

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
 FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

OFFICIAL BALLOT
MARKETING ORDER NO. 959, Onions Grown in South Texas

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 onions 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 using the enclosed ballot. Additional ballots may be obtained by contacting the Southcentral Marketing Field Office or your County Extension Service Office.
1. A producer (or grower) is defined as: (a) anyone who produces onions for fresh market in the counties of Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Wilson, Karnes, Goliad, Victoria, Calhoun, Maverick, Zavala, Frio, Atascosa, Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Refugio, Webb, Duval, Jim Wells, San Patricio, Nueces, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kleberg, Kenedy, Starr, DeWitt, Aransas, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron; (b) a renter or tenant of acreage producing onions for fresh market; or (c) a landlord who received from a renter or tenant such onions as rent for the land on which such onions 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 answer 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.**

Mail Parts II, III, and IV in the official envelope. If you do not have an official envelope, send the ballot to the USDA's Southcentral Marketing Field Office, 1313 E. Hackberry, McAllen, TX 78501. Mark the envelope "Onion Referendum."

PART II. VOTER INFORMATION *(This information will be held in strict confidence)*

A. NAME *(Please print clearly)*

B. WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF YOUR ONION ACREAGE REPRESENTED IN THIS BALLOT *(Highway and street address, if applicable, and county; city, State, ZIP)?*

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.

C. DO YOU RESIDE ON THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THE ONIONS ARE PRODUCED?

YES NO

IF NO, PLEASE GIVE YOUR RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Street or RD number, city, State, ZIP):

D. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)

FAX NUMBER (include area code)

E. IF NOT VOTING AS AN INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER, PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX BELOW AND WRITE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BUSINESS UNIT YOU REPRESENT.

PARTNERSHIP

CORPORATION

OTHER (Please specify)?

F. HOW MANY SACKS (50-pound equivalent) OF ONIONS DID YOU PRODUCE DURING THE PERIOD

_____ THROUGH _____?

G. HOW MANY ACRES OF ONIONS DID YOU HARVEST FOR FRESH MARKET DURING THE PERIOD

_____ THROUGH _____?

H. WHICH PACKING HOUSE(S) HANDLED YOUR ONIONS DURING THIS PERIOD?

PART III. CONTINUING THE ORDER:

DO YOU FAVOR CONTINUING THE MARKETING ORDER FOR ONIONS GROWN IN SOUTH TEXAS?

YES NO

PART IV. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

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 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. 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 OF PRODUCER OR AUTHORIZED PERSON

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, E, of this ballot, and that I will submit evidence thereof at the request of an authorized agent of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SIGNATURE

TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING

NOTE:

Mail Parts II, III, and IV in the self-addressed envelope. If you do not have an official envelope, send the ballot to the USDA's Southcentral Marketing Field Office or your County Extension Service Office. Write "ONION REFERENDUM" on the outside of the envelope.

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