

April 5, 2013

<p>CALIFORNIA LEAFY GREENS RESEARCH PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATE FOR THE 2013-2014 MARKETING SEASON</p>

TO THE LEAFY GREENS HANDLER ADDRESSED:

As recommended by the California Leafy Greens Research Board at its annual meeting on March 20, 2013, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has established assessment rates for the 2013-2014 marketing season (April 1, 2013–March 31, 2014) on all California handlers of iceberg lettuce, mixed leaf lettuce, spring mix and spinach. Rates for field-packed cartons, uncored iceberg, cored iceberg, romaine, green leaf, red leaf, butter, spinach and spring mix are unchanged from the prior fiscal year.

Definitions of the California Leafy Greens Research Program are:

1. "Lettuce" means California grown iceberg lettuce.
2. "Mixed Leaf" is comprised of the following California grown lettuce types: romaine, butterhead, green leaf, red leaf lettuce, and any cross-breeds derived from any iceberg and leaf type lettuce.
3. "Spring Mix" means California grown immature iceberg lettuce, mixed leaf lettuces and/or spinach used as ingredients in salad products.
4. "Spinach" means California grown product destined for fresh spinach products including baby spinach, but does not include product frozen, dehydrated, or canned.
5. "Leafy greens" includes California grown lettuce, mixed leaf, spring mix, and spinach as previously defined.

Assessment rates for the 2013-2014 marketing season are:

Field-Packed Cartons: \$0.0065 per carton of iceberg, mixed leaf lettuce and spinach.

Bulk Raw Pounds for Processing:

\$0.0130/cwt uncored iceberg	\$0.0146/cwt cored iceberg	\$0.0171/cwt romaine
\$0.0260/cwt green leaf	\$0.0260/cwt red leaf	\$0.0300/cwt butter
\$0.0300/cwt spinach	\$0.0300/cwt spring mix	



Each California leafy greens handler operating within California during the 2013-2014 marketing season shall remit assessments. The marketing order defines a “handler” as any person engaged within the state of California as a distributor, processor, or shipper of leafy greens and who handles a quantity of 250,000 pounds or more of leafy greens. This definition includes producers who perform any of the functions of distributors, processors or shippers, as defined in the marketing order.

Assessments for the 2013-2014 season will be collected by the fiscal office of the California Leafy Greens Research Board, which will contact you with further details about how to remit payments. Following are some important provisions relating to the application of this assessment.

1. All assessments shall be based on harvested product, as received from the field, either in cartons or as bulk. For reporting purposes, leafy greens harvested in bulk should not be converted to cartons. For auditing purposes, records of harvested pounds, as received from the field, must be maintained for a minimum period of three years following the end of the previous fiscal year.
2. Any handler who pays assessments on less than 250,000 pounds of leafy greens during the 2013-2014 marketing season will be entitled to a reimbursement. In order to obtain such a refund, a qualified handler must file a written request between April 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015, with the fiscal office of the Leafy Greens Research Board, 531-D North Alta Avenue, Dinuba, CA 93618.
3. Handlers are asked to distinguish between cored and uncored bulk iceberg lettuce on their assessment reports. This will ensure the equitable application of the assessment rate for cored and uncored iceberg lettuce by compensating for the weight loss associated with coring.

A copy of the Order of the Department establishing the 2013-2014 assessment rates is available from the program or the Marketing Branch. If you have questions, call Mary Zischke, CEO of the California Leafy Greens Research Board, at (831) 424-3782, or call April Izumi at this office.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch