



July 30, 2025

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District
C/O Dr. Joe Walsh, Executive Director
4503 Coronet Road
Plant City, FL 33566
(813) 707-1652
SoilandWater@HCFL.GOV

Dear Members of the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District Board Member. As a lifelong resident of Hillsborough County and a proud fifth-generation farmer, I am deeply committed to agriculture advocacy and the protection of our natural resources.

In 2002, I joined our family operation, Simmons Farms, full-time and have since taken an active role in its management. As Director of Financial Operations and Food Safety, I entered the agriculture industry at a pivotal time—when regulatory compliance and food safety were becoming critical areas of focus. With a background in education, I was able to modernize operations, implement robust food safety protocols, and develop training systems tailored both to our farm and to support others in the industry. In 2006, I founded SimmRunk Agricultural Consulting Services, enabling me to assist farmers across the Southeast as they navigate complex food safety and sustainability regulations. My work has always focused on two core goals: protecting consumers and preserving the integrity of farming. I am equally enthusiastic about agricultural education, recognizing that many in the public are unfamiliar with the sustainable and science-based practices that farmers use every day. It is our responsibility to bridge that gap through education and outreach.

As Hillsborough County continues to grow and develop, it is vital that we balance progress with preservation. Our soil and water resources are precious, and it is essential we work collaboratively—with farmers, developers, and the public—to protect them for future generations. Serving on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board would be both a privilege and a natural extension of my life's work. I am eager to contribute my experience, insight, and passion to support the board's mission and help ensure responsible stewardship of our county's natural resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Casey

Casey Simmons Runkles

Plant City, Florida 33565

CaseyRunkles@gmail.com

Simmons Farms, Inc.
5112 South Mud Lake Road
Plant City, Florida 33567

Casey Simmons Runkles

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Plant City, FL 33565
████████████████████

CaseyRunkles@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration and Marketing
University of South Florida — December 2000

LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Class XI, 2022–2025 | UF IFAS

Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association Emerging Leaders Development Program
Class V, 2016

CONTINUING EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Packinghouses – UF IFAS (April 2025, May 2015)
- Preventive Controls for Human Food – FSPCA (April 2022, April 2017)
- Primus GFS v3.2 Training – Primus Auditing Operations (January 2022)
- Cleaning and Sanitizing Workshop – Oregon State University (January 2022)
- Bridging the GAPS: Preharvest Water Treatment – UF IFAS (May 2021)
- Private Pesticide Applicator License – Florida Department of Agriculture (2021, 2013) | PV#42075
- IOIA Organic Crop Inspector – International Organic Inspector Association (June 2020)
- HACCP Online Course – NC State University (April 2020)
- Food Safety Law Boot Camp – McDermott Will & Emery / FFVA (August 2017)
- Recall Readiness Training – FFVA (February 2017)
- Produce Safety Grower Training – FSPCA / UF IFAS (November 2016)
- Food Safety Update for Cantaloupe Growers – UF IFAS (April 2013)
- Applying HACCP Principles – Roy Costa (December 2012)
- PrimusLabs.com Auditor Training (GMPs/GAPs) – Santa Maria, CA (August 2006)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Financial Officer & Director of Food Safety
E.W. Simmons Farms, Inc. — June 2005–Present

- Developed and implemented comprehensive food safety program
- Authored GAPs, GMPs, and HACCP plans
- Led employee food safety training in field and facility
- Chaired monthly Food Safety Committee with key stakeholders
- Managed financial operations, vendor relations, and payroll

- Ensured compliance with food safety protocols and corrective actions

Food Safety Consultant

SimmRunk Agricultural Consulting Services — June 2005–Present

- Designed and implemented Food Safety Programs for farms and facilities
- Conducted mock and internal audits for third-party certifications
- Developed manuals and SOPs aligned with standards including: GFSI, Primus Ranch & Harvest Crew, Cold Storage, Packinghouse, Pre-Harvest Block Inspections, etc.
- Trained managers and staff on food safety best practices
- Authored HACCP plans and 'Train the Trainer' programs

