

“The Business of Agriculture in North Carolina”

Friday, October 5

- 7:45 am** **Registration and Networking**
- 8:30 am** **Welcome Remarks**
Kevin Mulligan, President NC Agribusiness Council
- 8:45 am** **Opening Keynote: Federal Agricultural Policy Update**
Ray Starling, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 9:30 am** **The Future of Agriculture**
John Therien, Partner and Co-Lead of AgTech Group, Smith Anderson (moderator)
Francisca Rios, Agricultural Field Supervisor, NC Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions
The future of agri-business in North Carolina is bright with both opportunities and challenges ahead. Is North Carolina prepared for what the future holds? In this session, our panel of experts will discuss the future of agri-business, including crop science, automation, workforce needs, food technology and water/infrastructure challenges.
- 10:30 am** **Break**
- 11:00 am** **The Life Cycle of Food**
Dr. Bill Aimutis, Director, North Carolina Food Innovation Lab (moderator)
Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Professor, Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Science, NC State University
Leonard L. Williams, Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences, North Carolina A&T State University
From seed and growth to manufacturing and consumption, businesses along the life cycle of food drive North Carolina's economy. In this session, experts will discuss the economic opportunities along the life cycle of food and how agri-business can overcome barriers to fulfill its potential.
- 11:45 am** **Legal Issues Impacting Agri-Business**
Senator Brent Jackson
- 12:15 am** **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm** **Closing Keynote: How North Carolina Feeds the World**
NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler
- 1:30 pm** **Closing Remarks**
Lew Ebert, CEO, NC Chamber