



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 gifttravelreports@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: Vanessa Scott
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None ☐
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 04/11/23 Return: 04/14/23
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None ☐
4. Departure City: Washington D.C. Destination: West Palm Beach, FL Return City: Washington D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
Met directly with farmers and growers in South Florida, specifically in the Everglades Agricultural Area. Toured farms and a sugar mill, toured Lake Okeechobee, met with cattle farmers, and discussed water, labor, and farm bill issues.
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: Vanessa Scott Digitally signed by Vanessa Scott
Date: 2023.04.18 09:58:42 -04'00' Date: 04/18/2023

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: Henry Diaz-Barron Date: 4/18/23

Signature of Supervising Member: _____



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: _____
2. Travel Destination(s): _____
3. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

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				
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: Chloe Harnock Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

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

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

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: Vanessa Scott

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: Vanessa Scott

Digitally signed by Vanessa Scott
Date: 2023.02.28 11:17:16 -05'00'

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-26)

Office Address: 374 CHOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-4211

Email Address of Contact Person: vanessa.scott@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: Vanessa Scott
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Clewiston, FL ; West Palm Beach, FL
4. a. Date of Departure: April 11, 2023 Date of Return: April 14, 2023
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 the Legislative Assistant for Congressman Diaz-Balart in charge of Trade, Labor, and Financial Services, I believe the portions of the trip related to agricultural labor and trade especially tie directly to my duties.
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 _____

Date 3/2/23



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:
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):
5. Yes ☐ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: _____ Date of return: _____
7. a. City of departure: _____
b. Destination(s): _____
c. City of return: _____
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:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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:
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
- 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):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
- Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
- 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
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		
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: *Julio Hernandez* Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

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

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

March 24, 2023

Ms. Vanessa Scott
Office of the Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
374 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Scott:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to West Palm Beach and Clewiston, Florida, scheduled for April 11 to 14, 2023, sponsored by South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

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 \$480 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,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)
ITINERARY
2021 Congressional Staff Tour
October 11-14, 2022

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

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

8:37 AM – 11:16 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #AA2136.
11:16 – 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 – 1:30 PM	Travel to Slim’s Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee. Lunch on the bus. As bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), a 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.
1:30 – 4:00 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.
4:00 – 4:15 PM	Board bus.
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Depart Slim’s Fish Camp to travel to Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston.
5:00 – 6:15 PM	Check into Roland Martin Marina hotel, prepare for dinner presentation.
6:15 – 6:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Swindle Farm.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Swindle Farm. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower. 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, October 12, 2022

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Board and get breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel to 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 will explain how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop will be made at a pump station for discussion regarding water quality standards.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 2

2021 Congressional Staff Tour

October 11-14, 2022

12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch at Clewiston Youth Center provided by SFAF. Presentation 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.
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 hotel.
3:15 – 4:30 PM	Arrive at hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 – 4:45 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.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Travel to Dunwody Lodge
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where 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.

Thursday, October 13, 2022

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Board and get breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel to travel to Belle Glade to A. Duda & Sons.
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Arrive in Belle Glade. 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, LLC, also in Belle Glade.
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Presentation at Tellus, 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. Presentation by Asem Mokaddem, President of Tellus and Matt Hoffman President and CEO of the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida. 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 – 12:15 PM	Drive to the Everglades Research Education Center (EREC) in Belle Glade.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 3

2021 Congressional Staff Tour

October 11-14, 2022

12:15 – 1:00 PM	Arrive at EREC. Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Introduction of panel of farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau moderated by Alleigh Reitz from Everglades Farm Equipment and a Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau board member, and Sam Pharis, District 8 Director, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Each farm member on the panel will explain an item of importance in their farming process.
1:00 – 2:45 PM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with the farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research. Discussion will include issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Board bus to depart.
3:00 – 3:45 PM	Travel to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, downtown West Palm Beach.
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Marie Bedner will lead the tour of Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce from the farm, grown right outside their back door.
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Board bus and travel to Canopy by Hilton Hotel, West Palm Beach.
5:00 – 6:45 PM	Time at hotel to prepare for dinner and evening program.
6:45 PM	Meet in hotel lobby, board bus.
6:45 – 7:00 PM	Depart for dinner.
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Grandview Public Market, a creative food hall with a farm to table menu. 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. A representative from 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.

Friday, October 14, 2022

8:30 – 9:30 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.
9:30 – 9:45 AM	Board bus, load luggage and depart for airport.
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport.
11:56 AM	Depart Palm Beach International Airport Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines nonstop Flight #AA4531.
2:17 PM	Arrive Washington, DC.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

April 2023 Congressional Staffer Invitation List

These key congressional staffers were invited to educate them on the vital role that Federal research programs and policy have played in building and maintaining a robust agricultural industry in Florida. They were chosen because their position or their Members' committee assignments include participation in agriculture policy.

First	Last	Body	Member first	Member last	State
Kevin	Alkinburg	Rep.	John	Rutherford	FL
Hannah	Anderson	Rep.	Dan	Crenshaw	TX
Hector	Arguello	Rep.	Michael	Waltz	FL
Samantha	Barnett	Rep.	Barry	Moore	AL
Walker	Barrett	Rep.	Michael	Waltz	FL
Parker	Bennett	Rep.	John	Joyce	PA
Derron	Bennett	Rep.	Frederica	Wilson	FL
Aaron	Bill	Rep.	Vern	Buchanan	FL
Rachel	Black	Rep.	Tony	Gonzales	TX
Nora	Blalock	Rep.	Kathy	Castor	FL
Alex	Bolton	Rep.	Nicole	Malliotakis	NY
Adele	Borne			House Ag Comte	
Parish	Braden	Rep.	GT	House Ag Comte	PA
Mariajose (MJ)	Calixtro	Rep.	Veronica	Escobar	TX
Clara	Cargile	Rep.	Jodey	Arrington	TX
Alexander	Chanock	Rep.	David	Trone	MD
Alex	Cisneros	Rep.	Young	Kim	CA
Ken	Clifford	Rep.	Michelle	Steel	CA
Alex	Crane	Rep.	Scott	Fitzgerald	WI
David	D'Antonio	Rep.	Guy	Reschenthaler	PA
Sofia	Deiro	Rep.	Tom	Cole	OK
Josh	Delaney	Sen.	Raphael	Warnock	GA
Darby	Dever	Rep.	Ben	Cline	OK
Tyler	Dever	Rep.	Greg	Steube	FL
Ryan	Donnelly	Rep.	Byron	Donalds	FL
Josh	Duncan	Rep.	Maria	Salazar	FL
Kaitlyn	Dwyer	Rep.	Mike	Carey	OH
Jaryn	Emhof	Rep.	Daniel	Webster	FL

Adam	Farris	Rep.	Byron	Donalds	FL
Becca	Flikier	Rep.	Lois	Frankel	FL
Jonathan	Foltz	Sen.	Rick	Scott	FL
Jacob	Gattman	Rep.	Mike	Garcia	CA
Kyler	Gilkey	Rep.	Steve	Cohen	TN
Janey	Green	Rep.	Mary	Miller	IL
Don	Green	Rep.	Vern	Buchanan	FL
Madison	Hardiman	Rep.	Carlos	Gimenez	FL
Nicole	Harrison	Rep.	Ron	Estes	KS
Jake	Hilkin	Rep.	Ralph	Norman	SC
Alex	Huang	Rep.	Bonnie	Watson-Coleman	NJ
Jacquelyn	Incerto	Rep.	Carol	Miller	WV
Adam	Jardine	Rep.	Debbie	Wasserman Schultz	FL
Chris	Jones	Rep.	Gus	Bilirakis	FL
John Mark	Kolb	Rep.	Maria	Salazar	FL
Nate	Lane	Rep.	Mike	Bost	IL
Jillian	Lane Wyant	Rep.	Matt	Gaetz	FL
Christina	Lassiter	Rep.	Kat	Cammack	FL
Johanna	Leblanc, J.D	Rep.	Sheila	Cherfilus-McCormick	FL
Elizabeth	Lloyd	Rep.	Dusty	Johnson	SD
Michael	Lowry	Rep.	Neal	Dunn	FL
Michael	Martin	Rep.	Mark	Alford	MO
Josh	Maxwell			House Ag Comte	
Ryan	McCormack	Rep.	Scott	Fizgerald	WI
Abby	McHan	Rep.	Michael	Cloud	TX
Scott	McKenzie	Rep.	Daniel	Webster	FL
Nicole	McLaren	Rep.	Darren	Soto	FL
Alex	Morales	Rep.	Greg	Steube	FL
Jackie	Olvera	Rep.	Carlos	Gimenez	FL
Ray	Phillips	Rep.	Burgess	Owens	UT
Clare	Plassche	Rep.	Jared	Moskowitz	FL
Chris	Ploch	Rep.	Byron	Donalds	FL
Rick	Podliska	Rep.	Bill	Posey	FL
Christina	Rabuse	Rep.	Mary	Miller	IL
Trevor	Ray	Rep.	Jeff	Van Drew	NJ
Lauren	Reamy	Sen.	Marco	Rubio	FL
Robert	Redding	Rep.	Drew	Ferguson	GA
Tommy	Reynolds	Rep.	Buddy	Carter	GA
Maria	Robayo	Rep.	Kathy	Castor	FL
Maria	Robayo	Rep.	Kathy	Castor	FL

Mike	Robertson	Rep.	Matt	Gaetz	FL
Mark	Rusthoven	Rep.	Dan	Bishop	NC
Al David	Saab	Rep.	Mike	Ezell	MS
Robert	Schroeder	Rep.	Troy	Nehls	TX
Vanessa	Scott	Rep.	Mario	Diaz-Balart	FL
Ashley	Shelton	Rep.	Rick	Crawford	AR
Colton	Simmons	Rep.	Diana	Harshbarger	TN
William	Smith	Rep.	Kat	Cammack	FL
Hannah	Spurr	Rep.	Pat	Fallon	TX
Laura	Stagno	Rep.	Jerry	Carl	AL
Clayton	Stein	Sen.	Rick	Scott	FL
Nick	Stewart	Rep.	Claudia	Tenney	NY
Madison	Stone	Rep.	GT	Thompson	PA
Hannah	Strub	Rep.	John	Rutherford	FL
Connor	Tomlinson	Sen.	Marco	Rubio	FL
Josh	Tonsager			House Ag Comte	
Acree	Trivett	Rep.	Lois	Frankel	FL
Will	Turner	Rep.	Mike	Garcia	CA
Andrea	Valdes	Rep.	Darren	Soto	FL
Valentina	Valenta	Rep.	Bill	Posey	FL
Beatrice	Valenti	Rep.	Neal	Dunn	FL
Jonathan	Vecchi	Rep.	Gus	Bilirakis	FL
Rachel	Wagley	Rep.	Blake	Moore	
Sam	West	Rep.	Victoria	Spartz	IN
Trevor	White			House Ag Comte	
David	Winfrey	Rep.	Kay	Granger	TX
Jeremy	Witte			Sen Ag Comte	
Kelsey	Wolgram	Rep.	Tim	Burchett	TN
Lauren	Wolman	Rep.	Debbie	Wasserman Schultz	FL
Dominique	Yelinski	Rep.	Kevin	Hern	OK

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)
ITINERARY
2023 Congressional Staff Tour
April 11-14, 2023

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

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

7:00 – 9:41 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #2349
9:41 – 10:15 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.
10:15 – 12:15 PM	Travel to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee. Lunch on the bus. As bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), a 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.
12:15 – 3:00 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.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Board bus.
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Depart Slim's Fish Camp to travel to Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston.
*4:00 – 6:15 PM	Check into Roland Martin Marina hotel, prepare for dinner presentation.
6:15 – 6:30 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Swindle Farm.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Swindle Farm. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower. 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. Short presentation of dairy farming in the area by Milking R Dairy and how the recent laws have affected their business. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to Marina hotel.

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Board and get breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel to 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 will explain how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop will be made at a pump station where Michael Ellis, Vice President of Strategic and Environmental Affairs, will present and discuss water quality standards.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 2

2023 Congressional Staff Tour

April 11-14, 2023

12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch at Clewiston Youth Center provided by SFAF. Presentation 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.
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 hotel.
3:15 – 4:30 PM	Arrive at hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 – 4:45 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.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Travel to Dunwody Lodge
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where 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.

Thursday, April 13, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Board and get breakfast on bus provided by SFAF.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart Roland Martin Marina hotel to travel to Belle Glade to A. Duda & Sons.
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Arrive in Belle Glade. 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, LLC, also in Belle Glade.
10:45 - 12:00 PM	Presentation at Tellus, 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. Presentation by Asem Mokaddem, President of Tellus and Matt Hoffman President and CEO of the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida. 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 – 12:15 PM	Drive to the Everglades Research Education Center (EREC) in Belle Glade.

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Itinerary – Page 3

2023 Congressional Staff Tour

April 11-14, 2023

12:15 – 1:00 PM	Arrive at EREC. Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Introduction of panel of farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau moderated by Alleigh Reitz from Everglades Farm Equipment and a Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau board member, and Sam Phares, District 8 Director, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Each farm member on the panel will explain an item of importance in their farming process.
1:00 – 2:45 PM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with the farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research. Discussion will include issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Board bus to depart.
3:00 – 3:45 PM	Travel to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, downtown West Palm Beach.
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Marie Bedner will lead the tour of Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce from the farm, grown right outside their back door. Also, watch a brief presentation of the new facility the Bedner's provide for their H2A workers.
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Board bus and travel to, Canopy by Hilton Hotel.
5:00 – 6:45 PM	Time at hotel to prepare for dinner and evening program.
6:45 PM	Meet in hotel lobby, board bus.
6:45 – 7:00 PM	Depart for dinner.
*7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Grandview Public Market, a creative food hall with a farm to table menu. Palm Beach County Commissioner, Sara Baxter, 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. A representative from 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. Brief presentation of the flower and garden industry by FNGLA. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to Canopy by Hilton Hotel.

Friday, April 14, 2023

8:00 – 9:00 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.
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Board bus, load luggage and depart for airport.
9:15 – 9:45 AM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport.
11:45 AM	Depart Palm Beach International Airport. Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines nonstop Flight #0439.
2:14 PM	Arrive Washington, DC.