil health in diverse southeastern cropping systems, highlighting case studies covering new research on soil microbiomes, cover cropping, and organic amendments. Participants are invited to test their knowledge (and luck) with a lively game of Soil Health Bingo, led by Mallory, Debjani, and Dari!

### Growing Market Confidence: Tools and Strategies for Organic Producers | Richland B

*Kim Butz & De'Anthony Price, The Rodale Institute; Sandi Kronick, Happy Dirt; Lindsey Barrow, Lowcountry Street Grocery; Danielle Hutchison, TendWell Farm; Rebekah Spaid, GrowFood Carolina; Lauren Horning Contreras, Freshpoint*

An engaging, solutions-focused workshop designed to help transitioning and certified organic producers navigate the complex world of organic markets. This session offers practical tools and hands-on guidance for producers seeking to enter or expand into organic markets. Learn how to assess market readiness and build a tailored marketing strategy, use pricing and market trend tools for smarter decision-making, understand organic market requirements and how to meet buyer expectations, identify risks and opportunities within different market channels, access regionally relevant tools, templates, and follow-up support, and connect with Rodale Institute, TOPP regional partners, area farmers, and other technical assistance providers for continued guidance. *This workshop is supported through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). TOPP is a program of the USDA Organic Transition Initiative and is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP).*

### Seed Farming at Any Scale | Richland C | Sponsored by the Barnes-Berry Family Trust

*Chris Keeve, University of Kentucky & The Heirloom Collard Project; Leeza Chen, Utopian Seed Project & Appalachian Seed Growers Collective*

Are you interested in growing seeds for personal use or commercial sale? The speakers discuss opportunities for seed growers working at any scale, including in backyards or containers. Producing seeds is both a science and an art, and working with culturally meaningful seeds adds another layer of complexity. Topics include practical considerations for production, such as equipment, space, isolation requirements, seed cleaning, growing contracts, and ethical ones, such as Indigenous royalties, rematriation, how seed stories are told, and how varieties are named.

### Growing Caneberries Organically in the Southeast | Congaree A

*Craig Mauney, NC Cooperative Extension*

Craig delivers a lecture on growing blackberries and raspberries, focusing on practical knowledge and skills for cultivating these crops using organic methods. The session covers soil preparation, planting techniques, organic fertilizers, pest and disease management, pruning, trellising, and harvesting.

### Benefits of Forage Diversity for Ruminants Large and Small | Congaree B

*Debbie Webster, Whispering Pines Farm; Don Jackson, Pompey's Rest Farm*

Diverse pasture forages deliver ecological benefits such as improved soil health and resiliency while enhancing overall animal well-being and productivity. Don shares why grazers should increase forage diversity in their pastures and the compatibility of legumes, forbs, and brassicas with cool- and warm-season grasses. Debbie discusses the overall health benefits of a varied diet, which provides ruminants with a broader range of nutrients and improves digestion and immune system function.

### Break Free from Burnout, Part 2: Delegating Effectively and Building a Powerful Team | Hall of Fame | Sponsored by Country Farm & Home

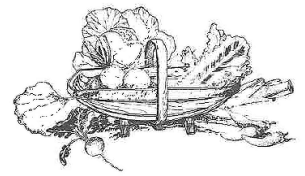
*Jessica Evans, Evans Family Farm*

Part 2 of this two-part workshop (Part 1 held during Workshop Session B) moves from mindset to management, discussing how to delegate effectively, shape a team culture, and implement simple but effective systems. Drawing inspiration from the books *Atomic Habits* and *Traction*, Jessica provides attendees with tools, templates, and strategies to confidently grow a farm team while maintaining clarity, values, and personal balance.

### Waste Not: Turning Farm Byproducts into Profit & Purpose | CANCELED AS OF 11/14/25

*Lyndon Smith, Botanist & Barrel*

This hands-on workshop is designed for farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs seeking creative and practical ways to transform waste streams into value-added products, services, or partnerships. Together, we'll explore how common farm "waste" can be a springboard for innovation, environmental stewardship, and new revenue streams. With a strong focus on collaboration and community wisdom, the session culminates in a group breakout where participants re-imagine their farm waste challenges.



## Workshop Session C Cont. | Saturday, 1:30 – 2:45 pm

### Guiding Food Systems Change on the Leadership Level with Grasstops Advocacy | Lincoln B

*Brett Rapkin-Citrenbaum, NC Food Systems Advocacy Coalition & Community Food Strategies; Alesia Bock, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association*

Grasstops advocacy builds and leverages relationships with elected officials, leaders, and influential decision-makers to advance policy goals. Brett and Alesia deliver key food and farming policy updates and discuss how to tailor these issues to various audiences for effective advocacy outcomes. Participants hear from these two seasoned advocates about how they have engaged with their elected officials and best practices for planning advocacy efforts in their region.

### Subscriptions That Work: How to Generate Recurring Revenue on Your Farm | Senate A

*Jeff Siewicki, Vital Mission Farm & Regenerative Success*

Jeff details a step-by-step plan for setting up subscription box orders to generate monthly recurring revenue for your farm using easy-to-use software to set up your online store. Based on his firsthand experience with Vital Mission Farm, Jeff explains how to gain early adoption of the subscription box model, the key to customer retention, ways to grow your customer base, and essential partnerships for success.

### Cultivating Capital: Navigating Farm Finance for Sustainable Growth | Senate B | Sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of SC

*Jimmy Johnson, SC Small Business Development Centers; Jim Matson, Matson Consulting; Kyle Player, SC Department of Agriculture; Steve Richards, Clemson University Cooperative Extension*

This workshop provides crucial insights into farm finance, focusing on economic growth strategies, funding avenues, and grant opportunities. Whether you're a seasoned farmer looking to expand, a new producer seeking initial capital, or simply aiming to optimize your financial strategy, this session, led by financial experts, equips you with practical knowledge and actionable takeaways.

## Workshop Session D | Saturday, 3:15 – 4:30 pm

### Designing a More Efficient Farming Future with AI: Possibilities, Problems, and Perspectives CANCELED AS OF 11/14/25

*Lyndon Smith, Botanist & Barrel*

In this audience-driven discussion, Lyndon facilitates questions and conversation around the future of AI and sustainable farming. How can farmers adopt AI technology to make their business operations more efficient? What are innovative ways AI could help farmers in the field? What are farmers' greatest concerns about using AI? Lyndon shares how he has used AI to save time and money in his business, offers advice for integrating it into workflows, and invites the audience to bring issues to discuss and work them out together in real time.

