

Citrus Administrative Committee

APRIL 15, 2004

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.

Daryl Jacobs, a grower and Chairman of the Citrus Administrative Committee for the 2003-2004 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 Jacobs 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 on May 13, and those interested should contact Chadwell prior to that date. Shipper member nominations are scheduled to be held on May 19 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.

U S D A Encourages Diversity

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 are held in conjunction with the Florida Citrus Mutual Director Elections on Thursday, May 13, 2004.
- The shipper nomination meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. at the Florida Department of Citrus located at 1115 East Memorial Blvd., 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

Citrus Administrative Committee

Notice of Shipper Nomination Meetings

April 27, 2004

To: Shippers of Fresh Florida Citrus Fruit

The independent and cooperative shipper nomination meetings for the Citrus Administrative Committee (Committee) has been scheduled for:

8:45 a.m., Wednesday, May 19, 2004

in the lobby meeting room at the Florida Department of Citrus, 1115 E. Memorial Blvd., Lakeland, Florida.

At the shipper nomination meeting there will be separate elections for cooperative members and independent members. Marketing Order No. 905 requires that at least 3 shipper members and their alternates be of cooperative affiliation. The independents nominate 5 shipper members and 5 alternates and the cooperatives nominate 3 members and 3 alternates to serve on the Committee for the upcoming season, which begins on August 1, 2004. Three current members are not eligible to serve as shipper members next season since they are completing their third one-year term. However, they are eligible to serve as alternate shipper members during the upcoming 2004-05 season.

Each shipper's vote at the nomination election will be weighted by the volume of regulated citrus fruit shipped since August 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. Since most shippers vote by proxy ballot, these will be mailed to you on or before May 10, 2004.

For your information, on the reverse side of this notice, is a list of the shipper members and alternates currently serving on the CAC and their eligibility to serve next season. Independent and cooperative shippers should caucus within the next few days to develop a slate of nominees.

Please note the CAC and USDA is seeking eligible women, minorities and people with disabilities to participate in the their marketing order programs. Enclosed is a press release and poster for your review. If you have questions, please contact me at 863-682-3103.

Sincerely,

Arthur B. Chadwell
Manager

(see reverse side)

Citrus Administrative Committee

Shipper Members and Alternates

2003-04 Season

Independent Shipper Members and Alternates

Shipper Member

Eldridge Bedingfield
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

Quentin Roe
W. G. Roe & Sons, Inc.

Greg Nelson
Bernard Egan & Company

S. J. "Buddy" Johnson
Hilliard Groves, Inc.

Jeff Bass
Graves Brothers, Inc.

Alternate Shipper Member

Wayne Maulden
Lake Placid Groves, LLC

Dick Wooley
Heller Brothers Packing Corp.

Rusty Varn
East Coast Packers

Ray Smith
Leroy Smith Packing, Inc.

George Streetman
Hogan & Sons, Inc.

Cooperative Shipper Members and Alternates

Vacant

Vacant

Jim McCranie
Seald Sweet Growers

Bruce McEvoy
Seald Sweet Growers

Helen C. Starr
Indian River Exchange Pkrs

George Hamner, Jr.
Indian River Exchange Pkrs

Note: The above shippers whose name is in **bold print and underlined** are not eligible to serve as members but are eligible to serve as alternates during the 2004-05 season.