

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS
SOUTHEAST MARKETING FIELD OFFICE
799 OVERLOOK DRIVE, SUITE A
WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA 33884

January 3, 20XX

TO: PRODUCERS OF FLORIDA CITRUS FOR THE FRESH MARKET

Enclosed is a voter ballot for the continuance of Marketing Order No. 905 (order) regulating the handling of Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida. The order requires that producers within the regulated production area be petitioned to determine the level of support for the marketing order. As a consequence, an order directing that a referendum be held was published in the Federal Register on December 30, 20XX. A referendum has been scheduled during the period **January 14 through February 15, 20XX**, to determine whether citrus producers favor the continuance of the order.

To meet referendum requirements, the order must be favored by at least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in the referendum or by producers representing at least two-thirds of the eligible volume voted in the referendum. This ballot gives an eligible grower the opportunity to vote in favor of or against maintaining the marketing order.

A Producer Referendum Ballot is attached. Also attached are:

- 1) Rules Governing Producer Eligibility to Vote and Voting Instructions;
- 2) News Release concerning the referendum;
- 3) Copy of the December 30, 20XX, Referendum Order; and
- 4) A preaddressed envelope for returning the ballot.

Again, the referendum voting period is January 14 through February 15, 20XX. Please complete and return your ballots promptly. All ballots must be **postmarked no later than February 15, 20XX, or they will not be counted**. If you have any questions, please call (863) 324-3375.

Sincerely,

Christian D. Nissen
Referendum Agent

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS**OFFICIAL PRODUCER BALLOT**
ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, TANGERINES AND TANGELOS GROWN IN FLORIDA
MARKETING ORDER NO. 905

This ballot will be held in strict confidence. Be sure Parts II, III and IV of your ballot are completed. Unsigned ballots, or ballots that cannot be validated because Parts II, III and IV are incomplete, will not be counted.

PART I - REFERENDUM INSTRUCTIONS

- A. **REFERENDUM PERIOD:** January 14, 20XX through February 15, 20XX, is the referendum period during which producers may vote on this marketing order.

This referendum is being held to determine producer support for the federal marketing order regulating the handling of citrus grown in Florida. USDA will consider termination of this order if less than two-thirds of those voting and less than two-thirds of the volume represented in the referendum favor continuance.

- B. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** Any person who produced Florida citrus for the fresh market during the period of August 1, 20XX through July 31, 20XX, and who is also now a producer, is eligible to vote. Such persons may vote on the continuance of the Marketing Order using the attached ballot.

1. A producer (or grower) is defined as: (a) any person who produced oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida for the fresh market in the designated production area; (b) a renter or tenant of acreage producing oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida for the fresh market; or (c) a landlord who received from a renter or tenant oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos grown in Florida as rent for the land on which such Florida citrus was grown for the fresh market. A cash landlord, lienholder, or person having only a financial interest in the crop is not an eligible voter.
2. A business unit, partnership, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate, or firm may vote. Each such entity is entitled to one vote.
3. Proxy voting is not authorized.

- C. **INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING:** Provide the voter information requested in Part II. In Part III, mark the block for or against the Marketing Order. Certify your vote by signing the appropriate section of Part IV. **If you do not complete Parts II, III, and IV, your ballot cannot be validated, and your vote will not be counted.**

Please remove the page containing Parts II, III, and IV, and return in the envelope provided.

PART II - VOTER INFORMATION

This information will be held in strict confidence.

A. Your name _____
(Please print clearly)

B. What is the specific location of your Orange, Grapefruit, Tangerine, and Tangelo acreage represented in this ballot?

(Highway or street address, if applicable, and county)

(City, State, and ZIP Code)

C. Do you reside on the above property which produces the Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos?
() Yes () No If no, please provide your residence address and telephone number:

(Street and No. or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code)

(Telephone number (Area Code))

D. If you are not voting as an individual producer, please check the appropriate box indicating your voting status and write the name and address of the business unit you represent.

() Partnership () Corporation () Other (Specify) _____

(Name and address of business unit)

E. What is the number of 1-3/5 bushel boxes or equivalent of Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos, you produced for the fresh market during the period **August 1, 20XX** through **July 31, 20XX**?

_____ Boxes of Oranges. _____ Boxes of Tangerines.

_____ Boxes of Grapefruit. _____ Boxes of Tangelos.

F. What is the number of acres of Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos you harvested during the period **August 1, 20XX** through **July 31, 20XX**?

Oranges _____ acres. Tangerines _____ acres.

Grapefruit _____ acres. Tangelos _____ acres.

G. Which packinghouse(s) handled your Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos during the representative period?

(Name and address of packinghouse(s))

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM

PART III - REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

"YES" vote means you favor continuance of the Marketing Order for Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida.

"NO" vote means you do not favor continuance of the Marketing Order for Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida.

Do you favor the continuance of the Marketing Order for Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos, Grown in Florida?

() YES () NO

PART IV - VOTER CERTIFICATION

All information provided in this ballot will be subject to verification by officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The information on this ballot is required to determine voter eligibility and vote of Florida citrus producers. Falsification of information on this government document may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or both (18 S.C. 1001).

A. Your signature, if signing as an individual.

I am the producer named in Part II of this ballot, and I certify that I am not a cash landlord, lienholder, or person having only a financial interest in the crop, and that the information provided on this ballot and any attachment hereto is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.

 (Signature) (Date)

B. If signing as the representative of a producing entity other than an individual, designate your title and sign below.

I am the representative named in Part II D of this ballot: A partner casting the ballot for a partnership; or an officer or employee casting the ballot for a cooperative association, corporation, school, institution, or similar business unit; or the administrator, executor, or trustee casting the ballot for a producing estate; and, by signing this ballot, I agree to provide evidence thereof at the request of an authorized agent of the Secretary of Agriculture.

 (Signature and title) (Date)

BALLOTS POSTMARKED AFTER February 15, 20XX WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE REFERENDUM.

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The authority for requesting this information to be supplied on this form is the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, Sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 601-674). Furnishing the requested information is necessary for the administration of the marketing order program.

NOTE: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0189. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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