### Farming as a Business, Not a Hobby | Richland B | Sponsored by GrownBy

*Gray Shipley, Shipley Farms Beef*

Farming is not only hard work; it is also a hard business with tight margins, high costs, and plenty of bigger, lower-cost, more efficient competitors. This workshop focuses on the strategy mindset and practices that many farmers must adopt to think and act more like CEOs of healthy, profitable businesses. Gray draws from his experience managing his family's farm, teaching at ASU, and consulting with small businesses over the past 20 years.

### Permaculture from an Indigenous Perspective | Richland C

*Hector Lopez & Phoebe Gooding, Hawk's Nest Healing Gardens*

Indigenous people around the world have an essential relationship with nature. Hector and Phoebe dive deeper into ancient techniques that our ancestors used for generations and how to apply them to produce better and healthier food for communities while protecting the environment. This presentation reviews agricultural systems like chinampas, the three sisters companion technique, and guachado potato sowing.

### Breaking Down Barriers: Mentorship for Organic Certification | Congaree A | Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS)

*Hannah Dankbar & Kathleen Wood, NC State University; Shiloh Avery, Tumbling Shoals Farm*

USDA Organic certification helps farmers communicate their sustainable growing practices to consumers and receive a premium price at market. However, certification can be expensive and demanding to maintain. A panel of farmers discusses the benefits and challenges of organic certification, and how they have mentored other farmers through the process. Hannah and Kathleen will share insights into organic certification for small-scale and beginning farmers informed by a survey of farmers in both Carolinas. The session closes with information on how to join a farmer mentorship program.

## Workshop Session D Cont. | Saturday, 3:15 – 4:30 pm

### Navigating Crop Insurance Programs for Small and Diversified Farms | Congaree B

*Ed Graves, Tiny Bridge Farm; Jaimie McGirt, Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI); Amanda Meyers, USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)*

Small and diversified farms may be the most resilient to weather events and market variability, but are often the most vulnerable to revenue loss when disasters occur due to a lack of insurance coverage. As a result of increasing natural disasters, market fluctuations, and other unforeseen events, farmers are choosing insurance coverage for their operations. However, choosing a policy, completing paperwork, and reporting crop losses often present challenges due to the diverse nature of small-scale farms. Ed covers administrative hurdles and how to do the crop reporting required to access FSA programs and other crop insurance options for small farms. Jaimie discusses options for diversified specialty crop growers, given the diversity of farm size and type, and best practices for building relationships with FSA. Amanda provides answers and suggestions from a policy and administrative standpoint on how producers can navigate insurance challenges.

### How to Use Microscopy to Validate Your Farming Practices | Hall of Fame | Sponsored by the NC Composting Council

*Simeon Kleinsasser, Hiwassee Products*

This hands-on workshop demonstrates the importance of using a microscope as a window into your farm management practices. Simeon briefly discusses the production of high-quality compost and compost extracts and covers the morphology of the soil food web, including a diverse range of microorganisms, fungi, and protozoa that play vital roles in nutrient cycling and soil health. After reviewing the different parts of a microscope, Simeon leads a live in-class microscopy demonstration to examine different compost and soil samples.

### Digital Brand Development on a Budget | Lincoln A

*Burke Whaley, Freshlist*

This session is for farmers, food hub staff, and other agrifood professionals who want to build a brand and connect with customers to generate consistent sales. Burke covers creating a business brand and effectively using email marketing and social media to drive direct-to-consumer sales, as well as how to create a digital content strategy, find a target audience, and batch-plan content without spending significant time or money.

### Restoring Communities with Repair Networks | Lincoln B

*Dan Hettinger, WNC Repair Cafe*

The WNC Repair Cafe started in 2018 to keep broken but fixable items out of the landfill, empower people to rely less on supply chains prone to disruptions, and foster connections. In the days and weeks after Hurricane Helene, the WNC Repair Cafe put its mission of building resilient communities to work and demonstrated how these mutual care networks are crucial to disaster recovery. Dan shares how he built the WNC Repair Cafe and the work of recruiting and training volunteers, organizing pop-up repair events, and mobilizing quickly to respond to natural disasters in the community.

### Farming Fungi for People, Planet & Profit | Senate A

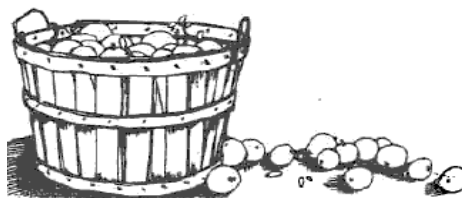
*Christopher Parker, The Forest Pharmacy*

Mushrooms are an untapped opportunity for farmers looking to grow their impact and income, turning waste into wealth while restoring ecosystems and feeding the community. This session explores the business of mushroom farming — from input costs to product pricing and potential returns. Christopher discusses integrating mushrooms into your farm plan as a high-value crop that supports ecosystem regeneration, community health, and financial resilience. He walks through real-world examples to help you evaluate what role fungi can play in your triple bottom line.





### Introduction to Farm Business Structures | Senate B | Sponsored by the Land Loss Prevention Project

*Lenwood Edwards, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association; Jimmy Johnson, SC Small Business Development Centers; Brian Wheat, Common Joy Luffa*

Lenwood, Jimmy, and Brian cover the pros and cons and the legal basics of sole proprietorships, LLCs, corporations, nonprofits, and other small business structures. Participants gain a stronger understanding of incorporating legal resilience into their farms and the tools to make an informed choice of which business structure best suits their operation.



