

**Citrus Administrative Committee  
November 30, 2021  
via Zoom 1:00 p.m.**

**BOARD PARTICIPATION:**

<b>GROWERS</b>					
<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Member / Alternate</b>	<b>Fname</b>	<b>Lname</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Cody	Estes		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Rusty	Banack		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Tom	Hammond		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Greg	Nelson	√	
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Scott	Lambeth	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Griffin	Greene		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Jon	Marone		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Tom	Jerkins		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Lee	Jones	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Sam	Jones		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Ron	Mahan		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	John	Paul	√	
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Ed	Pines		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Anthony	Pascher		√
Cooperative	<i>Member</i>	Larry	Black		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Jeff	Hancock	√	
Cooperative	<i>Member</i>	Lindsay	Raley, Jr.		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Ellis	Hunt		√

<b>SHIPPERS</b>					
<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Member/ Alternate</b>	<b>Fname</b>	<b>Lname</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Melanie	Ressler	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Jon	Arost		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Doug	Feek	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Jordan	Feek		√
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Russell	Gravlee		√
	<i>Alternate</i>				
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Rusty	Varn		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	George	Hamner	√	
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Dan	Richey		√
	<i>Alternate</i>	Tom	Mitchell	√	
Independent	<i>Member</i>	Alex	Heller	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Gee	Roe	√	
Cooperative	<i>Member</i>	Daniel	Hunt	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Frank	Hunt, III		√
Cooperative	<i>Member</i>	Steven	Callaham	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>	Al	Finch		√
Public	<i>Member</i>	Duke	Chadwell	√	
	<i>Alternate</i>				

Greg Nelson seated for Tom Hammond  
 John Paul seated for Ron Mahan  
 Jeff Hancock seated for Larry Black  
 George Hamner seater for Rusty Varn  
 Tom Mitchell seated for Dan Richey  
 Gee Roe seated for Rus Gravlee

**GUESTS:**

Jennie Varela – USDA

**STAFF:**

Peter Chaires

Chairman Hamner called the meeting to order. The meeting was recorded.

Mr. Chaires conducted a rollcall and announced the attainment of a quorum—15 present, with 6 grower members.

Considering that the Advisable Marketing Policy had been previously mailed to the Committee, Mr. Chaires read the following information into the record:

The USDA/NASS October 12<sup>th</sup> report shows total orange, grapefruit and tangerine/tangelo production in the United States to be 123.75 million boxes or about 15% less than the USDA's reported USA citrus production of 146.3 million boxes for the 2020-21 season. Florida's 2020-21 total citrus production was 57.79 million boxes. The 2021-22 USDA Forecast for Florida oranges, grapefruit and specialty is 50.89 million boxes, representing a potential 12% decrease (following a 14.8% decrease from the year before).

Mr. Chaires informed the Committee that the final version of the Advisable Marketing Policy is substantially the same as the one sent to the Committee, just reordered in some areas.

Mr. Callahan made a motion, second by Mr. Lambeth, to accept the 2021-22 Advisable Marketing Policy supplied by Mr. Chaires. Motion passed.

Chairman Hamner introduced the subject of Pummelo under the Order. Mr. Chaires supplied the Committee members a summary of the issue with the meeting notice, for those less familiar with the situation. Essentially, Pummelo are included in the Order to accommodate the use of Pummelo in grapefruit breeding. Breeders are back-crossing with grapefruit to tap into the genetic diversity. Some progeny of this work is hoped to be grapefruit-like and others more resembling a pummelo.

Chairman Hamner asked Ms. Varela to summarize the options. Ms. Varela offered the following:

- Section 80 of the Order empowers the Committee to grant exceptions.
- The Committee must decide if it wants to offer an exemption from certain requirements of the Order, or remove Pummelo from the Order entirely.
- Removal would require formal rulemaking. An exemption can be accomplished informally.

Mr. Gee Roe questioned whether it makes sense to change the definition of what is considered a grapefruit. This would not necessarily involve a change to the federal standard of identity, but rather could be accomplished in the Order and mirrored in state rule.

Ms. Ressler questioned how much Pummelo is being produced in the state. Mr. Gee Roe replied, that counting all sources, probably 100k boxes.

Ms. Varela informed the Committee that, based on what she had heard, the argument could be made that low volume, no market impact on existing regulated varieties, the lack of inspection services, and a small niche market, there may be a justification for an exemption from reporting and/or assessments.

Mr. Nelson made a motion, second by Mr. Paul, that the Committee develop language to seek an exemption from reporting and assessments for Pummelo, using the justification above. Mr. Gee Roe suggested that growers should be the impetus for inclusion under the Order, if it were ever under consideration. Mr. Roe was assured that a comment period would certainly provide an opportunity for such views to be heard. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.