

# 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](mailto: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: Luke Diel
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 10/15/2024 Return: 10/18/2024  
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 Agriculture Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: The group met with water quality leaders, farmers, small business owners, and more to best discuss policy issues pertaining to water quality, agriculture, labor, technology, small business, and \_\_\_\_\_
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:  Date: 11/4/2024

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: Byron Donalds Date: 11/4/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# 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 in the trip within 10 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.**

- Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: South Florida Agricultural Foundation
- Travel Destination(s): Clewiston, FL; Belle Glade, FL; West Palm Beach, FL
- Date of Departure: Oct. 15, 2024 Date of Return: Oct. 18, 2024
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Luke Diel, Samantha Ewing, Gabrielle Sheitelman  
*Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.*
- 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	Roundtrip airfare, bus and airboat \$550.00	3 nights of hotel \$513.00	\$137.44	
Accompanying Family Member				

- 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: 10/28/24

Name: Ardis Hammock Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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: 202-431-9763 Email: ardis@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.

# 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 submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto: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: Luke Diel

**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: Luke Diel

Digitally signed by Luke Diel  
Date: 2024.09.11 17:01:12 -04'00'

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Byron Donalds

Office Address: 1719 Longworth Office

Telephone Number: 202-225-2536

Email Address of Contact Person: luke.diel@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 email: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Luke Diel
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: Clewiston, FL; West Palm Beach, FL (with visits to Belle Glade)
4. a. Date of Departure: October 15, 2024 Date of Return: October 18, 2024  
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, invitation, 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 Legislative Correspondent for Rep. Donalds this trip will cover different parts of South Florida Agricultural issues that have impact in our district and additionally will cover different policy aspects that I cover in our office.

9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: 9/12/2024

# 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's website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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, services, or in-kind assistance 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

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: October 15, 2024 Date of Return: October 18, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): West Palm Beach, FL; Clewiston, FL (with site visits in Belle Glade, 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 the statement is true by clicking the 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

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: airboat)
- 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 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. \$51.75, Wed. \$69.00, Thurs. \$69.00, Fri. \$20.00, Incidentals \$5.00/day
- 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: Hampton Inn City: Clewiston Cost Per Night: 161.00  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Located near Lake Okeechobee and in the heart of western tour of agriculture  
Hotel Name: Canopy by Hilton City: West Palm Beach Cost Per Night: 161.00  
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.

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" 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	Airfare: \$253.80 Ground Trans: \$324.00	Clewiston & WPB \$483.00	\$224.75
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	\$22.50	airboat
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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: 9/2/24

Name: Ardis Hammock Title: President

Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation

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

Email: danielle@soflagfoundation.org Telephone: 202-431-9763

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

Keelie Broom  
*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

October 9, 2024

Mr. Luke Diel  
Office of the Honorable Byron Donalds  
1719 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Diel:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Clewiston and West Palm Beach, Florida, scheduled for October 15 to 18, 2024, 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:rp

**South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)**

**ITINERARY**

**2024 Congressional Staff Tour**

**October 15 - 18, 2024**

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

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

- 8:30 – 11:03 AM** Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight # 2349
- 11:03 – 11:55 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.
- 11:55 – 12:45 PM** Travel to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour of Lake Okeechobee. 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. A stop for lunch will be made at the pavilion near the airboat dock. While eating, there will be a short presentation of the area and its historical significance.
- 12:45 – 3:10 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.
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM** Board bus.
- 3:30 – 4:00 PM** Depart Slim's Fish Camp to travel to Hampton Inn in Clewiston.
- 4:00 – 5:45 PM** Check into the Hampton Inn, prepare for dinner presentation.
- 5:45 – 6:00 PM** Depart hotel, drive to Hilliard Brothers
- 6:00 – 6:45 PM** Tour Hilliard Brothers to learn about the Cattle industry in Florida and the challenges they face presented by Lindsey Wiggins and Tripp Whidden. Then head to Swindle Farm for dinner.
- 6:45 – 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, James Pittman, will speak on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city. The county and city commissioners present: Ramon Iglesias, Mali Gardner, Hillary Hyslope and Greg Thompson, 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 Sutton Rucks of 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 the Hampton Inn.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 AM Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.  
8:30 – 9:00 AM Depart the Hampton Inn to travel to sugarcane fields.  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting, Scott Berden, 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. Jarad Plair, farm manager, will explain how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop will be made at a pump station where Richard Sanchez, Vice President of Strategic and Environmental Affairs, will present and discuss water quality standards.

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 Brannan Thomas, Dir. of Community Relations. 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 the Hampton Inn.  
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 broccoll.

6:30 – 9:00 PM Working dinner where SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the independent farmers present (Nicky Perez, Donnie Lundy, Carl Perry, Luigi Trotta, Justin Soble, and Alan Hammock) 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 the Hampton Inn.

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Depart the Hampton Inn to travel to Belle Glade to DUDA Farms.
8:45 – 10:15 AM	Arrive in Belle Glade. Tour of DUDA Farms led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
10:15- 10:30 AM	Travel to TKM, also in Belle Glade.
10:30 - 12:00 PM	Tour of TKM Bengard Farm led by Ethan Basore, Farm Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
12:00 – 12:15 PM	Drive to the EREC in Belle Glade.
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 Reltz 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. Farm members participating are Matt Hoffman (Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op, Chuck Obern (C&B Farms), Keith Wedgworth (Wedgworth), Brad Phares (Lazy JP Ranch), Jamie Fussell (FFVA), Buddy McKinstry (JEM Farms), Mike Schlechter (Everglades Farm Equipment) and Olivia Pope (Pope Farms).
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 – 9:45 PM	Working dinner at Grandview Public Market where we will have a post tour debrief, issues analysis and take time to answer any questions the staffers may have.
9:45 PM	Board bus to return to Canopy by Hilton Hotel.

