

RIVER RAMBLINGS

The newsletter of the
Indian River Citrus League

SEPTEMBER 2015



League to Celebrate 85th Annual Meeting

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Indian River Citrus League will be held at the Club at Pointe West, 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach, FL on October 6, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will feature Dr. Ann Shortelle, Executive Director of St. Johns River Water Management District, as the invited guest speaker. Lunch sponsored by Wells Fargo. You are cordially invited to attend and request your RSVP to the League office (772/562-2728) or email (info@ircitrusleague.org)

Election of directors will be the first order of business so please be present promptly at 10:30 a.m. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of directors and alternate directors. Any League member may make additional nominations from the floor.

PRESENT DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES ARE:

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Tom Hammond
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Farm to Fly...

2.0 Feasibility Study

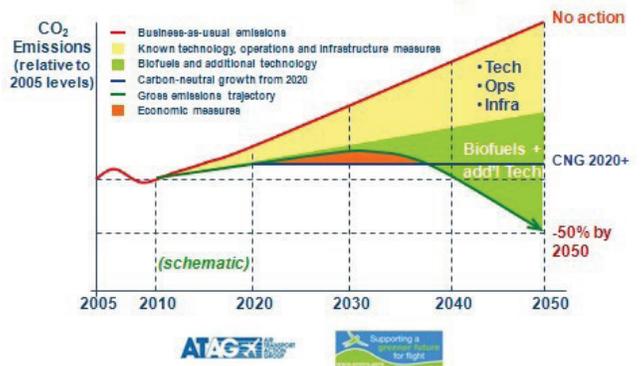
Looks to Expand Alternative BioFuel Supply Chain in South Florida

On July 27, 2015, TCERDA and the St. Lucie County's Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received notice of a grant award from USDA Rural Development to study the economic viability of small farm growers, processors, and commercial airline collaboration to create an alternative biofuels (ABF) supply chain in South Florida. More than a feasibility study, this report will result in an industry review of the environmental benefits from cultivating and processing industrial sugar and starch row crops for biofuel production. This includes sugar beets, tubers, sweet sorghum and sugar cane feedstock to produce bio-jet fuel, bio-ethanol, bio-diesel fuel, bio-heating oil and sustainable PET.

The Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAFI), in its consultative role will participate in this Farm to Fly 2.0 Initiative to explore expansion of an alternative biofuel (ABF) supply chain (grower and end-user interests) in the Treasure Coast and surrounding counties — a first-of-a-kind formal activity in the state of Florida. The commercial aviation industry aims to stop the growth in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2020 and to reduce GHG to 50% of 2005 levels by 2050 without limiting the global growth in passenger miles flown. Development of biomass based jet fuels is a key component of that industry strategy.

Biofuels key to mitigating growth constraints

Aviation's emissions reduction roadmap



The region's citrus industry has experienced a 75% loss in crops, due to the devastating effect of insect infestation. Commercial scale crops are essential for the significant agricultural economy within the region. Industrial sugar crops (ISC) are already being tested as possible alternative resources by University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the USDA Agriculture Research Service at the TCERDA site. Preliminary results on the best near-term sources for domestic U.S. supply have been favorable and well-received by sugar-based alternative biofuel processing companies.

A "cost competitiveness" advantage is created for the small farmer when the energy row crop is used in crop rotation during the winter and summer seasons, providing a continuous source of feedstock supply. Yields of sugar and the initial analysis of economics for cultivation suggests that it can achieve efficient cost basis (cost per pound). Feedstock readiness suggests that the sugar beet is largely ready-for-energy crop cultivation. Field work and studies on energy row crops by the Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) and EPA are now in place to expedite RFS2 certification and eligibility for RINS credits via RBEG proposed producer process pathways.

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TCERDA has the full support and interest for this alternative fuels project from its board of directors, the County, and the State -- including the Florida Agriculture of Agriculture and Consumer Services/ Office of Energy, supporting ISC production. This project includes the use of advanced scientific research of the Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC), which is comprised of highly experienced, highly successful innovators from the various energy-related research fields, education, outreach, industrial collaboration, technology commercialization, and economic development.



This Farm to Fly 2.0 study will seek to determine the compatibility with feedstock in the rural Treasure Coast regions in Florida, a proven commercial viability, and the significant interests of companies wanting to expand their businesses in the Treasure Coast region. This project seeks to determine at least two viable ABF technologies for inclusion in this study: Direct Sugar to Hydrocarbon (DSHC) and Alcohol to Jet (ATJ).

TCERDA staff will lead and manage this research project - selecting processors, growers and a third-party analyst with biofuel expertise to collaborate on this statement of work. Advanced BioFuel Processors must be active participants of the Commercial Advanced Aviation Fuel Initiative (CAAFI), or other similar national biofuel trade groups supported by the USDA, FAA, DOE or EPA. Growers will be participants in the UF Extension program, Indian River Citrus League, the Florida Citrus Association and will be selected from St. Lucie and Polk counties, and potentially from additional Treasure Coast counties of Martin, Indian River, and Okeechobee, who are ready, willing and able to participate in this collaborative effort. TCERDA will choose a qualified fuel systems analyst to perform specified work.

Five small and two large agriculture businesses have been identified who will participate directly in this feasibility study. These growers are located in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Polk counties, with three bioprocessing firms with plans to establish operations in the Treasure Coast region. More growers from throughout the Treasure Coast region are being recruited and are likely to collaborate in this project once it is launched. If interested in more information, please call or email Ben DeVries, CEO, TCERDA at 772 467 3107 or ceo@tcerda.org.

Save The Date!



2016 Florida Citrus Show



Mark your calendar for the 2016 Florida Citrus Show, January 27-28, 2016 at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce. As always, the show will be jammed with educational sessions and growers will have the opportunity to network with peers and visit the exhibition hall of more than 80 suppliers of important citrus production products and services. For exhibitor information, contact Gerry Bogdon at gnbogdon@meistermedia.com or 407/539-6552.



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Looking for a way to reach our readers? Why not try our newsletter that reaches our grower members, packinghouses, associate members and affiliated businesses that make up the Indian River citrus growing district. Our publication schedule is September through June and is distributed electronically. Also, the newsletter is posted on our website of www.ircitrusleague.org. If interested, please give Karen a call at the League office at 772/562-2728 or email at info@ircitrusleague.org for more details.

Ad Copy Specifications

Fonts

- Please embed all fonts.
- Do not use artificial font formatting; all formatting (bold, italics, etc.) must be done using stylized fonts.

Logos

- When submitting logos, convert all fonts to outlines.
- Preferred format: vector eps

Color

- We print in 4-color CMYK process.
- All pantone colors must be converted to CMYK.
- Black type should be made with 100% black.

Resolution

- Resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi at actual size.
- 72 dpi images pulled from websites are not acceptable.
- Line art should be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi.

File Format

- PDF files and InDesign files are preferred (collected output to include layout, linked pictures, embedded pictures, color profiles, screen fonts and printer fonts).
- Other file formats accepted:
 eps (Adobe Illustrator)
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Nominations Sought

For the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being sought for potential inductees to The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, with induction ceremonies scheduled to take place on Friday, March 11, 2016 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. The luncheon is co-sponsored by Florida Citrus Mutual and the Florida Department of Citrus.



Eligible nominees for the Hall of Fame are those distinguished leaders who have made significant contributions to the Florida citrus industry in any of the following fields: pioneers, harvesting, packing, processing, marketing, scientific and/or educational areas.

Last year's inductees were Nicholas "Nick" D. Faryna, Sherwood J. "Buddy" Johnson, and John C. Updike, Sr. Nomination forms, along with information and videos on past inductees, can be found on the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame web site at www.FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com.

The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2015 and all nominations should include a full summary of the nominee's accomplishments, letters of support from industry members and a photo. Any nominations received after this date will be considered for the following year.

Completed applications must include a photo and should be e-mailed to BBurne1003@aol.com. Hard copies should be sent to Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, 411 East Orange Street, Lakeland, FL 33801.

For more information, please contact either John Jackson at jackson71344@yahoo.com or Brenda Eubanks Burnette at (561) 351-4314 or BBurne1003@aol.com.



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What is the Economic Benefit of CHMAs?

A Case Study

Ariel Singerman and Brandon Page

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) are a voluntary area wide pest management approach to control the vector of Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening), the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). Thus, each CHMA constitutes a grouping of growers who work cooperatively to coordinate insecticide application timing and mode of action to control the spread of ACP across neighboring commercial citrus groves. The idea behind this cooperative effort is that it provides a larger and more lasting effect relative to individual (uncoordinated) farm sprays because it minimizes movement of psyllids between groves; the effort is also aimed at maximizing the time before additional sprays are required, therefore reducing risk of ACP developing pesticide resistance.

CHMAs can be characterized according to the following criteria: ACP average counts, number of annual coordinated sprays in a year, leadership, participation of growers in the area, and communication among participants. The latter three refer to the degree to which the CHMA leader and the growers are committed in coordinating efforts. Table 1 shows four categories of CHMAs established by the UF/IFAS Extension program based on the criteria above.

Table 1. Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMA) Categorization by UF/IFAS CHMAs Program

	Best	Good	Moderate	Poor
ACP average count	0-2	3 to 5	6 to 9	10+
Leadership	strong	strong	sporadic	none
Participation	majority of growers	most growers	some growers	very few growers
Communication	constant	once per month	quarterly	none
Number of coordinated sprays/year	5+	5	4	2

HLB has a negative impact on yield, fruit size and quality, tree mortality, and cost of production. The purpose of this article is to examine whether blocks in different categories of CHMAs attain different levels of yield and, therefore, provide a differential economic benefit to growers. The answer to this question should be relevant not only to growers actively participating in CHMAs, but also to the industry as a whole.

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Data

A company that owns blocks in two different categorized CHMAs provided the data for the present analysis. Therefore, a key feature of this dataset is that all blocks are managed under the same practices (i.e.: number of sprays, nutritional programs, and fertilizer applications) and have similar characteristics in terms of production region, tree age, tree density, and reset plantings.

The data consists of yield for two sets of Valencia oranges blocks over four different crop years: 2001/02; 2008/09; 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The first set includes 6 blocks comprising 221 acres, and are located in a "moderate" class CHMA. The second set includes 5 blocks totaling 161 acres, and such blocks are located in a "best" class CHMA.

Analysis

We analyzed the data to obtain two measures of change in yield. First, the change in yield per acre through time, which encompasses the overall incidence that weather, pests and disease had on that year's yield. Second, the differential yield attained in blocks located in the "best" class CHMA over those located in the "moderate" class CHMA by year.

To examine the data we used regression analysis. A summary of the results is shown in table 2. All variables in that table are statistically significant, except for variables number (2) and (5), which refer to year 2008/09. This means that, from a statistical point of view, their magnitude is not different from zero. Such results are not surprising. The effects and rate of infection of HLB were not as widespread then as they have been in more recent years. In addition, CHMAs were merely starting to be organized at the time.

Variable number (1) in table 2 denotes that the average yield for all blocks across the two CHMAs (best and moderate) in 2001/02 was 364 boxes per acre. It is worth noting that since there are characteristics for which we do not have data for and, therefore, might not be identical across blocks (such as soil quality and PH), we conducted a test to establish whether there was a statistically significant difference in the mean of the two CHMAs in 2001/02. We found there was not.

As denoted by variables numbers (3) and (4) in table 2, yields in the "moderate" class CHMA decreased with respect to that average by 105 boxes in 2012/13, and by 184 boxes per acre in 2013/14. It can then be sensibly argued the main contributor to the significant yield decrease in years 2012/13 and 2013/14 was HLB, which can cause fruit drop and smaller fruit size.

Another key result from this analysis is the magnitude and significance of variables number (6) and (7) in table 2. The former variable denotes yield in 2012/13 was, on average, 83 boxes per acre higher in blocks located in a "best" class CHMA compared to those located in a "moderate" class CHMA. Similarly, variable number (7) denotes yield in 2013/14 was, on average, 145 boxes per acre higher in blocks located in a "best" class CHMA compared to those located in a "moderate" class CHMA.

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Table 2. Changes in Yield per Acre by Year for CHMAs “best” and “moderate” Categories

Variable Number	Variable Name	Boxes per acre	
(1)	2001/02 Average Yield in both CHMAs	364	***
(2)	2008/09 Change in Yield from average in “Moderate” Class CHMA	-47	ns
(3)	2012/13 Change in Yield from average in “Moderate” Class CHMA	-105	***
(4)	2013/14 Change in Yield from average in “Moderate” Class CHMA	-184	***
(5)	2008/09 Yield Difference “Best” vs. “Moderate” Class CHMA	17	ns
(6)	2012/13 Yield Difference “Best” vs. “Moderate” Class CHMA	83	**
(7)	2013/14 Yield Difference “Best” vs. “Moderate” Class CHMA	145	***

ns denotes no statistical significance (i.e.: statistically not different from zero)

** denotes significance at the 5% level

*** denotes significance at the 1% level

Conclusions

In our analysis of case-study data on yields of Valencia oranges from blocks located in two different categories of CHMAs, we found that the number of boxes per acre decreased significantly during 2012/13 and 2013/14. Since there were no extreme weather events such as hurricanes or freezes during those years, we argue that those variables capture mainly the increasing negative impact of HLB on yields. We also found that yield of blocks located in a “best” class CHMA were significantly higher compared to those located in a “moderate” class CHMA. Moreover, such partial offsetting effect of “best” class CHMAs against the negative impact of HLB on yields is increasing over time. These findings provide evidence on the effectiveness of “best” class CHMAs as a way to deal with HLB.

To obtain a measure of the differential economic benefit of “best” over “moderate” class CHMAs, we simply need to multiply the differential annual yield obtained above by the corresponding price per box. Thus, we combine 83 (145) boxes per acre with the annual average on-tree price per box for processed Valencias in 2012/13 (2013/14), which was \$8.60 (\$8.40) (USDA-NASS, 2015). By doing so, we obtain an estimated differential gross economic benefit per acre of \$714 (\$1,218) in 2012/13 (2013/14). Thus, providing evidence that CHMAs can contribute to enhance the individual grower’s profitability at a time when margins are becoming increasingly narrow.

References:

USDA-NASS. 2015. Quick Statistics.



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A Brief Introduction to the New Citrus Rootstock Selection Guide Online!



by Steve Rogers

More than 20 different factors can be involved in making a citrus rootstock selection. This includes horticultural, site, pest and disease factors. With 45 rootstock options, how do you narrow down your choices to the best candidates? One way to make more sense out of the possibilities is to use a guide. You want to **arrive at a decision** by focusing on your specific site, then take into consideration the performance of your trees on a particular rootstock at that site.

We'd like to introduce you to a new online version of the **Florida Citrus Rootstock Selection Guide** to help you do just that. This online guide is an interactive version of the University of Florida IFAS **EDIS edition** you might already know about. Here's the link:

frootstockselectionguide.org

This site (Fig. 1) has new tools to help you quickly research established as well as recently released citrus rootstocks. Its features include 1) a sortable table of rootstocks and associated ratings, 2) quick links to rootstock literature and more. Table 1 provides a brief outline of the site's other features. Check the site every so often to stay up to date with the latest information and features. And be sure to **let us know what you think**. We want to make this site our central location for new rootstock information and how we can make it better with your feedback!

*Disclaimer: The information in this article is provided "as is". The authors and publisher of this article disclaim any loss or liability, either directly or indirectly as a consequence of applying the information presented, or in regard to the use and application of any of this information, in whole or in part, for any purpose whatsoever. No guarantee is given, either expressed or implied, in regard to the merchantability, accuracy, or acceptability of the information. Dr. Steven Rogers is a well-known **innovator of digital technologies** in citrus. Thanks to Drs. Bill Castle and Steve Futch at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center for contributions to this post.*

Table 1
Features of the Online Rootstock Selection Guide

1. Key to Symbols: Contains definitions of symbols and explanations of abbreviations.
2. Color Code. Organizes rootstocks by commercial status and release date.
3. Literature Search. Type search terms about rootstocks to show publications, presentations and papers.
4. Print hard copy. Prints complete table on a paper size of your choice. Optimized for 11 x 14 but can print the complete table as small as 8.5 x 11.
5. Selective columns. Show or hide columns to help make comparisons across rootstocks easier.
6. Rootstock ratings. Rootstock-specific ratings for 45 different established and recently-released rootstocks.
7. Info box. Click the [+] sign to open a small drop-down info box containing notes about rootstocks that would not fit into the table.
8. Quick search. Click on a rootstock name to go directly to the list of references about that rootstock.

Rootstocks	Year of first avail.	Seed Prep	Tree Size	Spacing	Yield per Tree	Yield per Acre	Juice Quality	Fruit Size	Salinity
Rootstock 1994	1994	G	1.2	8-12	1	100	100	1	G
Rootstock 1994	1994	G	1	8-10	1	100	100	1	PH
Rootstock 1992	1992	G	1.2	8-12	1	100	100	1.5	P
Rootstock 1992	1992	G	1.2	8-12	1.5	1	100	1m	G
Rootstock 1992	1992	G	1.2	8-12	PH	100	10	1.5	PH
Long established		G	1.5	8-12	100	100	100	1	G

Fig. 1. Online Citrus Rootstock Selection Guide. Screen grab of the online version of the Florida Citrus Rootstock Selection Guide, 3rd Edition by William S. Castle, Kim D. Bowman, Jude W. Grosser, Stephen H. Futch and James H. Graham. Circled numbers refer to site features described in Table 1.



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Growers Urged to Support Proposed Amendments

Nine Proposed Amendments to M O 905 •••••

Proposed Amendment # 1: § 905.4– Fruit & 905.5 Variety.

This amendment provides for the inclusion of new varieties and hybrids under the Order. Currently the New Varieties Development & Management Corporation (NVDMC), whose board is composed of citrus growers and handlers and funded by citrus growers, is actively working to identify, acquire and sub-license promising citrus varieties and hybrids for the Florida citrus grower. In order to regulate these new varieties and hybrids, new language must be adopted allowing them to be included under the Order.

The inclusion of new varieties and hybrids is believed, by the Florida citrus industry, to be a necessity to the survival of the Florida citrus industry. Currently the Florida citrus industry is not only funding the development of new varieties and hybrids but has developed a plan to get these new varieties and hybrids in the hands of growers for field testing and hopefully moving to production in a few seasons. There is great anticipation within the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry for these new varieties and hybrids. With new varieties and hybrids, the fresh Florida citrus industry will be posed to supply easy peeling, seedless and great tasting citrus to the consumer and hopefully reverse the decline of the Florida citrus industry.

Proposed Amendment # 2: § 905.9 – Handle or ship.

This amendment provides the authority to regulate intrastate shipments under the Order. Given the increased segmentation of the Florida citrus industry, the high degree of uncertainty caused by citrus canker, citrus greening, declining production and shipments the CAC has determined it may be beneficial in the future for the Florida fresh citrus grower and shipper to incorporate all fresh citrus regulation under the Order.

Proposed Amendment # 3: § 905.14 Redistricting.

This amendment grants flexibility to the CAC in redefining grower districts within the production area when the criteria and relevant factors within the production area warrant redistricting. Disease and natural disasters over the past decade has significantly affected bearing trees (most especially in grapefruit trees), production and fresh shipments within the Florida's production area without an established time frame. The amendment would allow the CAC to base their determination of grower district's on; bearing trees, volume of fresh fruit, the total number of acres of citrus and other relevant factors when conditions warrant.