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Florida Strawberry Growers Association

- Board of Directors: 2015–2019, 2024–Present
- Secretary; Chair of Member Services, 2016–Present

Hillsborough County Farm Bureau

- Board of Directors: 2023–Present
- Vice President: 2024
- President: 2025

HONORS & RECOGNITION

- Outstanding Woman in Agriculture – Hillsborough County Fair Harvest Awards, 2025
- FSGA Influencer of the Year Award – Florida Strawberry Growers, 2024
- Workhorse Award – Florida Strawberry Growers, 2018

2025 FLORIDA PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# V29669

Entity Name: E. W. SIMMONS FARMS, INC.

Current Principal Place of Business:

5112 MUD LAKE RD.
PLANT CITY, FL 33567

Current Mailing Address:

5112 MUD LAKE RD.
PLANT CITY, FL 33567 US

FEI Number: 59-3162603

Certificate of Status Desired: No

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:

SIMMONS, III, EARL W.
5112 MUD LAKE RD.
PLANT CITY, FL 33567 US

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE: _____

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

Officer/Director Detail :

Title MDP
Name SIMMONS, EARL W. III
Address 5112 MUD LAKE RD.
City-State-Zip: PLANT CITY FL 33567

Title VP
Name SIMMONS, CAROL C
Address 5112 MUD LAKE RD.
City-State-Zip: PLANT CITY FL 33567

Title S
Name RUNKLES, CASEY S
Address [REDACTED]
City-State-Zip: PLANT CITY FL 33565

Title T
Name RUNKLES, CASEY S
Address [REDACTED]
City-State-Zip: PLANT CITY FL 33565

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 607, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: CASEY S RUNKLES

SECRETARY/TREASURER 01/16/2025

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail

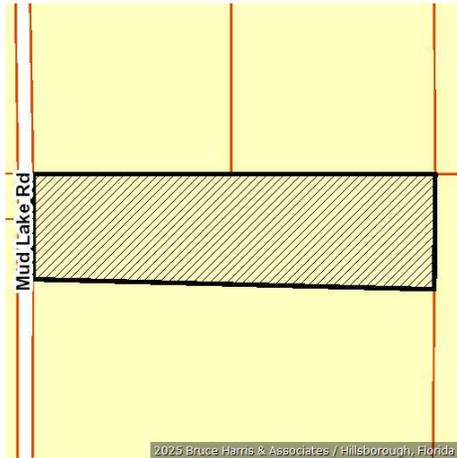
Date



Bob Henriquez Hillsborough County Property Appraiser

https://www.hcpafl.org/
15th Floor County Ctr.
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, Florida 33602-4932
Ph: (813) 272-6100

Folio: 092478-0000



Owner Information

Owner Name	SIMMONS EARL W III SIMMONS CAROL C
Mailing Address	5112 MUD LAKE RD PLANT CITY, FL 33567-2504
Site Address	5204 MUD LAKE RD, PLANT CITY
PIN	U-19-29-22-ZZZ-000005-00990.0
Folio	092478-0000
Prior PIN	
Prior Folio	000000-0000
Tax District	U - UNINCORPORATED
Property Use	5100 CROPS
Plat Book/Page	/
Neighborhood	221001.00 S and W of Plant City/Waldon Lake Area
Subdivision	ZZZ UNPLATTED

Value Summary

Taxing District	Market Value	Assessed Value	Exemptions	Taxable Value
County	\$319,189	\$30,855	\$0	\$30,855
Public Schools	\$319,189	\$30,855	\$0	\$30,855
Municipal	\$319,189	\$30,855	\$0	\$30,855
Other Districts	\$319,189	\$30,855	\$0	\$30,855

Note: This section shows Market Value, Assessed Value, Exemptions, and Taxable Value for taxing districts. Because of changes in Florida Law, it is possible to have different assessed and taxable values on the same property. For example, the additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption and the non-homestead CAP do not apply to public schools, and the Low Income Senior Exemption only applies to countywide and certain municipal millages.

