

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

**PRODUCER'S REFERENDUM BALLOT**  
**ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MARKETING ORDER, AS AMENDED,**  
**REGULATING THE HANDLING OF DRIED PRUNES PRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA**

**THIS BALLOT WILL BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. PLEASE READ THE COVER LETTER AND THE ATTACHED VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND VOTING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THIS BALLOT. YOUR BALLOT ENVELOPE MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. I hereby certify that I am, or the producer's name I have inserted in Item 3 below is, now an eligible producer in California of prune plums used in the production of dried prunes for market. I produced for market during the period August 1, 20\_\_\_\_ through July 31, 20\_\_\_\_, the following quantity of dried prunes: \_\_\_\_\_ dried tons.  
(NOTE: If you are renting on a share crop basis, report only that part of the tonnage representing your share.)

2. Do you favor issuance of the proposed amendment? (Please place an "X" in the appropriate space.)  
( ) YES ( ) NO

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Producer's Signature (or name if Item 4 is applicable))

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip Code

4. If this ballot is cast on behalf of a partnership or by an officer or employee of a producer (corporation, institution, school, or college), or by an administrator, executor, or trustee of a producing estate, the following must also be completed:

I hereby certify to the Secretary of Agriculture that I have authority to cast this ballot for the producer named above in Item 3 and that I will submit evidence of such authority at the request of an Agent of the Secretary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title or Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MARKETING ORDER, AS AMENDED,  
REGULATING THE HANDLING OF DRIED PRUNES IN CALIFORNIA**

**I. REFERENDUM PERIOD**

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**II. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE**

- A. Producer means (a) a person who owns and farms land producing prune plums used in the production of dried prunes for market; (b) a renter or tenant of a farm producing prune plums used in the production of dried prunes; (c) a landlord who received from a renter or tenant a portion of the production as rent for the land on which the prune plums were produced for market. (NOTE: A landlord who rents for cash, a lien-holder or a person having only a financial interest in the crop is ineligible to vote.)
- B. A person buying prune plums either on the tree or after they have been harvested is not a producer of such prune plums and therefore is not eligible to vote.
- C. A business unit (partnership, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate, firm) may cast only one vote; but each separate unit is entitled to a vote.
- D. Any producer who is now engaged in producing prune plums in California for drying or dehydrating into dried prunes for market and was so engaged during the representative period of August 1, 20\_\_\_\_ through July 31, 20\_\_\_\_, is eligible to vote in this referendum. A producer who had no production during the representative period is not eligible to vote.

**III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING - YOUR BALLOT MUST CONTAIN**

- A. The tonnage of dried prunes which was produced for market by you (or by the producer for whom this Ballot is cast) during the period August 1, 20\_\_\_\_ through July 31, 20\_\_\_\_.
- B. Your vote: Check either "YES" or "NO".
- C. Your signature and mailing address in Item 3 if you are casting the ballot in your own behalf as an individual owner.

If you are casting the ballot as a partner of a partnership, or as an officer or employee of a producer (corporation, institution, school, or college), or as an administrator, executor, or trustee of a producing estate - enter the producer's name and address in Item 3 and complete the Certification in Item 4.

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**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT**

- (1) Change the definition of "Salable prunes" and provisions regarding the application of salable and reserve percentages after the end of the crop year.
- (2) Change the name of "Prune Administrative Committee" to "Prune Marketing Committee".
- (3) Add a public member and alternate on the Committee.
- (4) Provide a means for cooperative marketing associations to share Committee representation.
- (5) Change the current authority for regulation of undersized prunes so that annual Committee determinations and recommendations would be unnecessary, and that such regulation would be continuous.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agricultural Marketing Service  
 California Marketing Field Office  
 Fruit and Vegetable Programs  
 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102-B  
 Fresno, California 93721

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**IMPORTANT: YOUR REFERENDUM BALLOT TO VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL  
 MARKETING ORDER FOR DRIED PRUNES**

To: The Dried Prune Producer Addressed

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced his decision to submit for industry approval a proposed amendment of the marketing agreement, as amended, and Order No. 993, as amended, regulating the handling of dried prunes produced in California. The referendum is being held during the period of \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, to determine whether producers of dried prunes favor or disfavor issuance by the Secretary of Agriculture of the proposed amended marketing order.

The proposed amendment will not be made effective unless its issuance is favored by at least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in the referendum or by producers representing at least two-thirds of the volume of dried prunes voted in the referendum.

Proposed changes in the marketing program were submitted by the Prune Marketing Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture, and a public hearing on the proposals was held in \_\_\_\_\_.

On the reverse side of this page is the **REFERENDUM BALLOT** for your use in indicating whether you favor or disfavor issuance of the proposed amendment. Also enclosed are the following: 1. Rules governing producer eligibility to vote and voting instructions; 2. Summary and copy of the proposed amendment; and 3. Envelope for returning ballot - no postage required.

Please read the rules governing producer eligibility to vote and the voting instructions before filling out your ballot. Be sure your ballot is complete. **BALLOTS WHICH DO NOT SHOW YOUR TONNAGE OF DRIED PRUNES PRODUCED FOR MARKET, YOUR VOTE, AND YOUR SIGNATURE CANNOT BE COUNTED.** Please vote promptly; to be counted, ballot envelopes must be postmarked not later than midnight, \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely yours,