

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

OFFICIAL PRODUCER'S BALLOT
ON CONTINUANCE OF MARKETING ORDER NO. 981,
AS AMENDED, REGULATING THE HANDLING OF ALMONDS
GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read the voting instructions and eligibility requirements on the reverse side. Then complete this ballot, including the Voter Certification and Eligibility section. Return your ballot in the envelope provided. Ballot must be signed and postmarked on or before _____.

This referendum is for continuance of the Federal marketing order. The Secretary of Agriculture will consider termination of the almond marketing order if less than two-thirds of those voting and less than two-thirds of the volume represented in the referendum favor continuance. Indicate your vote by placing an "x" in the appropriate box:

I FAVOR CONTINUANCE of the Federal almond marketing order.

I DO NOT FAVOR CONTINUANCE of the Federal almond marketing order.

VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

I CERTIFY that I am an eligible producer of almonds. I am currently producing almonds and during the period from August 1, 20____, through July 31, 20____,

I produced _____ on _____, in _____
Pounds (kernel weight) Acres County/Countries

(SIGNATURE REQUIRED BELOW)

NOTE: If you are farming on a share crop basis, show only that part of the crop representing your share.

If a partnership, give name of partner(s):

If this ballot is cast by an officer or employee on behalf of a producer (corporation or institution) or by a trustee, executor, or administrator of a producing estate, **I CERTIFY** that I have the authority to cast this ballot and will submit evidence of such authority at the request of an agent of the Secretary of Agriculture. **(SIGNATURE REQUIRED BELOW.)**

ENTITY NAME _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS ENTITY (Corp., Estate, Partnership, etc.) _____

ADDRESS _____
Street

City, State Zip Code Enter your E-Mail Address

YOUR TITLE _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

This information is required to determine voter eligibility. Falsification of information on this government document may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).

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 0581-0178. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 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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TO THE ALMOND PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

DATE

The ballot on the reverse side of this form is to be used to record your vote for continuation or termination of the Federal marketing order regulating the handling of almonds grown in the State of California. After reading the following voting instructions and eligibility requirements, please record your vote on the ballot, complete the VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SECTION, and return the ballot to this office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. **Ballots postmarked later than _____ will not be counted.**

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

I. VOTING PERIOD: _____ - _____, _____

II. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: Any producer currently engaged in the commercial production of almonds in the State of California and who was so engaged during the representative period from August 1, 20____, through July 31, 20____ (20____ crop) is entitled to cast one ballot. An authorized officer or employee of a corporate producer; or an administrator, executor, or trustee of a producing estate or any other business unit is eligible to cast one vote on behalf of such producing business entity. "PRODUCER" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit who:

- A. Owns and farms land, resulting in ownership of the almonds produced thereon;
- B. Rents and farms land, resulting in ownership of all or a portion of the almonds produced thereon;
- C. Owns land which he or she does not farm and, as rental for such land, obtains ownership for a portion of the almonds produced thereon.

III. HOW TO VOTE:

- A. Certify your eligibility by completing the VOTER CERTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY SECTION on the reverse side.
- B. Indicate whether you favor continuance or termination of the almond marketing order by placing an "X" in the appropriate box. PROXY VOTING IS NOT AUTHORIZED.
- C. Return the ballot to this office in the postage paid envelope provided.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR MORE THAN ONE ENTITY AND NEED ADDITIONAL BALLOTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CALIFORNIA MARKETING FIELD OFFICE AT (209) 487-5901.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Fruit and Vegetable Programs
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