

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

CONTINUANCE REFERENDUM

OFFICIAL BALLOT
MARKETING ORDER NO. 953
IRISH POTATOES GROWN IN SOUTHEASTERN STATES

PART I - REFERENDUM INSTRUCTIONS

A. COMPLETE PARTS II, III, AND IV. Incomplete or unsigned ballots cannot be counted. Ballots must be postmarked by _____.

B. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Any person who produced potatoes for fresh market during the period _____ through _____, and who is now a producer, is eligible to vote. Such persons may vote on whether they favor continuance of the order by using the enclosed ballot. Additional ballots may be obtained by contacting the _____ or your county Extension Service office.

1. A producer (or grower) is defined as: (a) any person who produces potatoes for fresh market in the designated production area (_____); (b) a renter or tenant of acreage producing potatoes for fresh market; or (c) a landlord who received from a renter or tenant such potatoes as rent for the land on which such potatoes were grown. 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 continuing the 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.

Remove the pages containing Parts II, III, and IV, and mail them in the self-addressed envelope. If you do not have an official envelope, send the ballot to the USDA's _____ Marketing Field Office,

_____. Mark the envelope "POTATO REFERENDUM".

Please call _____ if you have any questions.

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 potato 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 potatoes? () 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. How many hundredweight of potatoes did you produce for fresh market during the period _____?
_____ hundredweight

F. How many acres of potatoes for fresh market did you harvest during the period _____?
_____ acres

G. Which packing house(s) handled your potatoes during the period _____?

(Name of packing house(s))

PART III - CONTINUATION OF MARKETING ORDER FOR POTATOES

Do you favor continuing the marketing order for potatoes grown in VA-NC? () YES () NO

PART IV - VOTER CERTIFICATION

All information provided in this ballot will be subject to on-site verification by officials of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The information on this ballot is required to determine voter eligibility and vote of southeastern potato 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 U.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 hereby certify that I have authority to cast the ballot of the producer named in Part II D of this ballot, and that I will submit evidence thereof at the request of an authorized agent of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(Signature and title)

(Date)

BALLOTS POSTMARKED AFTER _____, WILL NOT BE COUNTED IN THE REFERENDUM.

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 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.