

Citrus Administrative Committee

Grower Nomination Meeting

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

District 4

Highlands County Ag Center - Sebring – 9:30 a.m.

◆ Grower sign in sheets enclosed: Each grower may sign in as

1. Owner
2. Trust
3. Corporation
4. Partnership

Therefore, a grower may be entitled to sign in more than once if they have the authorization. We do not check authorization unless the nomination is contested. At that point the person must prove their authorization to vote for the entity they signed up and cast a ballot.

◆ An agenda for the nomination meeting is enclosed

◆ A chairman's agenda is enclosed (gold paper)

◆ Have Chairman and Secretary of Nomination Meeting sign the Nomination Ballot and include their address. I will type in the Grower and Grower Alternates information. (noted with pink tab)

◆ Give the Grower Member and Grower Member Alternate the Confidential Background Statement and Accept Form to complete and mail in to the USDA in enclosed envelope.

Call me at 863-670-0278 (cell phone) if you have questions.

Citrus Administrative Committee

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

MARCH 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITRUS ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE SEEKS TO INCREASE DIVERSITY

LAKELAND – The Citrus Administrative Committee, which administers Florida’s fresh citrus marketing order, is trying to get women, minorities and persons with disabilities to participate in its nomination process this spring.

It acknowledges it has a tough job, because members of the committee, except the public member and alternate, must be fresh citrus growers or work for fresh citrus shippers. There is little diversity among growers and packinghouse personnel in the Florida citrus industry.

An U.S. Department of Agriculture official last year withheld approval of the committee’s nominees for several months because the committee lacked diversity. The official urged the committee to make greater efforts to increase the participation of women, minorities and people with disabilities in the nominating process.

The Citrus Administrative Committee sets minimum grades and size standards for Florida citrus that is shipped interstate and exported to assure an orderly market for the fruit. It is overseen by the USDA, which must approve the nominees for committee membership. The committee has nine grower members and eight shipper members, and there is an alternate for each of those positions.

Despite the difficulty in creating diversity on the committee, its manager, Duke Chadwell, said the committee has a woman grower and a grower alternate with a disability currently on the committee. “We’re working within the citrus industry to increase diversity on the committee,” he said.

Lindsay Raley, a grower and Chairman of the Citrus Administrative Committee for the 2008-09 season, said while it’s tough to find the kind of people the USDA wants to be nominated, the committee, will attempt do so. “We are working within the industry to find them, identify them and mentor them,” he said.

Chadwell and Raley are urging any interested and qualified women, minorities or persons with disabilities to call Chadwell at (863) 682-3103. The fax number is (863) 683-9563, and the email address is Duke@citrusadministrativecommittee.org.

Nomination meetings for grower members of the committee will be held in April and May and those interested should contact Chadwell prior to that date. Shipper member nominations are scheduled to be held on May 18th and those interested in those positions should contact Chadwell by early May.

Membership on the committee is a volunteer job, but members are paid for their travel to meeting, usually about four times a year.

Chadwell said a woman, minority or disabled person who didn’t feel comfortable serving as a voting committee member could be nominated as an alternate. Alternates are also encouraged to attend meetings and are paid mileage for attending. “Serving as an alternate would be an excellent opportunity for someone to be mentored and learn enough to later become a voting member of the committee,” he said. As part of its effort to identify and recruit more diverse nominees, the Citrus Administrative Committee will produce a poster and display in citrus packinghouses, county extension offices, Farm Bureau offices and citrus industry offices.

For more information, contact Duke Chadwell at (863) 683-3103.

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Who

- **Women, minorities and persons with disabilities** are encouraged to participate in the Citrus Administrative Committee (CAC) nomination process this spring.

For

- The Citrus Administrative Committee (CAC) each year, in the spring, nominates 17 members and alternates to serve on the CAC for a one-year term. Each member must have an alternate to serve in the absence of the member. The committee administers Federal Marketing Order No. 905, which regulates the minimum grade and size of fresh Florida citrus fruit shipments to interstate and export markets.

When

- The grower nomination meetings will be held in Tavares, Lake Wales, Sebring and Vero Beach. A schedule of these nomination meetings is available at the CAC Website.
- The shipper nomination meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. in the lobby of the Florida Department of Citrus, Lakeland, Florida.

Eligibility

Grower Members/Alternates

1. Grower members/alternates must produce citrus fruit in the District they are nominated to represent. The citrus fruit the grower produces does not have to be sold for utilization in the fresh market.
2. If the grower member is a member of a grower-owned cooperative, his or hers alternate must also be a member of a grower-owned cooperative.
3. There are nine grower members/alternates nominated each year and they each serve a one-year term.

Shipper Members/Alternates

1. To be eligible to serve as a shipper member/alternate the person must own or work for a shipper of fresh Florida citrus fruit.
2. If the shipper member is a member of a cooperative, his or her alternate must also be a member of a cooperative.
3. There are five independent shipper members/alternates and three cooperative shipper members/alternates nominated to serve one-year terms.

Selection of Members/Alternates

- After the Florida citrus industry nominates grower and shipper members/alternates to the CAC, the Secretary of Agriculture appoints the nominees to serve on the CAC for a one-year term. Each member can serve three consecutive one-year terms.

For Additional Information Contact

Duke Chadwell, Manager, Citrus Administrative Committee
Telephone 863-682-3103 or Duke@citrusadministrativecommittee.org