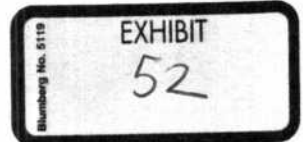


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OMB No. XXXX-XXXX

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM



CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT  
AMERICAN PECAN COUNCIL (M.O. 986)

The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) needs the following information to determine whether you are qualified under Marketing Order No. 986 to serve on the American Pecan Council (Council). Statutory authority to collect this information is provided in 7 U.S.C. 608. Failure to provide this information may hinder your selection by the Secretary.

TERM:		POSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	
REGION.: <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern <input type="checkbox"/> Central <input type="checkbox"/> Western		SERVED PREVIOUSLY: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	CERTIFIED ORGANIC: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
MEMBERSHIP: <input type="checkbox"/> Grower <input type="checkbox"/> Sheller <input type="checkbox"/> Accumulator			
1. Name (Please Print):		2. Tel. No. (Include Area Code):	3. Fax No. (Include Area code):
4. Business Address (Street, City, County, State and ZIP Code):			
4b. E-Mail Address:			
5. Years Growing Pecans (If Grower):		5a. Last Season's Crop: Acres _____ Total Inshell Production _____	
6.. Years Handling Pecans (If Sheller or Accumulator):		6b. Approximate Volume Handled ( inshell):	
7. Firm Name (If Sheller or Accumulator if other than a sole proprietorship)			
8. Membership in Industry Organizations:			
9. Offices held or any other particular activity in past few years connected with industry programs:			
10. This information is voluntary and data will not be used to grant preferential treatment			
What is your gender? ___ Male ___ Female		Ethnicity: ___ Hispanic or Latino ___ Not Hispanic or Latino	What is your race? (Mark all that apply) ___ American Indian or Alaska Native ___ Asian ___ Black or African American ___ Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander ___ White
Do you have a disability? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			

*If selected, I accept the appointment and agree to serve during the period for which I am appointed and until my successor has been selected and qualified. I also agree that I will carry out assigned duties in administering the terms and provisions of the marketing order to the best of my ability. When acting in my official capacity as a Council representative, I shall engage in only those activities that are authorized under the marketing order.*

Council members, in their official capacities, are prohibited from taking any action specifically designed to influence legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion concerning legislation. Council members may not communicate with any official of a State or Federal legislative body for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation. Council members are also prohibited from attempting to influence State or Federal government actions or policies or those of foreign governments, except as specifically authorized under the marketing order or expressly approved by the Secretary. Council members are specifically precluded from authorizing the expenditure of marketing order funds for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation or government actions. These same prohibitions apply to Council managers, staff, and contractors, except that Council managers may consult with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees during the pendency of informal rulemaking actions.

If Council members or Council employees are sued individually or jointly for errors in judgment, mistakes or other acts either of omission or commission (except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence) in the conduct of their duties under the marketing agreement or order, they may be authorized legal defense by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Alternatively, legal defense may be provided through private counsel, if recommended by USDA and approved by DOJ. USDA and DOJ enjoy an excellent working relationship with respect to providing legal representation for Council members and employees, either by DOJ or through authorized private counsel. USDA is committed to comprehensive legal defense policy for all Council members and employees acting within the scope of their authorized Council duties and responsibilities.

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(Signature)

(Date)

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.