



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

April 11, 2012

**Referendum to Consider the Continuation of the
California Citrus Research Program**

Voting Deadline: May 11, 2012

TO THE CALIFORNIA CITRUS PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), is currently conducting a referendum among citrus producers in the state to determine whether or not the California Citrus Research Program shall continue in operation. This vote is required to occur every five years.

The California Citrus Research Program is a state marketing order that has been in existence since 1968. The Program is authorized to conduct general production research, a variety improvement research program, a quality assurance program on agricultural chemical residues, and pest and disease control activities. These activities are funded by mandatory assessments upon California citrus producers.

Enclosed are a referendum ballot and a postage-paid return envelope. If you would like to participate in this referendum, please complete all applicable sections on the ballot and submit it to CDFA in the envelope provided. Ballots must be postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than **May 11, 2012**.

Each separate legal entity in the state who produced, or caused to be produced for market, 750 or more standard field boxes (40-pound container equivalents) of any variety of citrus during the period of October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 is entitled to receive a ballot for this referendum. If you are entitled to a different number of ballots than you received for this process, please contact this office.

In order for the California Citrus Research Program to continue for another five-year period, the following criteria must be met:

- At least 40 percent of the total number of eligible producers on record must submit valid ballots, *and*
- Of those voting, at least 65 percent of producers who represent at least 51 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation, *or*
- Of those voting, at least 51 percent of producer who represent at least 65 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation.

The results of this referendum will be announced after the voting period has ended and all ballots have been tabulated. All information provided on individual ballots will be kept confidential.

If you have questions regarding this referendum, please contact Joe Monson of this office at (916) 900-5018. For questions concerning the operations of the California Citrus Research Program, please contact Ted Batkin, President of the Citrus Research Board, at (559) 738-0246.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosures

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