UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE


Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 500 3rd Street NW Winter Haven, Florida 33881

The above-captioned rulemaking hearing was held pursuant to notice at 9:00 a.m.

BEFORE:
JILL CLIFTON, Administrative Law Judge US Department of Agriculture South Building Room 1031 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9203
(202) 720-4443; (202) 720-9776

PRESENT:
ON BEHALF OF THE USDA:
MR. BRIAN HILL
MR. MARC McFETRIDGE
MS. MELISSA SCHMAEDICK
MS. MICHELLE SHARROW
MS. JENNIE VARELA
MS. KATHLEEN BRIGHT
MR. COREY ELLIOTT
MR. CHRISTIAN NISSEN
MS. DOLORES LOWENSTINE
ON BEHALF FLORIDA CITRUS:

MR. ARTHUR B. CHADWELL
MR. GEORGE F. HAMNER
MR. PETER CHAIRES

DR. FRED GMITTER, JR.

OTHER APPEARANCES:

MR. PAUL GENKE
MR. EMERY SMITH
MR. LINDSAY RALEY
MR. SCOTT McCLURE
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433


P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
(9:00 a.m.)

JUDGE CLIFTON: This record is being made in Winter Haven, Florida on April 24, a Wednesday, 2013. My name is Jill Clifton, I'm a United States Administrative Law Judge and I'm here to conduct the rulemaking hearing. What that means is I'm the monitor to keep everyone's opportunity to present evidence, open so that we have a full record, and then after the hearing, to certify what the evidence is. There are two kinds: testimony and exhibits.

If you have an exhibit and you want it marked as part of the evidence, it being admitted as an exhibit makes it evidence. Many people want also to read their exhibit so that, if someone is searching the transcript of the hearing, the same ideas are there as well in the exhibit. It's perfectly fine to have your evidence presented both those ways, both as a written copy that is
marked and accepted as an exhibit, and as something that you read aloud so that it would be in the transcript.

I want to cover a few housekeeping things before $I$ have you introduce yourselves. And when I have you introduce yourselves, I'd like you to spell your name. Now, there will be some redundancy here because when you come to testify, I'd like you to say who you are and spell your name again. But I'd much rather have it done too often than not often enough. And as you can imagine, typing the transcript from this town meeting atmosphere is somewhat difficult, because each time the speaker needs to be identified.

All right. So, the first thing I'd like to do is read into the record the heading caption and docket numbers. United States Department of Agriculture, Before the Secretary of Agriculture, in re: Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos (Citrus) Grown in Florida, AMAA, Docket Nos. A0-13-

0163; FV-13-905-1; AMS-FV-12-0069. I did not recite where the hyphens are because the court reporter has the written copy.

When you're citing from your own prepared statement, you may want to put in little punctuation marks, or not, just depending on how you want to clarify what you're presenting.

All right. With regard to this transcript that is being prepared, the original copy, the first copy is a high-priced one under a contract with Neal Gross whereby the first copy is the market price copy, and USDA AMS pays for that. Thereafter, the additional copies are at a very inexpensive rate. And if any of you wants to order a copy, you may do it so long as you order it from the court reporter while we're still here and get the bargain rate.

The bargain rate is about 5 cents a page. And you could order just your own testimony, or just the testimony of a certain Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
witness you wanted, or the whole thing. And if you also want an accompanying DVD or CD, that's $\$ 300$. There's usually a separate one for each day of the hearing. And that's searchable and you can specify what language you want it in such as WordPerfect plus PDF plus Microsoft Word, whatever you want. So, be thinking about whether you want to order any transcript of your own, and if so, let me help you fill out the form so that it's clear that you're getting the USDA contract rate for that because the form itself doesn't provide that.

Now, you've all been warned not to participate in ex parte communication with USDA officials. I want all of the USDA people to identify themselves. You can talk with them about the procedures here, about timing of witnesses, about anything like that. You can talk with them about anything that's of interest, sports, weather, law enforcement, anything like that. What you may not do is
try to influence them in any way as to how their decisions should be made. So, you have to be very careful if you're trying to talk about the marketing order or your experience under it because it just would be perceived that you are trying to influence them.

