U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at giftravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Raymel Quinones
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ *OR* None ☒
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: October 12, 2021 Return: October 15, 2021
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ *OR* None ☐
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: West Palm Beach, FL Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:

   See attached agenda

7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.
   Signify statement is true by checking the box.
   b. If not, explain:

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Raymel Quinones Digitally signed by Raymel Quinones Date: 2022.06.29 12:11:25 -04'00' **Date:** _____

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Darren Soto **Date:** 6/29/22

Signature of Supervising Member: Darren Soto

Version date 3/2021 by Committee on Ethics

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form

☑ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip *within ten days of their return*.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
2. Travel Destination(s): West Palm Beach, FL; Clewiston, FL (with site visits in Belle Glade, FL)
3. Date of Departure: October 12, 2021 Date of Return: October 15, 2021
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Raymel Quinones

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description
Traveler	Airfare, air boat and bus: $337.60	Clewiston (2) & WPalm Beach (1): $277.00	$188.27	Reimb. to/from airport: $75.24
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box:* ☑

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Ardis Hammock Date: 10/20/2021

Name: Ardis Hammock Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box: ☑

Address: P. O. Box 942, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Telephone: 561-315-0481 Email: cheryl@soflagfoundation.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.**

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Raymel Quinones

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Raymel Quiñones

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Darren Soto

Office Address: 2353 Raybuen HOB

Telephone Number: (407)-454-2654

Email Address of Contact Person: raymel.quinones@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: *travel.requests@mail.house.gov.*

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Raymel Quinones

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: West Palm Beach - Clewiston, Florida

4. a. Date of Departure: October 12, 2021 Date of Return: October 15, 2021

   b. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes,** and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
As a legislative Aide, I help manage the Agriculture portfolio for Rep. Soto. I take meetings with interest groups / constituents whose livelihoods depend on Florida Agriculture. The Everglades Agriculture Area (EAA) directly affects legislation my office works on, including Endangered Species (i.e manatees), & Scenic River Restoration (Kissimmee River Bill). Additional my boss sat on the Ag Cmtee & maintains many of those relationships and works w/ the FL deleg-ation to advocate for Specialty Crops (which we will see on this trip).

9. Yes ☐ No ☒ **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member Darren Soto Date 9/9/21

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
   South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
   See attached list
5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: October 12, 2021 Date of return: October 15,2021
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): West Palm Beach, FL; Clewiston, FL (with site visits in Belle Glade & Boynton Beach, FL)
   c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. ***Check only one of the following***:
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following***:
    a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box;* **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

    The South Florida Agricultural Foundation is the sole sponsor of this staffer trip. Its mission is to provide educational stewardship opportunities within the South Florida agricultural industry, including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, rice, celery, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and other local crops, each stop showcasing an important part of food production in the area.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
    a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☒ Car ☐ Other ☒ (specify: air boat)
    b. Class of travel: Coach ☒ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
    c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
    a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
    b. ☒ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
    If "b" is checked:
    1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):

       Tues. $26.00, Wed. $69.00, Thurs. $69.00, Fri. $20.00

    2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

       To provide first hand knowledge & experience inner workings of the South FL ag industry.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
    Hotel Name: Roland Martin Marina (2 nights) City: Clewiston Cost Per Night: $119.00
    Reason(s) for Selecting: Located next to Lake Okeechobee and in the heart of western tour of agricultural operations
    Hotel Name: Canopy by Hilton City: West Palm Beach Cost Per Night: $121.00
    Reason(s) for Selecting: Located near farms and the airport at the eastern end of the tour route
    Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
    Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	Airfare $197.50 Ground Trans: $75.00	Marina Clewiston: $238.00 Hilton WPB: $121.00	$184.00
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$12.50	Air Boat
For each Accompanying Family Member		

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. ***Check only one:***
   a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that
   a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
   b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
   c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Ardis Hammock Date: 10/20/2021

Name: Ardis Hammock Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 942, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Email: cheryl@soflagfoundation.org Telephone: 561-315-0481

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at **ethics.house.gov**

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Ranking Member

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Dave Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
Facsimile: (202) 225–7392

October 5, 2021

Mr. Raymel Quinones
Office of the Honorable Darren Soto
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Quinones:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Clewiston, Florida, scheduled for October 12 to 15, 2021, sponsored by South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

This approval represents the Committee's determination that the proposed trip complies with relevant House rules, federal laws, and Travel Regulations promulgated by the Committee. You should engage in your own assessment of the risks and implications of engaging in travel during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman

Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member

TED/JW:mso

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)
ITINERARY
2021 Congressional Staff Tour
October 12-15, 2021

***Note: All food/catering/transportation/lodging is paid for by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation**

