

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION REFERENDUM BALLOT
Marketing Order No. 927: Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington

Please read the attached VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE before completing this Ballot.

This Referendum is being held to determine producer support for Marketing Order No. 927, regulating the handling of pears for processing grown in Oregon and Washington. The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) will consider termination of this Order if less than two-thirds of those voting and less than two-thirds of the volume represented in the Referendum favor continuance.

A. Do you favor continuance of Marketing Order No. 927, regulating the handling of pears for processing grown in Oregon and Washington?

YES

NO

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

B. Contact Name _____ Phone Number _____

Name of Cooperative Association _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

What is the total number of tons or equivalent of pears produced for the Canning or Freezing (Processing) market in the production area by the member producers of this cooperative association during the representative period of _____, 20__ through _____, 20__?	
What is the total number of producers for which this cooperative association is casting this Ballot?	

C. **I hereby certify that the information I provided on this Ballot is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature*

Title

*Your signature certifies that you have the authority to take such action and will submit supplementary evidence of such authority at the request of an agent of the Secretary. The information provided in this Ballot is required to determine the voter eligibility and vote of processed pear producers. Falsification of information on this government document may result in a fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

I. **VOTING PERIOD:** _____, 20__ through _____, 20__.

II. **REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD:** _____, 20__ through _____, 20__.

III. **PRODUCTION AREA:** States of Oregon and Washington

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0189. 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.

- IV. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE:** Any cooperative association engaged in the marketing of pears for processing grown in the production area during the representative period. Section 608(c)(12) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 provides, in part, that the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider the approval or disapproval by any cooperative association, bona fide engaged in the marketing of the commodity covered by the subject marketing order, as the approval or disapproval of the producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with, such cooperative association. Cooperative associations are defined in the Capper-Volstead Act (7 U.S.C. 291, 292). **Each separate business unit, partnership, LLC, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate, or firm that is a member of the cooperative association is entitled to one vote.**

“Producer” means any individual, partnership, LLC, corporation, association, institution, estate, or other business unit who: (1) Owns and farms land resulting in ownership of the pears for processing produced thereon; (2) Rents and farms land resulting in ownership of all or a portion of the pears for processing produced thereon; or (3) Owns land from which, as rental for such land, ownership is obtained of a portion of the pears for processing produced thereon. (A lienholder, cash landlord, or person having only a financial interest in the processed pear crop is not eligible to vote.)

V. HOW TO VOTE:

- A. Indicate your vote by placing an “X” in the appropriate box.
- B. Print or type the information requested under the eligibility statement. All information must be provided to ensure the validity of the Ballot.
- C. Sign below the certification. Incomplete or unsigned Ballots cannot be counted.
- D. Attach to the Ballot a list of processed pear producers who are currently members of, stockholders in, or under contract with the cooperative association named herein as of the date this Ballot is cast, and who produced pears for the Canning or Freezing (Processing) market during the representative period. For each such producer provide the following:
 1. Address (street and house number, rural route number, city, state, and zip code); and
 2. Volume of processed pears produced for the Canning or Freezing (processing) market during the representative period in tons or equivalent.
- E. Attach to the Ballot a certified copy of the resolution of the Board of Directors authorizing the individual signing this Ballot to vote on behalf of the cooperative association.
- F. Mail the completed Ballot, producer list, and corporate resolution in the enclosed envelope to:

Referendum Agent
USDA-AMS-Specialty Crops Program
Northwest Marketing Field Office
1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 305
Portland, Oregon 97204

Ballots must be postmarked by _____, 20__. For further information, please call (503) 326-2724.

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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.