

# Citrus Administrative Committee

P. O. Box 24508 - Lakeland, FL 33802-4508

863-682-3103 phone – 863683-9563 fax

March 25, 2009

## Grower Referendum & Nomination Meetings

To: All Members and Alternates of the CAC

From: Duke Chadwell, Manager

### Grower Referendum Information

On December 24, 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture's recommended decision on the four proposed amendments to Marketing Order No. 905 (CAC) was published in the Federal Register. The notice outlined the four proposed amendments, established a thirty day period for written exceptions on the proposed amendments and required a grower referendum be conducted before any of the proposals are implemented. The USDA is in the process of preparing the ballots for the grower referendum, which is scheduled for May 4 – May 18, 2009. The only growers that will be eligible to vote in the upcoming referendum are growers that supplied Florida citrus to the fresh market during the 2007-08 season. Also, the threshold for approval, by the Secretary of Agriculture, is a combination of 2/3 of the growers voting and 2/3 of the volume voted in the referendum.

The proposed amendments are:

Proposal 1 would amend the order by reducing the required number of cooperative producer and cooperative handler seats on the committee from three to two each.

Proposal 2 would amend the order by allowing members who are unable to attend committee meetings to designate available alternates to represent them if their own alternates are also unavailable in order to achieve a quorum.

Proposal 3 would amend the order by adding authority to conduct committee meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

Proposal 4 would amend the order by adding authority to establish research and promotional programs. If this authority is implemented, the committee would be able to address the specific needs of the Florida fresh citrus industry by recommending, conducting, and funding research projects and promotional programs, including paid advertising, that focus on the production, handling and marketing of fresh citrus. **Note:** this is the authority not a requirement to begin using these provisions of the order.

I am in the process of publicizing the upcoming referendum and please contact me if you have questions concerning the upcoming referendum.

### 2009-2010 Nomination Meeting Information

The CAC grower nomination meetings are coming up in April and May. The grower nomination meetings will be conducted differently this season. In the past, the CAC has held our grower nomination meetings in conjunction with Florida Citrus Mutual's election of their board of directors. Beginning this season, Mutual has combined their area meetings and board of directors meetings into four evening meetings for their membership. Therefore, the CAC will hold our four district grower nominations on different days and maybe, in some districts, in different places. I am working to combine our grower nomination meetings with other grower functions. So far two grower district nomination meetings have been scheduled. The District 4 nomination meeting will be held in Sebring at the Highlands County Agricultural

Center following the Highlands County Grower Forum on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. The District 3 (River) grower nomination meeting will follow the April or May Indian River Citrus League Meeting in Vero Beach. District 1 and District 2 grower nomination meetings most likely will be held in May in conjunction with IFAS grower meetings in Tavares and Lake Alfred or Bartow, I will keep you informed. Bobby Sexton & Steve Cassens are the only two grower members not eligible to serve as grower members next season but are eligible to serve as alternates.

The shipper nomination process for the 2009-2010 season will be the same as in the previous seasons. Ballots will be mailed to all shippers of record after the slates have been completed. The nomination meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Florida Department of Citrus in Lakeland. George Hamner, Jr. and Steven Callaham are the only shipper members not eligible to serve as shipper members next season but are eligible to serve as alternates.

If you have any questions about the 2009-2010 nomination meetings, please contact me.