PRESENTED BY

CEA SUMMIT EAST | INDOOR AG-CON & CEA INNOVATION Center

Controlled Environment Agriculture Innovation Center Partnership:

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES VIRGINIA TECH | the INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

7:45AM	Registration Opens - Coffee & Breakfast Pastries Served
8:20AM - 8:45AM	**Welcome & Event Overview** *Room 101ABCD*
8:45AM - 9:30AM	**Kick-Off Keynote Address:** Grow It, Then What? Building the Bridge to Market Firside chat with Kathlyn Terry Baker, CEO, Appalachian Sustainable Development and Matthew Lohr, President, VP Strategies LLC, and former Virginia Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry *Room 101ABCD*
9:30AM - 10:15AM	**Panel Presentation:** Strengthening the Workforce Ecosystem *Room 101ABCD*
10:15AM - 11:00AM	Coffee Break, Mid-Morning Networking & Graduate Student Poster Competition *Room 102, 103, Atrium*
11:00AM - 12:00PM	**CEA INDUSTRY & RESEARCH SHOWCASE - PART ONE** - Hear three quick-hit presentations from CEA innovators sharing success stories, new research and practical insights *Room 101ABCD*
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch & Networking *Rooms 102, 103, 101ABCD, Atrium*

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

	LAUNCHING A NEW CEA OPERATION Location: Auditorium	GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS – CORE HORTICULTURAL SKILLS Location: Greenhouse 1 Headhouse	TECHNOLOGY SELECTION & DATA MANAGEMENT Location: 101E	FOOD SAFETY & PEST MANAGEMENT Location: 101F
1:00PM - 2:30PM *BREAKOUT #1*	Market Research & Defining My Target Market	Matching Substrates to Crop & Production System (Soilless & Hydroponic)	Data Collection & Environmental Monitoring	Cleaning & Sanitization Protocols for Food Safety and Plant Health
2:30PM - 3:30PM	Coffee Break & Afternoon Networking *Rooms 102, 103, Atrium*			
3:30PM - 5:00PM *BREAKOUT #2*	Building My High Tunnel or Greenhouse: Regulations, Siting & Funding	Tools for Fertility Management	Data Management & Cybersecurity in CEA	Insect & Disease Identification in CEA Systems
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Networking Reception & Tabletop Exhibits Explore Research Poster Display, too! *Atrium*			

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

8:00AM - 8:30AM	*Coffee, Breakfast Pastries & Networking* *Rooms 102, 103, Atrium*
8:30AM - 9:15AM	**Welcome & Keynote:** Beyond Leafy Greens: Lessons from Plenty's Next Chapter A fireside chat with Dan Malech, CEO, Plenty & Tom Stenzel, Executive Director, CEA Alliance *Room 101ABCD*
9:30AM - 10:30AM	**CEA INDUSTRY & RESEARCH SHOWCASE - PART TWO** - Hear three quick-hit presentations from CEA innovators sharing success stories, new research and practical insights *Room 101ABCD*
10:30AM - 11:30AM	Coffee Break & Mid-Morning Networking *Rooms 102, 103, Atrium*
11:30AM - 12:30PM	**CEA INDUSTRY & RESEARCH SHOWCASE - PART THREE** - Hear quick-hit presentations from CEA innovators sharing success stories, new research and practical insights *Room 101ABCD*
12:30PM - 1:30PM	Networking & Box Lunch - *Rooms 102, 103, 101ABCD, Atrium*

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

	LAUNCHING A NEW CEA OPERATION Location: Auditorium	GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS – CORE HORTICULTURAL SKILLS Location: Greenhouse 1 Headhouse	TECHNOLOGY SELECTION & DATA MANAGEMENT Location: 101E	FOOD SAFETY & PEST MANAGEMENT Location: 101F
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM *BREAKOUT #3*	Starting an Indoor Vertical Farm: Exploring the Models, the Options, and What It Really Takes	Lighting Fundamentals: Measurements, Metrics and DLI	Practical Examples of AI and Automation Integration in CEA Production	Building an IPM Plan: Beneficial Insects & Biocontrol Tools
3:00PM - 3:45PM	**Panel Presentation:** What's Next in CEA Crops: Breeding & Variety Development Updates *Room 101ABCD*			
3:45PM - 5:00PM	CEA Innovation Center Tour SIGN UP AT REGISTRATION DESK			

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