Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 212
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. AMS–SC–26–2246]

Assessment Exemption for Organic Commodities Under Federal Marketing Orders; Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for a currently used information collection used by marketers to apply for exemption from market promotion assessments under Federal marketing order programs.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 4, 2027.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this notice. Comments can be sent to the Docket Clerk, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237. Comments can also be submitted to the Docket Clerk electronically by email: *MarketingOrderComment@usda.gov* or via the internet at: *https://www.regulations.gov.* Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be included in the record, will be made available to the public, and may be viewed at: *https://www.regulations.gov.* Please be advised that comments are posted to *regulations.gov* without change.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Taylor Johnson, Marketing Specialist, or Matthew Pavone, Chief, Rulemaking Services Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; telephone: (202) 720–8085, or email: *Taylor.Johnson3@usda.gov* or *Matthew.Pavone@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Organic Handler Market Promotion Assessment Exemption under Federal Marketing Orders.

OMB Number: 0581–0216.

Expiration Date of Approval: April 30, 2027.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674) (the Act), to provide respondents the type of service they request and to administer several Federal marketing orders. Marketing order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high-quality product and adequate returns to producers. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee marketing order operations and issue regulations recommended by a board or committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the Act, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the marketing order programs. Under the Act, marketing orders may authorize: production and marketing research, including paid advertising; volume regulation; reserves, including pools and producer allotments; container requirements; and quality control. Assessments are levied on handlers regulated under the marketing orders.

On May 13, 2002, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (7 U.S.C. 7901) amended the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7201), exempting any person who handles or markets solely 100 percent organic products from paying these assessments with respect to any agricultural commodity that is produced on a certified organic farm, as defined in the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502). A certified organic handler can apply for this exemption by completing a ''Certified Organic Handler Application for Exemption from Market Promotion Assessments Paid Under Federal Marketing Orders,'' and submitting it to the applicable marketing order board or committee.

Section 900.700 (7 CFR part 900) provides for exemption from assessments. This notice applies to the following marketing orders: 7 CFR parts 906 (Texas citrus), 915 (Florida avocados), 923 (Washington cherries), 925 (California desert grapes), 927 (Oregon/Washington Pears), 930 (Tart cherries grown in seven states), 932 (California olives), 948 (Colorado potatoes), 955 (Vidalia onions), 956 (Walla Walla onions), 958 (Idaho/Oregon onions), 959 (South Texas onions), 966 (Florida tomatoes), 981 (California almonds), 982 (Oregon/Washington hazelnuts), 984 (California walnuts); 985 (Northwest spearmint oil), 986 (Pecans grown in 15 states), 987 (California dates), 989 (California raisins), and 993 (California dried prunes). Currently, handling requirements for Marketing Order 993 (California dried prunes) are suspended at the industry's request until July 30, 2030 (89 FR 13587). While its reporting requirements are suspended and currently inactive, it is included in this renewal period of this information collection package until the industry decides whether to proceed with marketing order termination in 2030.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including the AMS Specialty Crops Program's regional and headquarters' staff, and authorized employees of the boards or committees. Authorized board or committee employees are the primary users of the information and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.25 hours per response.

Respondents: Eligible certified organic handlers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 210.

Estimated Total of Annual Responses: 210.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 52.5 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Erin Morris,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–22467 Filed 11–3–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–26–1255]

Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida; Continuance Referendum; Extension of Voting Period

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Referendum order; amendment to referendum order.

SUMMARY: This document extends the voting period for the referendum being conducted among eligible Florida citrus producers to determine whether they favor continuance of the marketing order regulating the handling of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and pummelos produced in Florida. The voting period was originally set to close November 9, 2026, and is now being extended through December 1, 2026.

DATES: The voting period for the referendum will be extended from November 9 through December 1, 2026. Only current Florida citrus producers within the production area that produced oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, or pummelos for the fresh market during the period of August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026, are eligible to vote in this referendum. Ballots delivered to AMS via U.S. mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 1, 2026, to be included in the vote tabulation.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marketing order may be obtained from the office of the referendum agents at the Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324–3375; or from the Docket Clerk, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; telephone (202) 720–8085; or on the internet: *https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-905.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Geller, Marketing Specialist, or Christian D. Nissen, Branch Chief, Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 1st Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324–3375; or email: *Rebecca.Geller@usda.gov* or *Christian.Nissen@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Marketing Order No. 905, as amended (7 CFR part 905; the Order), and the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674) (the Act), it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the Order is favored by fresh citrus producers. The referendum voting period started October 19 and will run through December 1, 2026, among Florida fresh citrus producers in the Order's production area. Only current Florida citrus producers engaged in the production of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, or pummelos for the fresh market during the period of August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026, may participate in the continuance referendum.

A referendum order was published in the **Federal Register** on September 18, 2026 (91 FR 59101). The referendum order specified that the voting period would be from October 19 through November 9, 2026. USDA has received requests from industry organizations to extend the voting period for the referendum, citing the significant production, recovery, and business challenges currently facing Florida citrus producers and the need for additional time to ensure informed participation in the referendum process. To facilitate full producer participation in the referendum, USDA is extending the voting period from November 9 through December 1, 2026. During this time, USDA will continue to mail ballots to eligible voters who request a ballot. All ballots received from October 19 through December 1, 2026, will be accepted. Voters who have already submitted a ballot do not need to take further action.

USDA has determined that continuance referenda are an effective means for determining whether producers favor the continuation of marketing order programs. In accordance with § 905.83(c), USDA must conduct a referendum every six years. USDA would consider termination of the Order if less than two-thirds of the producers voting in the referendum, and less than two-thirds of the citrus volume represented in the referendum, vote in favor of continuance. In evaluating the merits of continuance versus termination, USDA will not exclusively consider the results of the continuance referendum. USDA will also consider all other relevant information concerning the operation of the Order and relative benefits and costs to producers, handlers, and consumers to determine whether continued operation of the Order would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the ballot materials used in the referendum have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB No. 0581–0189, Fruit Crops. It has been estimated it will take an average of 20 minutes for each of the approximately 200 citrus producers to cast a ballot. Participation is voluntary. Ballots delivered to AMS via U.S. mail or electronic ballot must show proof of delivery by no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 1, 2026, to be included in the vote tabulation.

Delaney Fuhrmeister, Rebecca Geller, Steven Kauffman, Christian Nissen, and Jennie Varela of the Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, are hereby designated as the referendum agents of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct this referendum. The procedure applicable to the referendum shall be the ''Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection with Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended'' (7 CFR part 900.400 *et seq.*).

Ballots and voting instructions will be sent by U.S. mail or through electronic mail to all Florida citrus producers of record and may also be obtained from the referendum agents or their appointees.