



# Meeting Agenda – Boone United Methodist Church, Boone

*\*This agenda is subject to change*

## Thursday, February 19, 2026

8:00-8:45am (upstairs)	<b>NCCTA Joint Board of Directors &amp; Fraser Fir Promotional Committee Meeting</b>
8:30am (gym)	Registration opens/Visit with Exhibitors/Coffee with Exhibitors
9:10am (chapel)	Welcome and Early Registration Cash Prize ( <i>Name Drawn must be present in the chapel to win</i> )
9:15am (chapel)	<b>Real Christmas Tree Board Investments in Research, Education, and Promotion– Cyndi Knudson, Director of Research, Real Christmas Tree Board and Chuck Berry, RCTB member, Berry’s Tree Farm, NC</b>
9:45am (chapel)	<b>Bringing Insights from Last Year’s Market into 2026 and Beyond - Will Kohlway, Extension Specialist, Christmas Tree Production &amp; Marketing, NC State University</b>
10:15am (chapel)	<b>NC Cooperative Extension Update - Dr. David Monks, Director of Extension, NC State University</b>
10:35am (chapel)	<b>Announcements &amp; Awards Presentation</b>
11:00am	<b>Break-out Sessions: Major Grower (chapel), Wholesalers/Retailers (sanctuary), Choose &amp; Cut (upstairs), Allied Businesses (family life center/Gym)</b>
11:45am (gym)	Lunch/Visit with Exhibitors
12:45-1:10pm (chapel)	<b>H-2A FOIA Coalition Briefing - Michelle Grainger, Executive Director, NC Sweetpotato Commission</b>
1:10-1:55pm (chapel)	<b>AEWR Research Briefing – Dr. Blake Brown, Hugh C Kiger Professor, Emeritus, NC State University</b>
1:55-2:25pm (chapel)	<b>H-2A AEWR Changes - Lee Wicker, Deputy Director, NC Growers Association</b>
2:25-2:50pm (chapel)	<b>H-2A Labor Update - Drew Long, Program Director, NC Department of Commerce</b>
2:50-3:25pm (chapel)	<b>H-2A Q&amp;A Panel with Dr. Blake Brown, Lee Wicker &amp; Drew Long</b>
3:25-3:55pm (gym)	Visit With Exhibitors/Refreshment Break
3:55pm (chapel)	<b>Ragweed work, granular herbicides and UAV granular product spreader uniformity trials - Dr. Joe Neal, Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist, NC State University <i>*pesticide credits NODX</i></b>
4:40pm	Adjourn
5:30pm	Social & Dinner: The Apple Barn @ Valle Crucis Conference Center – Live music and dinner

## Friday, February 20, 2026

8:30am (gym)	Registration Opens/Coffee with Exhibitors
9:00am (chapel)	<b>UMRS Seed Center Update - Tracy Taylor, Director of Operations for Research Stations, NCDA&amp;CS</b>
9:30am (chapel)	<b>Environmental Life Cycle Analysis of Natural and Artificial Christmas Trees - Dr. Jonathan Morizet-Davis, PhD Student, College of Natural Resources, NC State University</b>
10:10am (chapel)	<b>Year 2: A GIFT SEED Project Update – Dr. Justin Whitehill, Christmas Tree Genetics Program Lead, NC State University</b>
10:25am (gym)	Visit With Exhibitors/Refreshment Break
11:00am (chapel)	<b>Planning the Future of Your Farm: An Overview of Transfer of Business, Land, and Wealth- Robert Branam, Extension Agricultural and Environmental Law Specialist, NC State University</b>
11:50am (gym)	Lunch/Visit with Exhibitors – Vendor Raffle drawings
1:00pm (chapel)	<b>NCCTA Business Meeting</b>
1:35pm (chapel)	<b>Hand tools, chainsaws and PPE on the Christmas tree farm – Andy Sterlen, NCOSH Health Education Specialist, NCDOL</b>
2:15pm (chapel)	<b>2024 Research Updates and 2025 Plans: Small Flat Insects Causing Big Fat Problems- Jamie Bookwalter, Extension Specialist, Mountain Conifer IPM, NC State University <i>*pesticide credits NODX</i></b>
3:00pm	Adjourn