Sales Information

Book / Page	Instrument	Month	Year	Type Inst	Qualified or Unqualified	Vacant or Improved	Price
22753 / 0636	2014277072	08	2014	WD	Qualified	Improved	\$220,000
2418 / 0524		01	1972	WD	Unqualified	Improved	\$20,000

Land Information

Use Code	Description	Zone	Front	Depth	Land Type	Total Land Units	Land Value
5110	STRAWBERRIES	AS-1	0.0	0.0	AC ACREAGE	10.20	\$30,855

Legal Description

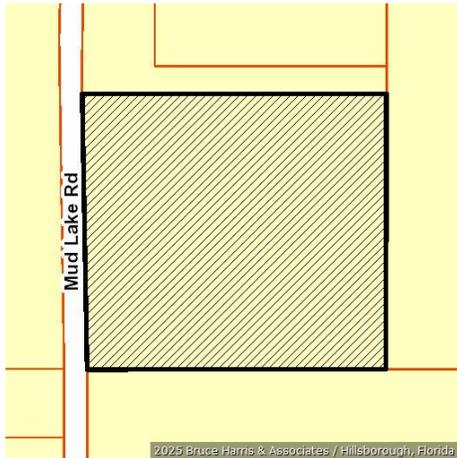
LOT BEG AT NW COR OF E 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 AND RUN E 1329 FT S 404 FT WLY 1331.1 FT N 346.8 FT TO BEG LESS COUNTY RD



Bob Henriquez Hillsborough County Property Appraiser

https://www.hcpafil.org/
15th Floor County Ctr.
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, Florida 33602-4932
Ph: (813) 272-6100

Folio: 092458-0200



Owner Information

Owner Name	SIMMONS EARL WILLIAM 3RD SIMMONS CAROL C
Mailing Address	5112 MUD LAKE RD PLANT CITY, FL 33567-2504
Site Address	5112 MUD LAKE RD, PLANT CITY
PIN	U-19-29-22-ZZZ-000005-00720.0
Folio	092458-0200
Prior PIN	
Prior Folio	092458-0000
Tax District	U - UNINCORPORATED
Property Use	5100 CROPS
Plat Book/Page	/
Neighborhood	221001.00 S and W of Plant City/Waldon Lake Area
Subdivision	ZZZ UNPLATTED

Value Summary

Taxing District	Market Value	Assessed Value	Exemptions	Taxable Value
County	\$824,416	\$432,686	\$50,722	\$381,964
Public Schools	\$824,416	\$432,686	\$25,000	\$407,686
Municipal	\$824,416	\$432,686	\$50,722	\$381,964
Other Districts	\$824,416	\$432,686	\$50,722	\$381,964

Note: This section shows Market Value, Assessed Value, Exemptions, and Taxable Value for taxing districts. Because of changes in Florida Law, it is possible to have different assessed and taxable values on the same property. For example, the additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption and the non-homestead CAP do not apply to public schools, and the Low Income Senior Exemption only applies to countywide and certain municipal millages.

Sales Information

Book / Page	Instrument	Month	Year	Type Inst	Qualified or Unqualified	Vacant or Improved	Price
3530 / 1503		06	1979	WD	Unqualified	Improved	\$100