**Friday, October 18, 2024**

**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.

**10:51 AM** Depart Palm Beach International Airport Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines nonstop Flight #2349

**1:14 PM** Arrive Washington, DC.

itinerary shortly and will have all ethics forms to you prior to the due date of **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Feel free to contact us at **202-431-9763** if you have any questions.

Hope to see you in October!

*Ardis Hammock, Board President*

*Danielle Duffy, Executive Director*



Danielle Duffy  
Executive Director  
202-431-9763  
[www.soflagfoundation.org](http://www.soflagfoundation.org)

South Florida Agricultural Foundation  
Staffer Invite List  
October 15-18, 2024

Adams	Nick
Alderete	Jaqlyn
Anthony	Rey
Araboghli	Sami
Arguello	Hector
Ball	Bill
Barcley	Kate
Beckelman	Yuri
Bennett	Derron
Brooks	Rodney
Chatham	Laurel Lee
Cisneros	Alex
Clarke	Patricia
Costa	Janie
Courtney	Will
Covington	Kate
Delaney	Josh
Diel	Luke
Donnelly	Ryan
Ewing	Samantha
Foltz	Jonathan
Gattman	Jacob
Graff	Justina
Green	Don
Han	Jihan
Hoekstra	Trenton
Hoelscher	Harlea
Hoffman	Landon
Hofmann	Ryan
Johnston	Emma
Jones	Chris
Kirkland	Hunter
Kolb	John Mark
Koncar	Steve
Lanclos	Kent
LeBlanc	Johanna
Lobert	Josh

Love	Mikhail
Martin	Michael
McCabe	Sean
McCormack	Ryan
McHan	Abby
Mott	Joseph
Parish	Braden
Parker	Clay
Podliska	Rick
Powell	Reed
Reilly	Kevin
Reynolds	Glsselle
Reynolds	Tommy
Robayo	Maria
Roberston	Mike
Robert	Zach
Rogers	Sam
Rossman	Julia
Sandman	Dana
Schroeder	Ricki
Sheitelman	Gabrielle
Shinholster	Michael
Simmons	Colton
Simmons	Brown
Thomas	Katherine
Tidwell	Libby
Tonsager	Josh
Valenti	Beatrice
Welch	Emily
White	Saisha
White	Trevor
Whitmore	John
Williamson	Tucker
Young	Julianne

Reason for invite: Most are referrals from previous tour (staff) attendees or listed as working on ag policy or related communications issues.

**Diel, Luke**

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**From:** Danielle Duffy <Danielle@soflagfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2024 11:37 AM  
**To:** Diel, Luke  
**Subject:** You're invited on an Ag-Venture!  
**Attachments:** Itinerary.pdf

Good afternoon, Luke,

The **South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.**, a non-profit organization founded to increase public awareness of South Florida's agricultural industries – including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, rice, celery and other crops – through educational and stewardship opportunities, is sponsoring a congressional staff trip to our area on **October 15 - 18, 2024**. The purpose of this *Ag-venture* is to give staffers an opportunity to tour South Florida's agricultural industry gaining firsthand knowledge of its impact on Florida and the United States.

The Foundation would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in this upcoming trip. I have attached our tentative itinerary, but you can also check out our website at [www.soflagfoundation.org](http://www.soflagfoundation.org), where you can see the educational opportunities staffers had on previous tours.

Tour participants depart from Ronald Reagan National Airport to Palm Beach International Airport where Foundation staff and a chartered bus will meet them. We'll kickoff the tour by traveling west to the Everglades Agricultural Area. There we'll have an ecological **AIR BOAT TOUR** on Lake Okeechobee, the heart of a number of Florida's water issues. Other stops during the tour will include citrus groves, sugarcane field operations and mill, and other vegetable planting and harvesting operations. The Foundation will cover the cost of all travel, lodging and meal expenses associated with the trip and will provide all necessary documentation for the Ethics Committee. Florida is known as a premier tourist destination with its miles of sandy beaches, but few people know of its abundant agricultural interests and its vital role in food production. In the South Florida region, Palm Beach County alone generates nearly one-and-a-half billion dollars in total agricultural sales each year, ranking it among the top ten counties for highest agricultural revenue in the nation. While Florida has three million acres devoted to agriculture, Palm Beach County has more agriculture than any other county with 40% of its land actively farmed. Florida food is exported to 170 different countries to the tune of \$4 billion worth of food products.

We hope you will be able to join the Foundation on this fact-finding trip. We believe it will be a worthwhile experience and that you will gain a better understanding of the Florida agricultural industry and other ag-related issues that you work with on a daily basis.

Be assured that we will be following all CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19 virus precautions and protocols necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy.

**Space is limited, and slots will be filled on a first come, first-served basis.** Let us know if you would like to participate in this exciting *Ag-venture* and we'll put you at the top of our RSVP list. I know it's early, but we wanted to be sure you can add us to your calendar. We'll forward the final