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2026 Congressional Aides Fact Finding Tour Agenda Meridian, Idaho

Monday, August 10th

Congressional Staff Arrive and take uber/taxi to hotel

Hyatt Place Meridian – 1175 South Silverstone Way Meridian, ID 83642

Flights: (Booked and Finalized once approved by ethics)

Southwest: Depart DCA 4:35pm, Arrive BOI 11:35pm

United: Depart DCA 5:05pm, Arrive BOI 10:56pm

Delta: Depart DCA 4:00pm, Arrive BOI 9:57pm

Tuesday, August 11th

7:30 – 9:00 Welcome to Idaho Breakfast

Hyatt Place Meridian – 1175 South Silverstone Way Meridian, ID

Chanel Tewalt, Director - Idaho State Department of Ag

Overview of Idaho Agriculture – A look into what you will see this week and Idaho's impact on the global ag economy.

9:30 Bus departs hotel for Barber Park - 4049 S. Eckert Rd. Boise, Idaho 83716

10:00-12:00 Water - Idaho's Lifeblood

Paul Arrington, Executive Director, Idaho Water Users

Tour of the Ridenbaugh Canal Headworks and New York Canal lining project.

Showcasing the impact of snowpack, dams, and distributed waterways have on Idaho and Northwest Agriculture.

12:00 Bus departs for Idaho State Department of Agriculture - 2270 Old Penitentiary Rd, Boise, ID 83712

12:30-1:00 Lunch at Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Conference Room

1:15 -2:15 Federal Issues Impacting Idaho Agriculture

Scott Leibsle, State Veterinarian – Screwworm Update

Jared Stuart – Administrator, Agriculture Inspection Division - Marketing Orders

Casey Monn, Bureau Chief, FSMA, Hemp, Hops - Food Safety Modernization Act

ISDA Staff Panel discussing federally regulated affecting the agriculture industry and the current impact in Idaho.

2:30 Bus departs for the National Interagency Fire Center

3:00-5:00 **National Interagency Fire Center**

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is the nation's primary logistical support hub for wildland firefighting. Located on a 55-acre campus in Meridian/Boise, Idaho, it coordinates local, state, and federal prevention and suppression efforts across the United States.

5:15 Bus departs for dinner, Skogsberg Farms - 6424 Elm Lane Nampa ID 83686

6:15-8:15 **Local Producers – The Lifeblood of American Agriculture**
Dinner will be hosted on a local producer's farm. Participants will have the opportunity to engage and interact with local farmers and ranchers and experience first-hand a family farming operation.

8:30 Bus Returns to Hyatt Place Meridian – 1175 South Silverstone Way Meridian, ID 83642

Wednesday, August 12th

Breakfast at hotel/available each morning on your own

7:30 Bus Departs Hotel for J & S Farms, 24996 Goodson Rd. Parma, ID 83660

9:00 – 10:15 **Farm Tour - J and S Farms**
Jarom Jemmett, Farmer/Owner
Opportunity to learn more about some of Idaho's largest crops: Potatoes, Onions, and how farmers utilize drip irrigation systems

10:30 Bus departs for Gooding Farms, 23669 Batt Corner Rd. Parma, ID 83660

10:45-12:30 **Farm Tour and a Look at the Hop Industry**
Michelle Gooding, Farmer, Gooding Farms
An overview of the Hop Industry in Idaho and how the demand for craft beer has led to a resurgence of this crop over the past 10 years. A discussion on multi-generational farming and innovative technologies. Tour of hop fields.

12:45 Bus Departs for Alejandra's for Lunch, 308 A Avenue Wilder, ID 83676

1:00-1:45 Alejandra's for lunch

1:45 Bus Departs for Wilder Cattle Feeders, LLC 27753 Peckham Rd. Wilder, ID 83676

2:00-3:00 **Ranch Tour - Wilder Cattle Feeders, LLC**
John Hepton, Rancher/Owner
Tour of Cow Calf Operation, Feedlot, and discussion about how this operation is increasing sustainability and eliminating waste by utilizing using hop by products for feed

3:00 Bus Departs for Valley Wide Cooperative, 2114 N 20th St Suite B, Nampa, ID 83687

- 3:00 – 3:30 **Bus Speaker, Paxti Larrocea-Phillips, Cattle Rancher**
Impact of the Cattle Industry
This will go in to greater depth about the cattle industry in Idaho and why it plays a major role in many facets of Idaho Agriculture, as well as address some of the challenges facing the industry as urbanization impacts rural areas.
- 3:30-5:00 **Panel Discussion**
“The Reality of how Immigration Policy is Impacting Agriculture”
Jen Uranga - H2A Consultant
Micaela Swall - Lettuce Farmer
Kelly Henggeler - Orchardist who uses H2A program
This panel will be discussing immigration, farm labor, H2A, and all facets of the migrant labor issue and how it effects agriculture. This highly politicized issue is debated at length by politicians and leaders, however the goal of this panel is to have the perspective from those working in production agriculture who rely heavily on migrant labor and how they are currently navigating the H2A issue and how it is impacting their operations.
- 6:30 – 8:00 **Dinner and Young Farmer/Rancher Panel**
Miguel Villafana - Farmer Mike Siegersma Jr. – Farmer
Terry Walton – Farmer Derrick Wanders – Farmer
This panel will give participants the opportunity to hear directly from five young farmer ranchers (under 35) and gain their perspective and knowledge on the agriculture industry and specifically the challenges they are facing with labor, declining farm land, and rising input costs.
- 8:00 Bus returns to Hyatt Place Meridian – 1175 South Silverstone Way Meridian
- Thursday, August 13th**
- 7:30 Bus Departs Hotel for Sunridge Dairies, 4890 Dry Lake Rd. Nampa, ID 83686
- 7:30-8:30 **Bus Speaker - Drew Eggers, Farmer**
Drew is a multigenerational mint and sugarbeet farmer who has an extensive knowledge of this history and heritage of agriculture in the Treasure Valley of Idaho. On the drive out to the first tour stop, Drew will offer a real time commentary about the agricultural industry and the changes Idaho Agriculture has experienced over the past 30 years. Drew will also give a look into the specialty crop industry, as he ran one of the largest mint operations in the state for many years.
- 8:45 – 9:45 **Dairy Tour**
Sunridge Dairy – Exact Location TBD
Dairy is Idaho’s largest cash commodity. This will be a chance for participants to see hands on a major production dairy is ran, including the innovative technologies that are currently being utilized in the dairy industry. They will also be talking about how the H2A labor situation is impacting their workforce. Our tour will also focus on breaking down myths and misconceptions about the dairy industry.
- 9:45 Depart for Rasgorshek Farms. 13541 Surry Lane Nampa, ID 83686

10:00 -12:00 **Rasgorshek Farms Tour**

Paul Rasgorshek, Owner and Leland Tiegs, Farm Manager

This tour and presentation will focus on the seed crop industry. Idaho is a major grower of seed crops that are distributed around the country and the world. It is very unique and specialized niche and not something that is often focused on in agriculture. Participants will also have the opportunity to see a sugarbeet field and learn about the sugarbeet industry, which most people don't realize is much larger than the sugarcane industry. Participants will have the opportunity to ride in a combine and experience production ag first hand.

12:00 Depart for Idaho Pizza Company, 138 E. Idaho Avenue Homedale, ID 83628

12:30-1:00 Lunch - Idaho Pizza Company

1:00 Depart for McIntyre Farms, 17708 Lewis Lane, Caldwell, ID 83605

1:30-3:30 **McIntyre Farms & Pastures Tour**

Brad McIntyre, Farmer/Owner

The McIntyres will be taking participants on a tour of one of the most unique and diverse operations in the area. They will be talking about the decision to move from traditional farming to all organic farming in the last decade and the successes and challenges they have seen with that. They will be showcasing how they utilize cover crops to produce maximum yields. Lastly, the group will make a stop at their direct to consumer storefront where they will be talking about working in the community to give customers a true farm to table experience by visiting the farm where they buy their food.

3:30 Bus departs for Lakeview Market, 16475 Karcher Rd, Caldwell, ID 83607

4:00-4:45 **Tour – Lakeview Market**

Jen Uranga, Manager

This tour will showcase a local market that is open seasonally in the summer through harvest and how the demand for local products has driven direct to consumer selling opportunities, creating a new revenue market for producers and smaller farming operations.

5:15 Bus Returns to Hyatt Place Meridian – 1175 South Silverstone Way Meridian, ID

6:00 Transportation to Dinner – Location TBD

6:15-8:15 **Farewell Dinner - Location TBD**

Special Guest: Governor Brad Little or Lt. Governor Scott Bedke (Invited)

This dinner will be an opportunity for participants to reflect on the week and share what they have learned the most from their time here. Governor and sheep farmer Brad Little will be joining to share what Idaho Agriculture means to him.

8:30 Programming Adjourns

Friday, August 14th

Congressional Staff Depart, Ubers to Airport

Booked and Finalized once approved by ethics)

Southwest: Depart BOI 6:00am, Arrive DCA 4:40pm

United: Depart BOI 6:30am, Arrive DCA 3:06pm

Delta: Depart DCA Depart BOI 5:30am, Arrive DCA 1:48pm

DRAFT

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 4, 2026

Ms. Harlea Hoelscher
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Hoelscher:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Meridian, Idaho, scheduled for August 10 to 15, 2026, sponsored by Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation. We note that this trip includes two days at your personal expense.

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 \$525 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

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:amr

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: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☐ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☐ None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: _____

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: _____

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: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervising Member:  _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Harlea Hoelscher
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Boise, Idaho
4. a. Date of Departure: 08/10/26 Date of Return: 08/15/26
b. Yes ☒ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: 08/14/26-08/15/26
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.**
Understanding Idaho agriculture, specifically the impact of the recent drought on the sugar beet industry, access to the H-2A program, and the issues facing the dairy industry in the state will be critical to developing policy needs in my role as Professional Staff for the Committee.
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: 07/08/26

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) 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:

Leadership Idaho Agriculture 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 List

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

6. Date of Departure: 8/10/26 Date of Return: 8/14/26

7. a. City of departure: Washington DC

b. Destination(s): Boise, ID

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.

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:**

☐ 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	\$900	\$700	\$300
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	\$200	Bottled Water Snacks, Taxi, Baggage
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:  Date: 7/8/26
Name: Kendra Dustin Title: Executive Director
Organization: Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation
Address: 55 SW 5th Avenue Suite 100 Meridian, ID 83642
Email: kendra@amgidaho.com Telephone: 208-859-6780

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