



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

March 12, 2009

**2009-2010 ASSESSMENT RATE ESTABLISHED FOR THE
CALIFORNIA MELON RESEARCH BOARD**

TO THE PRODUCER OR HANDLER OF CALIFORNIA MELONS ADDRESSED:

Based upon the recommendation of the Melon Research Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture has established assessment rates on all melons (cantaloupes, honeydews, honeyballs, casabas, crenshaws, Persians, Santa Claus, and similar varieties) except watermelons covered by the California Melon Research Program. All melons, delivered by producers to handlers and marketed by handlers during the period March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010, are subject to the following assessment rates:

A total assessment rate of one and one half cents per hundredweight (\$0.015 per cwt.) applicable equally as follows:

\$0.0075 per cwt. on handlers

\$0.0075 per cwt. on producers

Based on the above rates, the Board determined that they would have sufficient funds to carry out research activities and maintain sufficient reserves at the end of the year. Therefore, the assessment rates are the same as last year's total assessment rate of \$0.015 per cwt.

The Melon Research Board will supply monthly assessment report forms to any handler who receives melons from producers. Handlers must pay the total assessment due but are authorized to deduct the producer's assessment from any monies owed to the producer. Any producer who is also a handler shall pay both the producer and the handler assessments.

Persons who produce or market less than 5,000 standard boxes of melons, or the equivalent, during the 2009-2010 marketing season and who pay assessments may apply for a refund of those assessments after February 28, 2010.

A copy of the Order of the Department establishing these assessment rates and copy of the Marketing Order for the Melon Research Program are available from the Marketing Branch upon request. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. J. D. Allen, Manager, Melon Research Advisory Board at (559) 591-0435, or Ms. Janyce Wong at the Marketing Branch at (916) 341-6005.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

