



# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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### **Festival welcomes Governor DeSantis for signing of state shortcake bill**

PLANT CITY, Fla. (March 7, 2022) – Gov. DeSantis visited the Florida Strawberry Festival today to sign into law a bill designating strawberry shortcake as the state’s official dessert.

Approximately 40 producers of strawberries, vegetables and cattle, along with Festival executives, City of Plant City officials and local law enforcement were present at the assembly to witness DeSantis signing bill SB 1006 which will take effect July 1, 2022.

“We’re here to highlight all the work they do,” said Governor DeSantis. “Today, we are going to be signing state bill 1006 that makes the strawberry shortcake, of course, with natural Florida dairy topping, the official dessert of the state of Florida and what better place to do that than the 2022 Florida Strawberry Festival.”

In addition to meeting simultaneously with local agriculturalists at the Florida Strawberry Festival grounds, DeSantis also spent the day touring the grounds with First Lady DeSantis and family.

According to Florida Strawberry Growers Association Executive Director Kenneth Parker, strawberries have a \$1.1 million economic impact in the Plant City area alone. The city of Plant City is home to more than 10,000 acres of strawberries which account for nearly 75 percent of the nation’s winter strawberry harvest. The Florida Strawberry Festival, as noted in the bill, serves approximately 200,000 shortcakes each year at the annual 11-day event.

“Well, the governor is right. This is a big deal,” said Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody. “This is an event of historical proportions for our city, and we are so proud not only of the Florida strawberry, but of the great city of Plant City.”

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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 2022 Florida Strawberry Festival will take place March 3 through March 13 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (#berryfest22).

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