

**RULES
OF
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COMMISSION FOR VEGETABLES**

**CHAPTER
MARKETING ORDER FOR VEGETABLES**

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-01 Product Affected.

Bell pepper, specialty pepper, beans, broccoli, beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cucumber, egg plant, greens, squash, sweet potato, and tomato produced for sale on the fresh market.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-02 Area of Production Affected.

The entire State of Georgia.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-03 Scope of Operation.

- (1) Research
- (2) Promotion
- (3) Education

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-04 Extent of Operation.

The extent of operation under the statutory authority shall be as determined by the Commission within the limitations of the statutory authority. The Commission shall have the right to determine the activities of the Commission and the expenditure of funds under any one or all of the areas permitted under statutory authority.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.05 Term of Operation.

The term of operation under this Order shall be for a three year period beginning May 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2018, unless extended as provided by law.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.06 Method of Approval.

- (1) The approval of this order shall be by referendum of the affected producers as authorized and provided by O.C.G.A. 2-8-23 paragraphs (3) and (5).
- (2) The approval shall be determined by the Commission at the close of such referendum period or provided by O.C.G.A. 2-8-23 paragraphs (3) and (5).
- (3) The approval or disapproval of affected producers shall be upon an individual producer basis.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.07 Time for Approval.

In the event the Commission, after a public hearing, determines that a referendum shall be held, a thirty (30) day period shall be set during which time ballots shall be received. The Commission has the authority to declare this order approved upon the results of tabulation revealing the requisite numbers of favorable ballots from producers who produce the requisite percentage.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.08 Affected Producers.

This Order shall apply to all producers of the affected vegetables for sale within and without this state who have fifty (50) acres or more of vegetable production annually. The affected vegetables are bell pepper, specialty pepper, beans, broccoli, beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cucumber, egg plant, greens, squash, sweet potato, and tomato produced for sale on the fresh market.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.09 Method of Finance.

- (1) Projects, undertakings and expenses incurred under this Order shall be financed by an assessment and levy of not more than one (1) cent per marketing unit on all affected vegetables produced in this state for sale on the fresh market. A marketing unit is defined as the following:
 - (a) Bell pepper, specialty pepper, egg plant, cucumber, beans, and squash will be assessed on a unit of one (1) bushel, Reusable Plastic Container (RPC) or equivalent.
 - (b) Tomato will be assessed a unit of a twenty-five (25) pound box, RPC or equivalent.

- (c) Greens will be assessed on a unit of one box or container of greens (1.35 bushel, RPC or equivalent) or if packed in bulk will be assessed on an equivalent basis.
 - (d) Cabbage will be assessed on a unit of one box (approximately 50 lbs) or equivalent
 - (e) Cantaloupes will be assessed on a unit equal to a twelve (12) count box or, if packed in a bin, one (1) bin will be assessed at ten (10) units.
 - (f) Carrots will be assessed on a unit of a fifty (50) pound bag or equivalent.
 - (g) Broccoli will be assessed on a unit of a twenty (20) pound box, RPC or equivalent.
 - (h) Beets will be assessed on a unit of a fifty (50) pound box or equivalent.
 - (i) Sweet potato will be assessed on a unit of a forty (40) pound box or equivalent.
- (2) The assessment and levy shall be against the affected producers of affected vegetables. Upon approval of the requisite number of affected producers and effective as of May 1, 2015, and ending April 30, 2018 a levy assessment of one (1) cent per marketing unit is hereby made. Such levy shall continue of force and effect until this Order is suspended, extended, or expires.
- (3) To the end that the Commission shall have such funds to defray expenses pending the collection of such funds under the levy and assessment herein provided, the Commission shall be authorized to borrow money and hypothecate anticipated collections as authorized by O.C.G.A. 2-8-27(d).

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.10 Method of Collection.

- (1) The levy and assessment provided by this Order shall be collected from affected producers. As an aid in such collection, buyers, handlers, distributors, sales agents, and processors shall deduct the amount of such levy and assessment from each payment made to the affected producer and they shall remit the same to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the account of the producer. The first handler will collect and remit the one cent (1) per marketing unit assessment on all affected vegetables purchased from affected producers.
- (2) The Commissioner is authorized in the collection of funds to adopt and utilize a reporting and auditing method of collecting the levy and assessment provided herein.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.11 Administration and Enforcement.

The Commissioner of Agriculture shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Order, particularly as to the collection of levies and assessments.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.12 Expenditure of Funds.

The Commission is hereby authorized to expend funds of the Commission as it deems necessary to defray the costs and expenses incurred under this Order. The Commission is further authorized to expend funds to defray the actual costs and expenses of the Commission, including employees, special committees, advisory boards and individuals to aid, advise and assist the Commission in the performance of its duties.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.13 Contracts.

The Commission may enter into contracts as it deems necessary and advisable in the performance of its duties under the provisions of this Order, for the performance of duties and services, as the Commission shall deem necessary and proper.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.

-.14 Records.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of each affected person to keep adequate records that show the true amount of vegetables produced, sold, or purchased by him, and to make such records available for inspection and audit by the Commissioner.

Authority O.C.G.A. 2-8-1 et seq.