Proposed Amendment # 4: § 905.2 – Term of office.

This amendment extends the term of office to two years and limits a member to two consecutive two-year terms. The current one-year term of office is administratively inefficient and requires additional committee resources. Two-year terms would allow for biennial nomination meetings, which would aid in administrative efficiencies and stability.

Proposed Amendment # 5: § 905.22 Nominations.

This amendment would allow the CAC to conduct the nomination and or election of members and alternates to the CAC by mail or other means according to rules and regulations recommended by the CAC and approved by the Secretary. Currently, the CAC holds grower nomination meetings in each of the four grower districts and one shipper nomination meeting annually. The five nomination meetings require time, travel and have administrative cost and do not have good participation. Conducting nomination meetings by mail or other means would be cost effective, allow for direct communication and could increase participation and diversity.

As of May 30, 2013, the CAC has the authority (under Section 905.171 Handler supplier.) to require handlers to provide the name and business address of each grower whose fruit was shipped or acquired by the handler during the season. This new authority gives the CAC a complete list of growers of fresh Florida citrus and will allow the CAC to fully implement this proposed amendment.

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continued from page 16

Proposed Amendment # 6: § 905.42 Handler's accounts.

This amendment allows the CAC to increase their reserves up to two fiscal periods' expenses. Currently, the CAC reserves are capped at approximately one half year's fiscal expense, which limits the CAC's flexibility to develop and implement projects requiring advertising, promotion or research without raising the assessment rate during the season. The amendment would provide greater flexibility in the administration of marketing order programs and promote assessment stability.

Proposed Amendment # 7: § 905.52 Issuance of regulations.

This amendment provides for regulating containers and for having different standards, grade and size regulations, within the production area. As with proposed amendment #2 (regulation of intrastate shipments), there is not a plan to utilize this authority, at this time, but to place the authority under the Order so if the CAC determines factors within the industry warrant utilizing this authority for the benefit of the grower and shipper of fresh Florida citrus it will be available to the industry.

Proposed Amendment # 8: § 905.28 Acceptance of membership

This amendment eliminates the need for acceptance statements. Nominees currently complete both background and acceptance statements when they are nominated to serve. The elimination of acceptance statement will reduce paperwork and save administrative cost.

Proposed Amendment # 9: § 905.7 Handlers

This amendment provides for the registration of handlers. The CAC determined registering handlers would be beneficial, as it would enhance the compliance provisions of the Order and increase communication with handlers. This proposed amendment would require the CAC to develop, through informal rulemaking, the type of information the handler would be required to furnish the CAC. An example of the Handler Registration form was presented as an exhibit during the hearing.

Referendum Set

Proposed Amendments to Marketing Order 905

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will conduct a referendum on proposed amendments to the federal marketing order regulating the handling of fresh citrus produced in Florida.

The referendum will be held from Sept. 14 to Oct. 5, 2015, to determine support for the amendments. Ballot material will be mailed to all known citrus growers in Florida. To be eligible to vote, a grower must have produced oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, or tangelos in Florida during the representative period of Aug. 1, 2014, through July 31, 2015.

The proposed amendments submitted by the Citrus Administrative Committee, which administers the order locally, include:

- Authorize the regulation of new varieties and hybrids of citrus fruit;
- Authorize the regulation of intrastate shipments of fruit;
- Revise the process for redistricting the production area;
- Change the term of office and tenure requirements for committee members;
- Authorize mail balloting procedures for committee membership nominations;
- Increase the capacity of financial reserve funds;
- Authorize pack and container requirements for domestic shipments and authorize different regulations for different markets;
- Eliminate the use of separate acceptance statements in the nomination process; and,
- Require handlers to register with the committee.

The proposed amendments would become effective only if approved by either two-thirds of the growers voting in the referendum, or by those representing at least two-thirds of the volume of fresh citrus grown by those voting in the referendum. Authority for federal marketing orders rests in the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

Additional Information will be provided prior to the grower referendum.



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