	<b>SESSION A SAT 8:30-9:45 AM</b>	<b>SESSION B SAT 10:15-11:30 AM</b>	<b>SESSION C SAT 1:30-2:45 PM</b>	<b>SESSION D SAT 3:15-4:30 PM</b>
<b>RICHLAND A</b>	Managing Pests Without Pesticides (Nathan Vannette)	Establishing A Profitable No-Till Market Garden (Noah Poulos)	Soil Health Hot Takes and Bingo Breaks (Mallory Choudoir, Debjani Sihi, & Biswanath Dari)	<del>CANCELED AS OF 11/14/25: Designing a More Efficient Farming Future with AI: Possibilities, Problems, and Perspectives (Lyndon Smith)</del>
<b>RICHLAND B</b>	Understanding and Winning NRCS Support (Jaimie McGirt)	Alliums Year-Round (Pam Dawling)	Growing Market Confidence: Tools & Strategies for Organic Producers (Kim Butz, De'Anthony Price, Sandi Kronick, Lindsey Barrow, Rebekah Spaid, Danielle Hutchison, & Lauren Horning Contreras)	Farming as a Business, Not a Hobby (Gray Shipley)
<b>RICHLAND C</b>	Ecological Health Indicators for Any Landscape (Ashton Thompson)	Seed Starting 101 (Laura Collins)	Seed Farming at Any Scale (Chris Keeve & Leeza Chen)	Permaculture from an Indigenous Perspective (Hector Lopez & Phoebe Gooding)
<b>CONGAREE A</b>	Variety Selection for Cut Flower Growers (Tasha Trujillo)	<del>CANCELED AS OF 11/11/25: Holistic Farm Management for Economic and Ecological Health (Chris Sermons)</del>	Growing Caneberries Organically in the Southeast (Craig Mauney)	Breaking Down Barriers: Mentorship for Organic Certification (Hannah Dankbar, Kathleen Wood, & Shiloh Avery)
<b>CONGAREE B</b>	Pasture Partners: Building Healthy Farms with Multi-Species Livestock Systems (Nicole Correa & Chris LeMaster)	Not Your Neighbor's Farm: Unlocking Your Agritourism Sweet Spot (Kara Rutter)	Benefits of Forage Diversity for Ruminants Large and Small (Debbie Webster & Don Jackson)	Navigating Crop Insurance Programs for Small and Diversified Farms (Ed Graves, Jaimie McGirt, & Amanda Myers)
<b>HALL OF FAME</b>	Capitalizing on Culinary Partnerships (Ben Geiger)	Break Free from Burnout, Part 1: Laying the Foundation for a Scalable Farm Business (Jessica Evans)	Break Free from Burnout, Part 2: Delegating Effectively and Building a Powerful Team (Jessica Evans)	How to Use Microscopy to Validate Your Farming Practices (Simeon Kleinsasser)
<b>LINCOLN A</b>	Farm Finances 101: Bookkeeping Basics for New & Growing Farms (Alex Edquist)	Consumer Attitudes About Poultry Quality: Analyzing Survey Results to Inform Successful Marketing Strategies (Dr. Kathleen Liang)	<del>CANCELED AS OF 11/14/25: Waste Not: Turning Farm Byproducts into Profit &amp; Purpose (Lyndon Smith)</del>	Digital Brand Development on a Budget (Burke Whaley)
<b>LINCOLN B</b>	Growing Careers, Opportunities, and Healthier Communities with SC Nonprofits (Elise Ashby, Ken Harvin, Ashley Page Bookhart, Michael Brown, & Greg Perry)	Growing Food Systems Change from the Ground Up with Grassroots Action (Brett Rapkin-Citrenbaum, Shy Palmer, Kenya Joseph, & Dawna Ledbetter)	Guiding Food Systems Change on the Leadership Level with Grassroots Advocacy (Brett Rapkin-Citrenbaum & Alesia Bock)	Restoring Communities with Repair Networks (Dan Hettinger)
<b>SENATE A</b>	First Steps to Online Sales: Small Farm E-commerce Basics (Stan Kamithi)	Scaling Local Food Systems Through Collaboration: The Power of Food Hub Networks (Stefanie Jaeger & Deirdre Tanner)	Subscriptions That Work: How to Generate Recurring Revenue on Your Farm (Jeff Siewicki)	Farming Fungi for People, Planet, & Profit (Christopher Parker)
<b>SENATE B</b>	Farming and the Art of Rest: Lessons from Jewish Tradition (Liel Green)	Cultivating Connection: Marketing Through the Power of Story (Daniel James)	Cultivating Capital: Navigating Farm Finance for Sustainable Growth (Jimmy Johnson, Jim Matson, Kyle Player, & Steve Richards)	Introduction to Farm Business Structures (Lenwood Edwards, Jimmy Johnson, & Brian Wheat)

	MEETUPS SAT 4:45-6 PM	SESSION E SUN 8:30-9:45 AM	SESSION F SUN 10:15-11:30 AM
<b>RICHLAND A</b>		<b>Three Principles of Maintaining Soil Health</b> (Jesse Frost)	<b>Succession Planting for Continuous Vegetable Harvests</b> (Pam Dawling)
<b>RICHLAND B</b>		<b>You Can't Do It All: Hiring and Retaining the Most Productive Team</b> (Shiloh Avery & Jason Roehrig)	<b>Transitioning to Silvopasture Systems: Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways</b> (Ashton Thompson & Lydia O'Halloran)
<b>RICHLAND C</b>		<b>Increasing Farm Revenue with Grown-to-Order Plants</b> (Mary Roberts)	<b>Organic High Tunnel Tomatoes from Seed to Sale</b> (Brian Marshall)
<b>CONGAREE A</b>	<b>Certified Naturally Grown Networking &amp; Interest Meeting</b> (led by Erin Torgerson)	<b>Growing Mushrooms on Agricultural Byproducts and Other Substrates</b> (Olga Katić)	<b>Bee-utiful Farmscapes</b> (Nancy Lee Adamson)
<b>CONGAREE B</b>	<b>Rooted in Community: A Networking Space by the Women of Color Farmers Network</b> (led by Afraka Yates)	<b>The Power of Seeds</b> (Amyrose Foll, Ira Wallace, Chris Keeve)	<b>Centering the Margins: Leadership from the Frontlines of Food Insecurity</b> (Shy Palmer, Demi Tucker, Afraka Yates, Shantell Farrell, & Michael Brown)
<b>HALL OF FAME</b>	<b>Farmer-to-Farmer Grower Meetup</b> (led by Michelle Hochkeppel, Jesse Frost, & Cherie Jzar)	<b>I Hope This Works!: Lessons Learned from Developing Raw Land</b> (Michelle Hochkeppel)	<b>Diversifying Income Streams with Value-Added Enterprises</b> (Debbie Webster)
<b>LINCOLN A</b>	<b>Encuentro for Latino Growers, Friends, &amp; Allies</b> (led by El Futuro es Nuestro & Central Carolina Community College)	<b>Heritage Turkey Master Class</b> (Amanda Jones & Joe Jones)	<b>Campus Farm Resources Swap</b> (Ann Bybee-Finley, Frieda Kahan, Sara Snyder, & Larry Cook)
<b>LINCOLN B</b>		<b>EEK! Easements, Estates, Entities and Other Farm Law Topics Made Easy</b> (Anna Cates Williams)	<b>Seed and Microbiome Stewardship Through Heirloom Collard Cultivation</b> (Chris Keeve & Mallory Choudoir)
<b>SENATE A</b>	<b>Farmer Veterans Meetup</b> (led by Kara Rutter & Matt Rutter)	<b>Vacant Lot Reutilization: Transforming Empty Spaces into Productive Green Places</b> (Katy Lydon McGreevy, Amanda Mitchell, Andre Davis, & Robbie McClam)	<b>Creating Sustainable Employment with the H-2A Visa Program</b> (Katherine Belk & Isaac Tovar)
<b>SENATE B</b>	<b>Affinity Space for Jewish Farmers and Community Havdalah</b> (led by Liel Green)	<b>Assessing the Challenges and Barriers to Accessing NRCS Support</b> (Jaimie McGirt)	<b>Healing Ground: How Care Farming Builds Stronger Farms and Healthier Communities</b> (Matt Rutter & Emily Ling)





