

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912
PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public hearing for pecan growers set for July 23 - 24

Pecan growers interested in or concerned about a proposed marketing order are encouraged to attend the public hearing scheduled for July 23-24 or contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture directly. The public hearing will allow comment on a proposed marketing order regulating the handling of pecans grown in Oklahoma and 14 other states.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding the hearing on July 23 – 24 with possible continuation on July 25. Each day's session will begin at 8 a.m. in the Azalea Room, Hilton Double Tree, 1981 North Central Expressway, Richardson, Texas 75080.

A request for public hearing on the proposed program was submitted to U.S.D.A. by the American Pecan Board. The proposal would authorize data collection, research and promotion activities and grade, size, quality, pack and container regulation. If implemented, an administrative council of 17 grower and handler industry representatives, including designated representation for small businesses, would be established. The program would be financed with assessments collected from handlers of pecans grown within the proposed production area.

According to the request, the proposed program would increase demand, stabilize grower prices, create sustainable handler margins, and provide a consistent supply of quality pecans for consumers. The full text can be found at www.federalregister.gov by searching for Order No. 986.

Oklahoma's pecan production in 2014 totaled 33 million pounds and was valued at more than \$20 million.

For more information, contact Melissa Schmaedick, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Rulemaking Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 1035, Moab, Utah 84532 or phone (202) 557-4783. An alternate contact is Michelle Sharrow, U.S.D.A. Marketing Order and Agreement Division at (202) 720-2491.

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Photo caption: Pecan shelling equipment is used to process part of Oklahoma's crop worth more than \$20 million in 2014.