Building Information

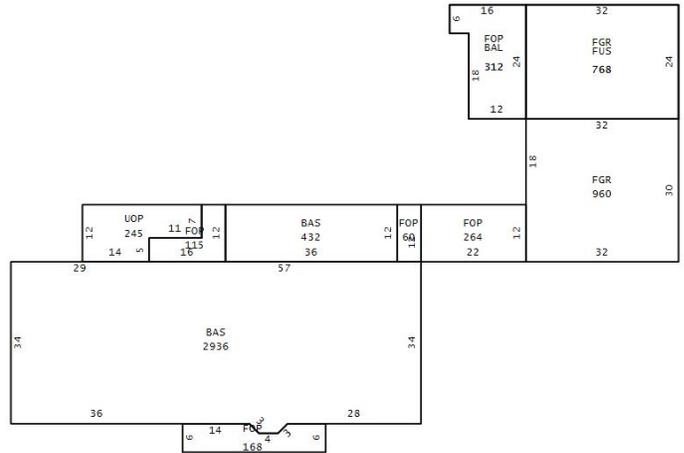
Building 1

Type 01 | SINGLE FAMILY

Year Built 1988

Building 1 Construction Details

Element	Code	Construction Detail
Class	C	Concrete Block
Exterior Wall	7	Masonry Frm: Stucco
Roof Structure	3	Gable or Hip
Roof Cover	3	Asphalt/Comp. Shingle
Interior Walls	5	Drywall
Interior Flooring	7	Tile
Heat/AC	2	Central
Architectural Style	5	Contemporary
Condition	3	Average
Bedrooms	4.0	
Bathrooms	3.0	
Stories	1.0	
Units	1.0	



Building 1 subarea

Area Type	Gross Area	Heated Area	Depreciated Value
BAL	312		\$3,601
BAS	2,936	2,936	\$224,978
BAS	432	432	\$33,103
FGR	768		\$29,425
FGR	960		\$36,781
FOP	312		\$5,977
FOP	115		\$2,222
FOP	168		\$3,218
FOP	60		\$1,149
FOP	264		\$5,057
FUS	768	768	\$52,950
UOP	245		\$2,835
Totals	7,340	4,136	\$401,296

Extra Features

OB/XF Code	Description	Building	Year On Roll	Length	Width	Units	Value
0651	SHED NOT PERMANENTLY AFFIXED	0	1974	0	0	1.00	\$0
0595	FIREPLACE	1	1988	0	0	1.00	\$3,168
0351	POOL 01 SCREENED	1	1991	0	0	1.00	\$20,160
0380	SPA 01	1	1991	0	0	1.00	\$3,570
0700	BARN METAL	0	2016	36	30	1,080.00	\$10,368
0470	OPEN SHED	0	2016	12	30	360.00	\$2,160
0470	OPEN SHED	0	2016	0	0	4,416.00	\$26,496
0630	UTILITY METAL	1	2022	60	44	2,640.00	\$38,681
0115	CONCRETE PAVERS	1	2020	0	0	1,444.00	\$11,774

Land Information

Use Code	Description	Zone	Front	Depth	Land Type	Total Land Units	Land Value
995H	Acreage Class 5	AS-1	0.0	0.0	AC ACREAGE	3.56	\$127,840
5110	STRAWBERRIES	AS-1	0.0	0.0	AC ACREAGE	4.97	\$15,034
9600	GB LOWLANDS	AS-1	0.0	0.0	AC ACREAGE	0.57	\$28

Legal Description

SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LESS N 60 FT



Craig Latimer
 Supervisor of Elections
Voter Registration Receipt

Hillsborough County, FL

Date / Fecha	08/11/2025
Time / Hora	03:17 PM
Regn Number / Número de Registración	██████████
Voter Name / Nombre de Votante	Runkles, Casey S
Residence / Residencia	████████████████████
	Plant City FL 33565
Mailing Address / Dirección postal	none
Voter Status / Estado del elector	1(A) Active Voter
Birth Date / Fecha de Nacimiento	Feb/05/1978
Sex / Sexo	F
Race / Raza	5
Party / Partido	REP
Precinct / Precinto	761.0
	Bethany Baptist Church
	3409 Cork Rd, Plant City, FL 33565
	Cork Road north of Sam Allen Road next to Cork
	Elementary School on the west side of Cork Road
Registration Date / Fecha de Inscripción	Apr/03/1996
Assistance Required / Requiere asistencia	N

*Witness my hand and official seal at Hillsborough County, FL,
 Firmo de mi puño y letra y estampo el sello oficial del Condado de Hillsborough County, FL,
 on Aug/11/2025 / este día Aug/11/2025*

Craig Latimer
 Supervisor of Elections
 Hillsborough County, FL

By: *Alina Cruz*