## Workshop Session E | Sunday, 8:30 – 9:45 am

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### Three Principles of Maintaining Soil Health | Richland A | Sponsored by Hiwassee Products

*Jesse Frost, Rough Draft Farmstead & No-Till Growers*

Jesse details what he has learned about starting and maintaining living soil, drawing on over a decade and a half of market gardening experience. He discusses successes, failures, context, and his three guiding principles for making decisions in the garden. This session encourages and guides farmers in applying these principles to their own gardens, using their own materials, to meet individualized farming goals.

### You Can't Do It All: Hiring & Retaining the Most Productive Team | Richland B

*Shiloh Avery & Jason Roehrig, Tumbling Shoals Farm*

Shiloh and Jason explore why and how to find the most productive employees and dive deep into the workplace design that keeps them around and functioning at a top level. The session also examines the legal side of what's required to have employees and where to find accurate information about employment taxes. Shiloh and Jason share the successes and challenges they have faced as their operation has grown over the past 17 years.

### Increasing Farm Revenue with Grown-to-Order Plants | Richland C | Sponsored by High Mowing Seeds

*Mary Roberts, Windcrest Farm*

Farmers skilled in seed propagation and producing healthy transplants can earn additional income by selling seasonal and grown-to-order plant starts to farmers, gardeners, and local stores in their region. Mary shares her experience growing vegetable, fruit, and herb plants for home gardeners and market farmers, and discusses the opportunities of being a USDA Certified Organic supplier of transplants.

### Growing Mushrooms on Agricultural Byproducts and Other Substrates | Congaree A

*Olga Katić, Mushroom Mountain*

Discover how to turn agricultural byproducts and other readily available materials into thriving mushroom crops. Olga covers substrate selection, preparation, and inoculation techniques for various gourmet and medicinal species, demonstrating how to transform farm and garden waste into a valuable, sustainable food source.

### The Power of Seeds | Congaree B | Sponsored by the Barnes-Berry Family Trust

*Amyrose Foll, Virginia Free Farm; Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; Chris Keeve, University of Kentucky & The Heirloom Collard Project*

Join Amyrose, Ira, and Chris for a thought-provoking session on the importance of seeds and seed-work. This group of experienced seed people discusses why and how working with seeds has become pivotal in their lives, with a particular focus on the ability of seeds to help preserve and transmit human culture. There is ample opportunity to engage with the instructors, including through breakout discussions, and on any subject from practical or technical seed-saving issues to the deeper questions at the heart of this session.

### I Hope This Works!: Lessons Learned from Developing Raw Land | Hall of Fame

*Michelle Hochkeppel, High Mowing Seeds*

Starting a farm from scratch involves a complex web of competing priorities. Michelle highlights her experience running a market garden in rural Idaho and provides insight into logistics and decision-making regarding land development, infrastructure choices, and action from 'Day 1.' Audience members are welcome to share their stories and collectively brainstorm solutions to their challenges.

### Heritage Turkey Master Class | Lincoln A

*Amanda Jones & Joe Jones, Doko Farm*

Heritage breeds offer a unique opportunity to take advantage of pasture-based systems and conserve genetics that may prove valuable for disease resistance in a changing climate. Amanda and Joe share their lessons of raising Narragansett turkeys and discuss breeding, hatching, and growing out this heritage breed each year. They also cover how they market their turkeys and the potential for additional revenue opportunities.

### EEK! Easements, Estates, Entities, and Other Farm Law Topics Made Easy | Lincoln B

*Anna Cates Williams, Cedar Grove Law*

Using real-life examples, Anna breaks down timely legal issues farmers face, from easements and estate planning to entities and employment law. Learn how to protect your land, plan for the future, and avoid costly "E"rrors. Anna delivers clear, practical, and farmer-friendly tips without the legalese.

## Workshop Session E Cont. | Sunday, 8:30 – 9:45 am

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### **Vacant Lot Reutilization: Transforming Empty Spaces into Productive Green Places | Senate A**

*Katy Lydon McGreevy, Amanda Mitchell, & Andre Davis, Growing High Point; Robbie McClam, City Roots Farm*

Vacant lots hold the potential to be productive green spaces that address food insecurity, improve health, generate economic opportunity, and promote environmental resilience. Katy, Amanda, and Andre share practical tools and lessons from Growing High Point's urban agriculture model, including equitable land reuse strategies with municipal collaboration, youth and women's empowerment, and building community ownership of local food systems. Robbie shares his story of establishing City Roots Farm, the first commercial urban farm in South Carolina, from navigating zoning requirements and acquiring permits, to prepping the site for Certified Organic production.

### **Assessing The Challenges and Barriers to Accessing NRCS Support | Senate B | Sponsored by Rimol Greenhouses**

*Jaimie McGirt, Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)*

Applying for assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can be intimidating, especially for new producers. This workshop demystifies the process by giving a thorough overview of the NRCS, detailed information on the EQIP and CSP programs, and a step-by-step walk-through of the application and contracting process, from initial contact with the agency to final contract payments. Jaimie address misconceptions and concerns through group discussion.



## Workshop Session F | Sunday, 10:15 – 11:30 am

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### **Succession Planting for Continuous Vegetable Harvests | Richland A | Sponsored by Good Agriculture**

*Pam Dawling, Twin Oaks Community*

This workshop presents strategies for planning sowing dates for continuous supplies of popular summer crops, such as beans, squash, cucumbers, edamame, and sweet corn, as well as cold-weather hoophouse greens and year-round lettuce. These planning methods can help farmers avoid the wastage of gluts and the loss of opportunities due to shortages.