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021

8:30 – 11:05 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #AA978.
11:05 – 11:30 AM	Arrive Palm Beach International Airport. SFAF group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage, board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the rest of the trip.
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), presentation of points of interest along the way include the Sem-Chi Rice Plant, Florida Crystals sugarcane fields, the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Mill and lettuce, sweet corn and sugarcane fields at various stages of growth. Also, a video presentation about water issues pertaining to the lake and how sugarcane is grown and harvested will be shown during the ride.
12:30 – 1:45 PM	Arrive in Belle Glade. Working lunch at Everglades Equipment Group, largest John Deere tractor dealer in Florida. Alleigh Schlechter Reitz explained the history of this particular dealership and her family's involvement since settling in Florida generations ago. Jason Tucker will discuss issues with Tier 4 tractor emissions required in the U.S. compared to other countries and how Covid has affected their business operations.
1:45 – 2:00 PM	Travel to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee.
2:00 – 4:30 PM	Depart from dock on airboat for tour of Lake Okeechobee; Boats will stop out on the lake where Terrie Bates, a water resource specialist that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management, will explain the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discuss water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations. She will address questions from staffers. Airboats will return back to the dock.
4:30 – 4:50 PM	Depart Slim's Fish Camp to travel to Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston.
4:50 – 6:15 PM	Check into Roland Martin Marina hotel, prepare for dinner presentation.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Staghorn Kitchen. Meet local city and county elected officials during working reception and dinner. The mayor of Clewiston will speak on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city. The county commissioners present will discuss the effects of Covid on the agricultural community and other issues rural areas are facing. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to Marina hotel.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel; travel to sugarcane fields.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting, Scott Bearden, precision ag manager with U. S. Sugar, will discuss compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane. Gracelyn Byrd explained how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop was made at a pump station for discussion regarding water quality standards.

12:00 – 12:45 PM	Picnic lunch at Clewiston Civic Park provided by SFAF. Presentation about Clewiston's agricultural history during lunch.
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Travel to U. S. Sugar Mill and Refinery, Clewiston.
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Arrive at U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Ryan Duffy, Dir. of Corporate Communications, U. S. Sugar. Discussion will include compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, while the refinery will focus on FDA food safety and labeling issues. Tour of packaging facilities.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Depart mill, travel to Roland Martin Marina Marina hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston.
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Southern Gardens Citrus grove stop, Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, will discuss citrus greening, hurricanes and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases.
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Arrive at Swindle Farms in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower.
6:35 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where Judy Sanchez, Sr. Dir. of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar, and member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Sweeteners and Sweetener Products, will give a presentation on American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing the farm bill, NAFTA and other trade issues. SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the independent farmers present and each will speak 5-10 minutes on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. Staffers will be formally introduced to all the farmers. SFAF will purchase steaks cooked by Hendry County Cattlemen's Association who will discuss the importance of the cattle industry in Florida. Approximately two hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to Roland Martin Marina hotel.

<u>Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021</u>

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Travel to Belle Glade to A. Duda & Sons.
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Tour of A. Duda & Sons led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where celery, radishes, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of celery while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Travel to Tellus Products, also in Belle Glade.
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Meet Matt Hoffman, President of Sugarcane Growers Co-Op to tour Tellus Products, a packaging company that recycles leftover sugarcane fiber from the sugar milling process and converts it to packaging and foodservice products such as plates, bowls and take-out containers. Tellus runs partially on renewable biomass power provided from the sugar mill and solar energy, making it an extremely efficient and environmentally sustainable manufacturing facility.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Drive to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market in Western Boynton Beach.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation
Itinerary – Page 3
2021 Congressional Staff Tour
October 12-15, 2021

1:00 PM	Arrive at Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce to customers from the farm, grown right outside their back door.
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Marie Bedner will give an overview of Bedner's farming operations and explain how Covid changed Bedner's business plan from u-pick to pick up boxes and how much food went to waste during the initial Covid lockdown. She will introduce farmers who will participate in the roundtable discussions.
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Tour of Bedner's U-Pick farm on tractor-pulled wagon in fields of strawberries, peppers and tomatoes adjacent to the Everglades. David Legg, an educator/tour guide, will explain just how much of the earth's surface is available for farming, highlighting how important even small farms such as theirs is and how a farm can co-exist next to a federal water refuge, following the regulations required and still provide a safe affordable food supply.
2:30 – 3:30 PM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau's eastern Palm Beach County region moderated by Eva Webb, Assistant Director Field Services, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research will discuss issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
3:45 – 4:30 PM	Travel to Canopy by Hilton Hotel, West Palm Beach.
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Check in at Canopy by Hilton Hotel, West Palm Beach, prepare for dinner and evening program.
6:45 PM	Meet in hotel lobby.
6:45 – 7:00 PM	Board bus and depart for dinner.
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at The Butcher Shop¸ West Palm Beach, local scratch-made food restaurant. Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who represents the area where the western county farms and some of the eastern farms are located, will discuss the importance of agriculture as an economic driver for Palm Beach County. Erin Moffet, Federal Affairs Director, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will speak about the importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area to the State of Florida and the challenges the state has coordinating with federal agricultural regulations. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to Canopy by Hilton Hotel.

<u>Friday, Oct. 15, 2021</u>

8:00 – 9:15 AM	Working breakfast at hotel. Ardis Hammock leads an overview discussion of ag operations tours from the previous days and how they are all interconnected as the South Florida agricultural industry. Contact information for all speakers distributed.
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Check out of hotel and load bus for airport.
9:30 AM	Bus departs
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport
11:53 AM – 2:11 PM	Depart Palm Beach International Airport Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines nonstop Flight #AA978.
2:11 PM	Arrive Washington-Reagan National Airport.