So, I want now -- oh, before I do this, I like mobile phones, I think you should have yours with you. If you have not yet put it on vibrate or silent, please do that. Sometimes you'll have to take a call and you'll need to go out to do that, but I don't want anyone to feel you're not allowed to use your mobile phone. Just make it so it doesn't interrupt.

All right. I'm a USDA employee, an Administrative Law Judge who is assigned to USDA to do USDA cases. So, every case I hear has USDA involved in some way or another.

I'd like now for the rest of the people in this room who work for the United States Department of Agriculture to locate
near a microphone to identify yourself.
Mr. Hill, would you begin?
MR. HILL: Yes, my name is Brian
Hill,
B-r-i-a-n H-i-l-l. I'm with the Office of the General Counsel and I'm representing the Agricultural Marketing Service.

MR. McFETRIDGE: I am Marc McFetridge, M-a-r-c M-c-F-e-t-r-i-d-g-e. I'm with the Ag Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Promotion and Economic Division.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: My name is Melissa Schmaedick, M-e-l-i-s-s-a, Schmaedick, s-c-h-m-a-e-d-i-c-k. I am with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs. I am a Senior Marketing Specialist.

MS. SHARROW: My name is Michelle Sharrow, Michelle, M-i-c-h-e-l-l-e, Sharrow, S-h-a-r-r-o-w. And I am the Rulemaking Branch Chief with AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

MS. VARELA: My name is Jennie Varela, J-e-n-n-i-e, V-a-r-e-l-a. I am with AMS, Agricultural Marketing Service, representing the Southeast Marketing Field Office.

MS. BRIGHT: I'm Kathleen Bright,
K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n B-r-i-g-h-t. I am also a Senior Marketing Specialist, I am with the Marketing Order and Agreement Division as well.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Are there any other USDA employees here?

MR. ELLIOTT: Yes. Yes, ma'am. My name is Corey Elliott, I'm a USDA Marketing Specialist representing the Southeast Marketing Field Office. Again, Corey Elliott, C-o-r-e-y E-l-l-i-o-t-t.

MR. NISSEN: My name is Christian Nissen, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n N-i-s-s-e-n. I am the Regional Director of the Southeast Marketing Field Office.

MS. LOWENSTINE: I'm Dolores Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Lowenstine, D-o-l-o-r-e-s L-o-w-e-n-s-t-i-n-e. And I'm the Marketing Assistant with the Southeast Marketing Field Office.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Are there any other USDA employees in the room?

All right. Those of you who are normally officed in Washington, DC, please raise your hand. All right. Those of you who are normally in Florida, I think those of you who introduced yourselves last are, and who is seated at this front table is normally here? All right, Ms. Varela. All right. And those of you who are normally officed in Utah, please raise your hand.

And in what locales have you participated in rulemaking hearings, Ms. Schmaedick?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: This is Melissa Schmaedick. I have participated in roughly a dozen rulemaking hearings in Florida, Oregon, Washington, California, and then most recently across the United States for the leafy green
marketing agreement hearings.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Now, part of this, and I'm going to have those who are not USDA employees who are here introduce themselves next, part of this is a practice on where we need to be for these microphones to be effective. So, I'm going to go off record just a moment.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. We're back on record at 9:12. I'd now like to turn to the table of Florida citrus people located to my right and have each of you introduce yourselves similarly.

MR. CHADWELL: My name is Arthur Chadwell, A-r-t-h-u-r C-h-a-d-w-e-l-l. I'm the Manager of the Citrus Administrative Committee.

MR. HAMNER: My name is George Hamner, Jr., G-e-o-r-g-e H-a-m-n-e-r, Jr., Jr. And I'm a grower-shipper here in Florida.

MR. CHAIRES: My name is Peter

Chaires, P-e-t-e-r C-h-a-i-r-e-s. I'm Executive Vice President of Florida Citrus Packers.

DR. GMITTER: My name is Fred Gmitter, Jr. Fred, F-r-e-d, Gmitter, G-m-i-t-t-e-r, Jr. I'm a Professor at the University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Good. And those of you who are not seated at that table but are involved in Florida citrus, would each of you come to the podium and identify yourself and spell your name at this time?