### **Transitioning to Silvopasture Systems: Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways | Richland B**

*Ashton Thompson, Juneberry Ridge; Lydia O'Halloran, Clemson University*

Ashton shares his ongoing experience transitioning monoculture pine forests into a diversified silvopasture system at Juneberry Ridge over the past four years. He describes implementation, income, expenses, and long-term aspirations for the project. Lydia discusses current research from Clemson University that examines the grazing impacts of young versus mature pine stands and some of the barriers to entry into silvopasture systems that landowners have expressed.

### **Organic High Tunnel Tomatoes From Seed to Sale | Richland C | Sponsored by Nifty Hoops**

*Brian Marshall, Greenfield Organic Farms*

Brian delivers a comprehensive session on high tunnel tomatoes, covering everything from successful germination to choosing the best market for sale. The session starts with growing healthy transplants and moves into bed preparation and maintaining soil health. Brian also discusses different trellising techniques, including the Qlipr system used for the "lower and lean" method, how to avoid under- or overwatering, and tips on when to harvest.

### **Bee-utiful Farmscapes | Congaree A**

*Nancy Lee Adamson, US Fish & Wildlife Service / NRCS*

Want to improve pollination, support rare bees and butterflies, and reduce pest outbreaks on your farm? Learn about common and rare insect neighbors and ways to welcome them to your farm or garden. Nancy highlights plants and farm practices that benefit pollinators and natural enemies of crop pests, agroforestry practices that can help reduce heat stress, USDA Farm Bill programs for healthy habitats, and US Fish and Wildlife Service programs that benefit 'at risk' wildlife.

## Workshop Session F Cont. | Sunday, 10:15 – 11:30 am

### Centering the Margins: Leadership from the Frontlines of Food Insecurity | Congaree B

*Shy Palmer, Demi Tucker, Afraka Yates, Shantell Farrell, & Michael Brown, Reclamation FARMacy*

Too often, food justice solutions exclude those most affected by food insecurity and land loss. This workshop centers the voices of those who have transformed community gardens into spaces of resistance and healing. Through interactive dialogue, storytelling, and hands-on reflection, the panelists unpack how gardens can function as tools for reparative justice, demonstrate how gardens build resilience, and how institutions can support – without co-opting – community-led efforts.

### Diversifying Income Streams with Value-Added Enterprises | Hall of Fame | Sponsored by the Agribusiness Center for Research & Entrepreneurship

*Debbie Webster, Whispering Pines Farm*

Debbie shares her creative ideas on ways farm operators can earn additional income and further connect with the community with value-added products and unique agritourism experiences. Debbie gives a brief presentation about her background to spark creative thoughts, and then participants break into groups to brainstorm ways to add value to products or services on their farms. Debbie speaks from her 45 years of experience running a business, managing farm stores, teaching classes, and holding events.

### Campus Farm Resources Swap | Lincoln A

*Ann Bybee-Finley, Sarah Snyder, & Frieda Kahan, NC State University; Larry Cook, University of South Carolina*

Campus farms grow the next generation of food system leaders. This workshop brings together lessons and experiences from various educational farms across the Southeast to highlight what is working, what is needed, and how campus farms can better support one another. Drawing from what students and staff are learning at NC State's Agroecology Education Farm and USC's Sustainable Carolina Garden, speakers share real-world insights and invite participants to do the same. Come ready to swap stories, share tools, and connect with others doing similar work.

### Seed and Microbiome Stewardship Through Heirloom Collard Cultivation | Lincoln B | Sponsored by Sow True Seed

*Chris Keeve, University of Kentucky & The Heirloom Collard Project; Mallory Choudoir, NC State University*

This workshop invites participants to engage in an ongoing discussion on seed stewardship and microbiome stewardship. While the former promotes regional crop biodiversity and resilient food systems, the latter advocates for microbes as a communal resource for agroecological health. Chris and Mallory discuss the overlaps and tensions by highlighting an ongoing collaboration between the Heirloom Collard Project and the Microbiome Stewardship Project, cultivating non-human care across scales.

### Creating Sustainable Employment with the H-2A Visa Program | Senate A

*Katherine Belk & Isaac Tovar, Wild Hope Farm*

Many diversified operations utilize the H-2A visa (temporary agricultural workers) program to ensure a seasonal workforce and fill labor gaps while providing dignified employment on organic farms. Katherine delivers an administrative perspective, including managing employees, overcoming language barriers, and explaining how the program has changed farm operations at Wild Hope Farm. Isaac shares his experience as an H-2A employee working on different types of farms. He discusses what makes a positive experience versus a negative experience and how farm managers can support their H-2A employees.

### Healing Ground: How Care Farming Builds Stronger Farms and Healthier Communities | Senate B

*Matt Rutter, Project Victory Gardens; Emily Ling, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association*

What if your farm could grow more than food? Care farming weaves therapeutic and community-centered activities into working farms, offering healing and connection for veterans, youth, and others in need, while also creating new income streams, strengthening rural health, and deepening the farm's mission. Matt shares how care farming builds resilience for both participants and producers, drawing from veteran-focused models that can inspire broader application. Emily highlights national resources and the work of the Care Farming Network to support farmers exploring this emerging model.



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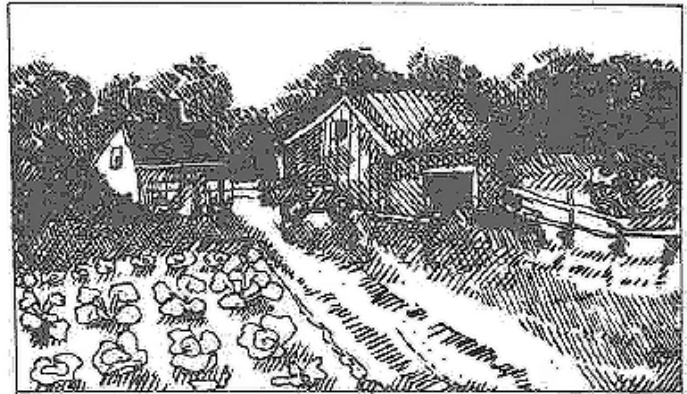
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**Start Free Today**



**CEFS works across the entire food system, from field research to food waste, to create a healthier and more sustainable food system for everyone.**



CEFS is a partnership of North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Learn more at [cefs.ncsu.edu](http://cefs.ncsu.edu)



