RCAS Winter Meeting Wilmington, NC
Embassy Suites by Hilton Wilmington Riverfront
9 Estell Lee Place, Wilmington, NC 28401
January 31-February 2, 2027

Travel Information

NC Wilmington International Airport (ILM) 3 miles from airport to hotel, Airport shuttle is not available. Use Uber, Lyft and Taxies.

Registration

In the registration, driver's license information is required for the port tour and Sunday night dinner. If those two items are not filled out, then **you cannot complete registratio**n.

Registration link: https://rcas.regfox.com/rcas-winter-2027-meeting-wilmington-nc

Hotel

Hotel deadline to reserve at group rate: **12/31/2026.**

RCAS Group Rate: $149/+tax 2 Queen Beds Suite, $169/+tax 1 king Bed 2 Room Suite.

Single/double occupancy rooms. Once all the available group inventory in block are sold, the link will default to the next best available rate at the hotel (if there are rooms available outside of the block). Check in 4:00 pm, Check out 11:00 AM. To arrive on Saturday, edit the dates then click Update to procced, up to 10 rooms available at the group rate for adding Saturday.

You can Call 1-910-765-1131, press 1 for reservations and use the group code: **92R.**
Contact Group Reservations Manager Leigh Anne Mikulski if needed.
leigh.mikulski@embassywilmington.com

Please note that the hotel will charge your credit card for one night about two weeks after making the reservation. Self-parking $29/night. Hotel Link:

https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=ILMCCES&groupCode=CES92R&arrivaldate=2027-01-31&departuredate=2027-02-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Research Center Administrators Society (RCAS)

2027 Winter Meeting Agenda

January 31 - February 2, 2027
Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront
Wilmington, North Carolina

Sunday, January 31, 2027

RCAS Executive Committee Meeting and Registration

Location: Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront

Time	Activity
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Meeting Registration and Check-In
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	RCAS Executive Committee Business Meeting
Evening (Time TBD)	Seafood Boil and Welcome Dinner at Garner Residence

Monday, February 1, 2027

RCAS Winter Meeting-Embassy Suites

Time	Program	Presenter
8:00 - 8:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Rusty Collins, President, RCAS; Superintendent, Tidewater Research Station, NCDA&CS
8:15 - 8:45 AM	Overview of NCDA&CS and NCSU Research Enterprises	Hunter Barrier, Director, NCDA&CS Research Stations Division
8:45 - 9:15 AM	Overview of North Carolina Agriculture	Dr. Joe French, Assistant Commissioner for Agricultural Services, NCDA&CS
9:15 - 9:45 AM	North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Update	Dean or Assistant Dean, NC State CALS

Time	Program	Presenter
9:45 - 10:00 AM	Break	
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Safety Programs on Research Stations	Tyler Roseman, Agricultural Research Specialist, Piedmont Research Station, NCDA&CS
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Using H-2A Labor on Tennessee Research Stations	Rob Ellis, University of Tennessee AgResearch
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Crop Insurance for Research Stations	Ruth Fulford, AFIS, Crop Risk Advisor & CARE Consultant, Flatlands Insurance Group
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Overview of University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan	Jason Williams, Director, University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Milan
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00 - 2:30 PM	AI and Drone Applications in Research Settings (Zoom)	Frank Bai, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, NC State University
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Regenerative Agriculture and Its Application in Research (Zoom)	Chandler Gruener, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist (Soil Health), Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Cost Recovery Use and Application at UF/IFAS	Jerry Fankhauser, Associate Director, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station; Executive Director for UF/IFAS Facilities, Planning and Operations
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break	

Time	Program	Presenter
3:45 - 4:00 PM	University of Missouri Summer Meeting 2027 Preview	Tim Reinbott, Director of Field Operations & Communications, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station
4:00 - 5:00 PM	RCAS General Business Meeting	RCAS Officers and Membership

Tuesday, February 2, 2027

Technical Tour and Awards Banquet

Time	Activity
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast at Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Tour of the Port of Wilmington
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Travel to Castle Hayne Horticultural Crops Research Station
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Castle Hayne Horticultural Crops Research Station Overview
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Horticultural Production Systems and Research Programs (Presenter: Cal Lewis)
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Travel to Next Tour Location
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Tour of Nash Johnson & Sons Facilities
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Tour of Smithfield Foods Facilities
5:00 - 7:00 PM	RCAS Dinner and Awards Banquet, Kenansville Agriculture Extension Center
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Travel Back to Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront