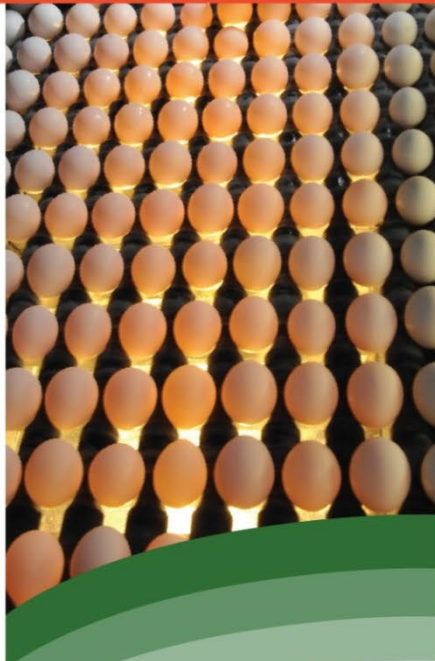




United States Department of Agriculture

# Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses





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Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

## Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

Working in partnership with the fruit and vegetable industry, PACA facilitates fair trade practices through education, mediation, arbitration, licensing and enforcement.

## **PACA provides:**

- ✓ A forum to investigate, mediate, and arbitrate contract disputes;
- ✓ A mechanism for recovering damages when buyers and sellers of produce fail to meet their contractual obligations;
- ✓ Provisions to sanction produce sellers that fail to pay obligations or misrepresent the products they are selling;
- ✓ A mechanism to monitor the activities of PACA violators.

## PACA Highlights - 2020

- ✓ PACA maintained over 13,200 active licensees;
- ✓ PACA renewed 8940 licenses and licensed 875 new entities, bringing these companies into compliance with the Act;
- ✓ PACA assisted 2350 callers with produce transactions valued at over \$66.5 million through calls to the PACA “good delivery” line;
- ✓ PACA suspended the licenses of 88 produce firms and imposed sanctions or employment restrictions for failure to pay more than \$4.1 million for multiple shipments of produce.

## PACA Highlights - 2020

- ✓ PACA opened 1150 new informal reparation complaints involving \$58.8 million and reached settlements totaling over \$55 million;
- ✓ PACA assisted parties in settling approximately 90 percent of informal complaints within four months;
- ✓ PACA updated and enhanced its industry training modules available on the PACA website, migrating the training to the BlackBoard platform.

## ePACA

PACA continued the development of the online ePACA system, including the online portal.

- ✓ In 2020, approximately 2500 industry members used ePACA to apply for or renew their PACA license or file a PACA complaint online;
- ✓ ePACA's "PACA Search" function provides real-time information on a company's PACA license status and complaint history, assisting the industry in making informed business decisions;
- ✓ In July 2020, PACA launched the ePACA mobile app, providing access to PACA search capabilities on mobile devices.

## **PACA ENFORCEMENT**

PACA can only take action after receiving written notice from outside the Division.

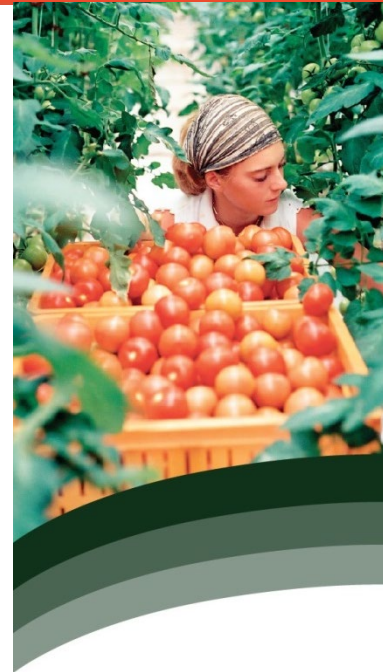
Examples of unfair trade practices include:

- ✓ Fraud
- ✓ False and misleading statements
- ✓ Non-payment
- ✓ Misbranding/mislabeling
- ✓ Employing people who are under employment restrictions

## PACA Priorities

- ✓ To continue to provide the highest level of customer service;
- ✓ To address the needs and concerns of industry stakeholders;
- ✓ To expand PACA's presence in the industry through outreach efforts;
- ✓ To maintain an emphasis on PACA licensing, ensuring compliance with the law.





## Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

(PACA)

*1-800-495-7222*

*[www.ams.usda.gov/paca](http://www.ams.usda.gov/paca)*