



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Festival hosts luncheon with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and local agriculture producers

PLANT CITY, Fla. (March 10, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue visited the Florida Strawberry Festival Friday morning to meet with agriculture producers in the Plant City area.

Numerous producers of strawberries, vegetables and cattle, along with U.S. Rep. Ross Spano of Florida, U.S. Rep. Greg Pence of Indiana and officials from the City of Plant City were present at the luncheon to hear Perdue speak on the USMCA provisions and the USDA conference. The guests in attendance were also given an opportunity to voice their concerns for the future of government regulations as well as trade and labor policies.

“Trade and labor, far and away, are the number one and two issues,” said Perdue “We try to meet the needs of what we’re hearing from the industry; this is where real agriculture takes place.”

During the meeting, producers asked specifically about other issues they’re facing such as immigration, loss of market share, the H2A Program and more.

In addition to meeting simultaneously with producers and legislators at the Florida Strawberry Festival grounds, Perdue also spent the day touring the festival grounds and talking with vendors and student exhibitors.

“The future of the Florida agriculture industry as a whole is extremely dependent upon fair treatment,” said Florida Strawberry Growers Association President Kenneth Parker. “We appreciate the administration’s commitment and agreement to look into field hearings to move forward in helping us in ways to compete.”

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About the Florida Strawberry Festival

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, over 500,000 visitors enjoy the festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake. The 2020 Florida Strawberry Festival will take place February 27 through March 8 in Plant City, Fla and will be "Our Perfect Vision!". For more information, visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (#berryfest20).

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