

In order to qualify for Allotment Base as a new grower you must apply on the form on the reverse side of this notice. The form must be filled out completely or it will not be included with the eligible growers. In keeping with the stated intent of the Order in Section 985.153(c), the Committee must determine whether or not the applicant has the ability to produce spearmint oil. To be eligible as a new grower there are several requirements that must be met. **If you would be disqualified for any one of the following, please do not apply.**

1. The applicant must not now be, nor, in the past, have been, involved in the ownership of base. (i.e. - a part of a corporation, partnership, or any other business entity that has owned, or currently owns base)

2. The applicant must be able to show present involvement in farming. (i.e. They must already have their own capital at risk and be involved in the day to day activities associated with their own farming operation before they can apply for spearmint base). They must be able to produce the appropriate class of spearmint oil and, if requested, be able to submit evidence showing that they will have a proprietary (financial) interest in the production of the oil.

3. The growers who are drawn for new base will have to have **NEW acres planted by the spring of 20__**. This means they must obtain roots and plant new acres or, in some cases, they may have to be involved in a root propagation program which will allow them to expand to the needed acres – depending on the availability of rootstock. The Marketing Order requires that the production of this spearmint be independent of any other producer. It is important that applicants carefully consider their ability to produce their own oil by next year. Failure to do so could result in the loss of their base.

4. **Only one applicant per business unit.**

5. The applicant must be a citizen of the U.S.

6. The applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

7. Recipients of the new base will not be able to transfer the base to another entity during the first **five** years following the year of issuance of the new base. They must satisfy the bona fide effort requirement during these five years.

ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE CAREFULLY SCREENED PRIOR TO THE DRAWING. THOSE NOT MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS AS STATED ABOVE WILL BE NOTIFIED OF SUCH AND TAKEN OUT OF THE LOT. THOSE APPLICANTS THAT ARE DRAWN WILL BE CHECKED MORE CLOSELY, AND IF IT IS FOUND THAT THEY DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS, THEY WILL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW BASE. IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED INELIGIBLE, THE COMMITTEE MAY REDRAW THE BASE FOR THAT REGION.

If you have any questions concerning the application or drawing, please call the committee office at 1-509-585-5460.

Thank you, - Shane Johnson, Manager

All applications must be submitted to the office by August __, 20__. The drawing will be held August __, 20__ at 11:30 a.m. at the Committee office at 100 North Fruitland, Suite B Kennewick, WA 99336.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.