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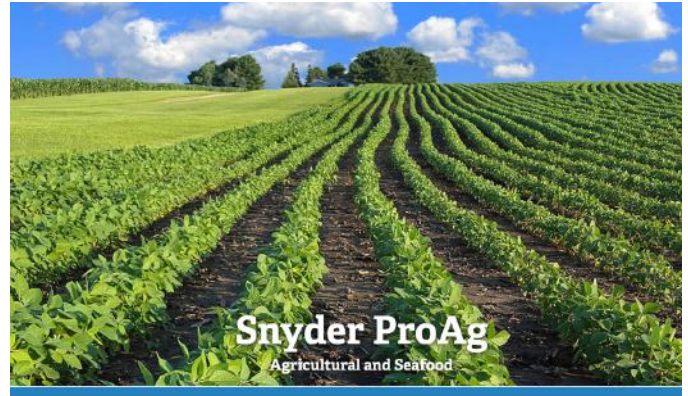


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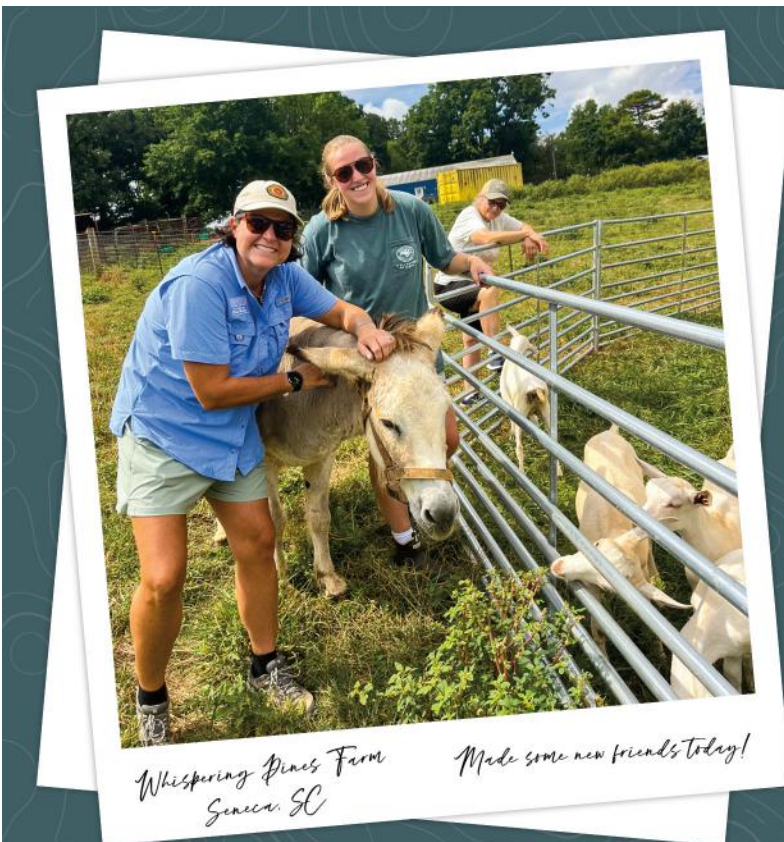


SCAA is the only state-wide organization dedicated to educating and marketing South Carolina agritourism farms.

Join us today at [scagritourism.org/become-a-member](https://scagritourism.org/become-a-member).

Attend the  
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Get ready for three action-packed days of inspiration and innovation! Join us as we tour unique farms across the Upstate, each offering hands-on educational sessions, real-world insights, and fresh ideas you can bring back to your own operation. Whether you're just getting started or looking to expand, this is your chance to supercharge your farm's agritourism success in 2026.



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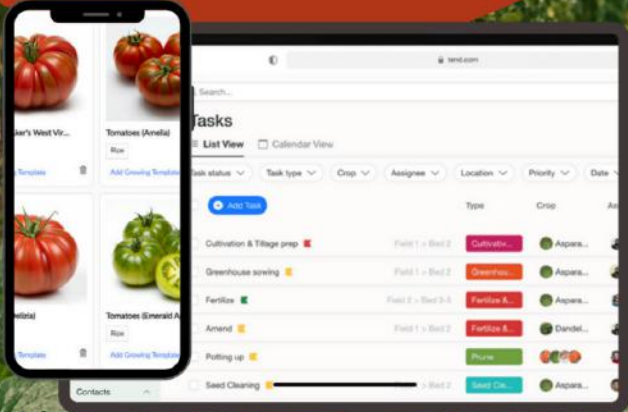


