COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION REFERENDUM BALLOT

Marketing Order No. 924: Fresh Prunes Grown in
Designated Counties in Washington, and Umatilla County, Oregon

Please read the enclosed VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE before completing this Ballot.

This Referendum is being held to determine producer support for Marketing Order No. 924, regulating the handling of fresh prunes grown in designated counties in Washington, and Umatilla County, Oregon. The Secretary of Agriculture will consider termination of this order if less than two-thirds of those voting and less than two-thirds of the volume represented in the Referendum favor continuance.

A. Do you favor continuance of Marketing Order No. 924, regulating the handling of fresh prunes grown in designated counties in Washington, and Umatilla County, Oregon?

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

B. Contact Name _____ Phone Number _____

Name of Cooperative Association _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total tons of prunes produced for fresh market in the production area by the member producers of this cooperative association during the representative period of _____, 20___ through _____, 20___.	
Total number of producers for which this cooperative association is casting this Ballot.	

C. **I hereby certify that the information I provided on this Ballot is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

_____ _____
Signature* Title

*Your signature certifies that you have the authority to take such action and will submit supplementary evidence of such authority at the request of an agent of the Secretary of Agriculture. The information provided in this Ballot is required to determine voter eligibility and vote of fresh prune producers. Falsification of information on this government document may result in a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both (18 U.S.C. § 1001).

NOTE: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0189. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PRODUCER ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

I. VOTING PERIOD: _____, 20___ through _____, 20___.

II. REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD: _____, 20___ through _____, 20___.

III. PRODUCTION AREA: Counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat in the State of Washington, and all of the counties in Washington lying east thereof, and Umatilla County, Oregon.

IV. PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: Any cooperative association engaged in the marketing of fresh prunes grown in the production area during the representative period. Section 608(c)(12) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 provides, in part, that the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider the approval or disapproval by any cooperative association, bona fide engaged in the marketing of the commodity covered by the subject Marketing Order, as the approval or disapproval of the producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with, such cooperative association. Cooperative associations are defined in the Capper-Volstead Act (7 U.S.C. §§ 291, 292). **Each separate business unit, partnership, LLC, family enterprise, corporation, association, estate, or firm that is a member of the cooperative association is entitled to one vote.**

"Producer" means any individual, partnership, LLC, corporation, association, institution, estate, or other business unit who:

- Owns and farms land resulting in ownership of the prunes produced thereon;
- Rents and farms land resulting in ownership of all or a portion of the prunes produced thereon; or
- Owns land from which, as rental for such land, ownership is obtained of a portion of the prunes produced thereon. (A lien holder, cash landlord, or person having only a financial interest in the prunes crop is not eligible to vote.)

V. HOW TO VOTE:

A. Indicate your vote by placing an "X" in the appropriate box.

B. Print or type the information requested under the eligibility statement. All information must be provided to ensure the validity of the Ballot.

C. Sign below the certification. Incomplete or unsigned Ballots cannot be counted.

Attach to the Ballot a list of fresh prune producers who are currently members of, stockholders in, or under contract with the cooperative association named herein as of the date this Ballot is cast, and who produced prunes for fresh market during the representative period. For each such producer provide the following:

a. Address (street and house number, rural route number, city, state, zip code).
b. Volume of prunes produced for fresh market during the representative period in tons.

Attach to the Ballot a certified copy of the resolution of the Board of Directors authorizing the individual signing this Ballot to cast the Ballot on behalf of the cooperative association.

D. Mail the completed Ballot, producer list, and corporate resolution in the enclosed envelope to:

Referendum Agent
USDA-AMS-F&V-NWMFO
805 SW BROADWAY, SUITE 930
PORTLAND, OR 97205.

Ballots must be postmarked by _____, 20___. For additional information, please call (503) 326-2724.