# Revolutionizing Farm Management

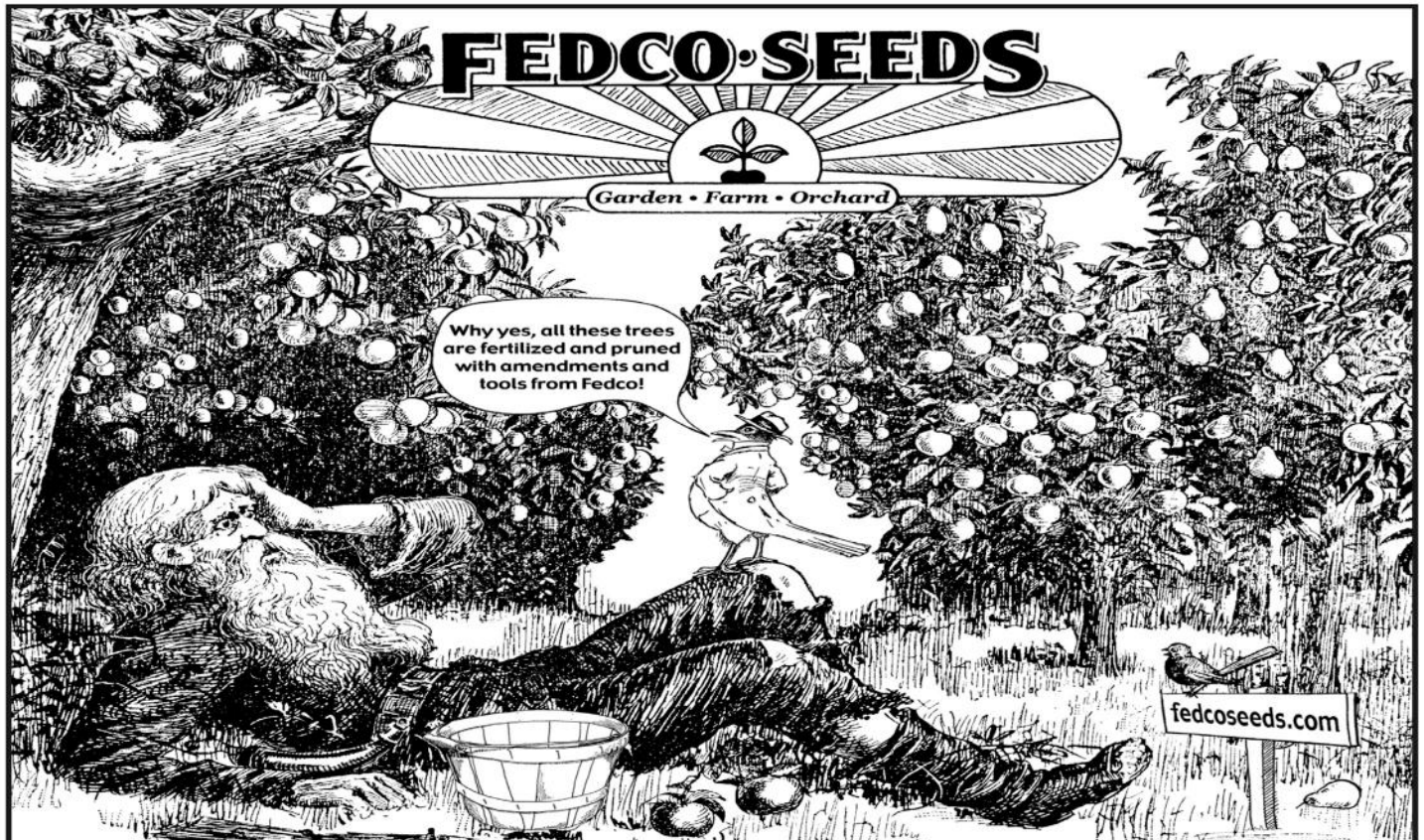
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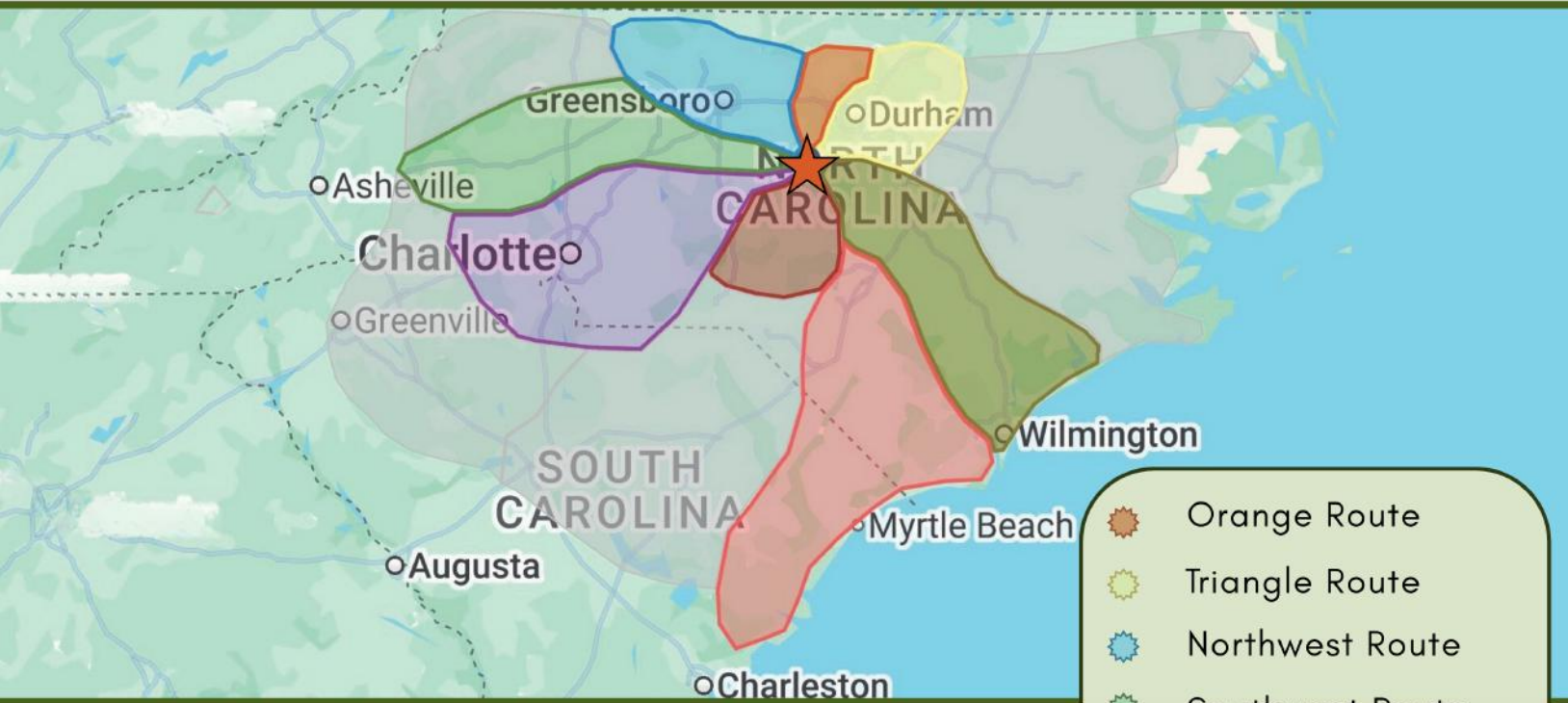
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*"We so appreciate the Country Farm & Home delivery routes. I can't even tally how much time and money it's saved us. Melinda goes out of her way to help us with what we need. She's an incredible asset for the local farm community." —Gordon Jenkins, Ten Mothers Farm*

# Country Farm & Home

## DELIVERY ROUTES



**Country Farm & Home, based in Pittsboro, NC, has everything you need to keep your small farm growing—and we deliver!** We have established routes throughout the Carolinas that offer direct farm delivery and group stops with no order minimums.

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- Triangle Route
- Northwest Route
- Southwest Route
- Southwest SC Route
- Sandhills Route
- Southeast Route
- Southeast SC Route
- Potential Routes!



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For questions & inquiries email [deliveries@chathamfarmsupply.com](mailto:deliveries@chathamfarmsupply.com)



# PRESERVING PEOPLE'S CONNECTION TO THE LAND SINCE 1983

The Land Loss Prevention Project is a nonprofit, public interest law firm with a mission to provide support and legal assistance to financially stressed and limited resource farmers, landowners, and homeowners in North Carolina. We deliver comprehensive legal services, technical assistance, and community education to farmers, landowners, attorneys, advocates, & community groups across the state.



## Legal Services

Legal assistance free of charge for eligible financially stressed farmers, landowners, & homeowners in NC.



## Technical Assistance

Training & assistance for attorneys & advocates on strategies for protecting land & farm ownership.



## Community Education

Workshops & educational materials to educate the public about ways to prevent land loss.

SCAN HERE



## Ten Ways to Save Your Land

The Land Loss Prevention Project wants to help people keep their property and has written Ten Ways to Save Your Land to increase awareness of what can be done now to prevent problems in the future. Use the QR code provided to access a digital version of the most recent edition!

*\*The handbook is based on North Carolina law. The law in other states may vary.*



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## About CFSA

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) is a farmer-driven nonprofit that advocates, educates, and builds connections to create sustainable food systems centered on local and organic agriculture in the Carolinas. We employ a “whole of food systems” approach that prioritizes farmer livelihoods, food access and sovereignty, and environmental sustainability in our core program areas:

- Building collective power through collaborative advocacy to secure a policy and regulatory framework that addresses inequities in the food and farm system.
- Providing direct technical assistance to farmers on conservation planning, food safety, organic production and certification, high tunnel production, disaster recovery, and market access; and working with food hubs and other food businesses to strengthen their operations and become reliable market outlets for small farms.
- Delivering peer-to-peer and expert education and research on organic and sustainable production practices to ensure the long-term success of growers in our region and the health of our environment.

## Support Our Work



Together we build a sustainable regional food system that is good for all consumers, farmers, farmworkers, and ecosystems — and we need your support! As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, donors like you power everything we do at CFSA. Make an impact in the fight for sustainable farm and food systems with a donation. *All gifts to CFSA are tax-deductible. Donations greater than \$40 come with a free membership!*

### Donate securely online:

[carolinafarmstewards.org/donate-to-cfsa](http://carolinafarmstewards.org/donate-to-cfsa)

### Send a check:

Make checks payable to Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. Mail to Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, PO Box 448, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

### Recurring donation:

Set up your online donation to recur monthly or quarterly in any amount. All recurring donations will be charged directly to your card on file. Donors may change the donation amount or cancel at any time.

### NC state employees:

North Carolina state employees and retirees can make a tax-deductible contribution to CFSA directly through their paycheck during the North Carolina State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC), which runs from August to December each year. Use SECC Code #2548.

## Join Our Movement



There are nearly 3,000 members in CFSA’s network across the Carolinas and beyond! From farmers to advocates, from foodies to food access organizations, our members help us build sustainable food systems in our region. No matter what part of the food system you’re grounded in, there’s a place for you at CFSA.

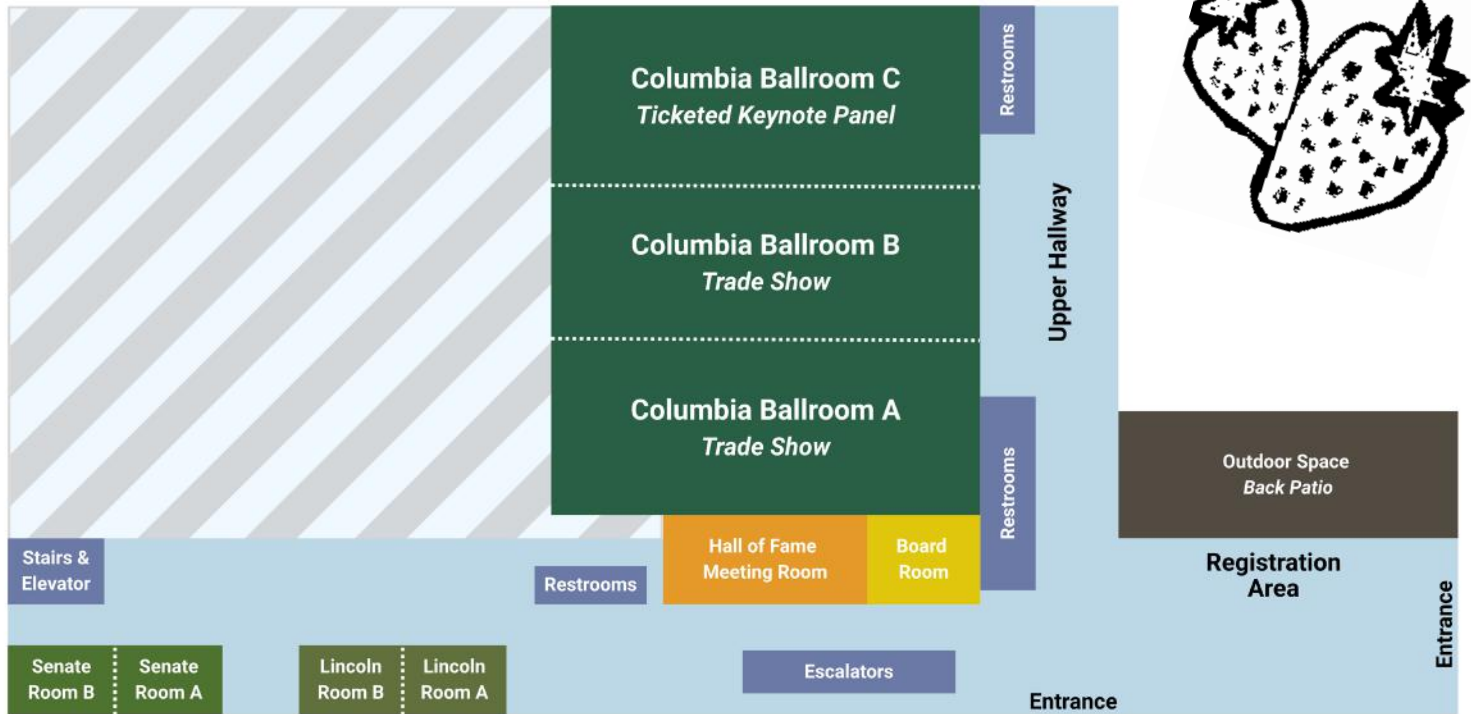
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association members enjoy benefits galore, tailored for growers and farmers in the Southeast — become a member to gain access to reduced event prices, free on-farm technical assistance, crowdfunding and job board posting, exclusive listservs, discounts at partnering businesses, advocacy training opportunities, and more!

Deepen your commitment to local food by becoming a CFSA member or renewing your membership today: [carolinafarmstewards.org/membership](http://carolinafarmstewards.org/membership)



# Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center Map

## UPPER LEVEL



## LOWER LEVEL