MR. GENKE: My name is Paul Genke, P-a-u-l G-e-n-k-e. And I'm Director of Sales and Marketing for the Packers of Indian River in Vero Beach, Florida.

MR. SMITH: My name is Emery Smith, E-m-e-r-y S-m-i-t-h. I work for Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., a grower-shipper here in Florida.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Would you spell
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your first name again for me?
MR. SMITH: Emery, E-m-e-r-y. JUDGE CLIFTON: E-r-y. I knew that was something I didn't quite catch, thank you.

MR. RALEY: Good morning. My name is Lindsay Raley, L-i-n-d-s-a-y R-a-l-e-y. I'm President and Chairman of the Board of Dundee Citrus Growers Association and Treasurer of the Citrus Administrative Committee. Thank you.

MR. McCLURE: Good morning. I'm Scott McClure, S-c-o-t-t M-c-C-l-u-r-e. I'm the Research and Training Specialist for the Division of Fruit and Vegetables.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hill, I'd like now to turn the meeting over to you for whatever you would like to present at this time.

MR. HILL: It's not much, so don't worry about it. The first thing, first, we'd like to mark some exhibits for addition to the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
record, the first one being the publication of the notice of the hearing in the Federal Register. We can mark that as Exhibit No. 1.
(Whereupon Exhibit No. 1 was marked for identification.)

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes. Now, I'm just going to receive a copy but I'm going to leave all the marking to the USDA team. And so, Mr. Hill, this is just to be marked as EX$1 ?$

MR. HILL: Yes, I believe so.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, EX-1 for Exhibit 1. And all the exhibits, no matter who they come from, will just be in sequential order.

MR. HILL: Right. And the second one I would also like to mark Exhibit No. 2 is a true copy of the notice of hearing to interested persons.
(Whereupon Exhibit No. 2 was marked for identification.)

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, Mr. Hill, there are extra copies of these in the back, is that correct? If someone wants one and didn't get one?

MR. HILL: We could make some. I'm not sure how many copies we have right now. We have ten maybe, well, these we only have five but we can make more copies if need be .

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. Well, there are still some back there. If there is anyone who wants a copy of these and doesn't have it, they're just back there with that wonderful grapefruit juice and orange juice that we have.

MR. HILL: The third exhibit would be the press release.

And the fourth exhibit would be a certificate of officials notified, the Governor of Florida, would be No. 4.

If there is no objection, I'd like Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
these three admitted to the record.
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos.
3 and 4 were marked for identification.)

JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any objection to these four exhibits being admitted into evidence? There is none. Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4 are hereby admitted into evidence.
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 were received into evidence.)

MR. HILL: So, at this point, we'd like to call our first and only witness for now which would be Marc McFetridge.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And if you're seated at one of these two tables closest to me, you're welcome to stay in place to testify. Or if you would prefer, you can come to the witness stand to my left. It's your option.

Mr. McFetridge, please be seated
elsewhere. You went in a seated position. Please raise your right hand. Whereupon,

MARC McFETRIDGE
was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

JUDGE CLIFTON: Please begin by stating and spelling your name.

THE WITNESS: My name is Marc McFetridge, M-a-r-c M-c-F-e-t-r-i-d-g-e.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. Mr.
Hill, you may proceed.
EXAMINATION
BY MR. HILL:
Q Okay. Hello, how are you doing this morning?

A I'm doing well.
Q Very well, good. Okay, let's get right into this then.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, there are
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copies for the rest of us so.
MR. HILL: Right.
BY MR. HILL:
Q We do have the copies of both your testimony and some charts, is that correct?

A That is correct.
MR. HILL: I'm going to let these be handed out very quickly.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. BY MR. HILL:

Q While we're waiting for that, can you just tell us once again, you've already mentioned it, but who do you work for?

A I work for the Ag Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Promotion and Economic Division. I'm an agricultural economist.

Q And how long have you been doing that?

A I have been an economist for over three years now.
Q With the --

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A With USDA, yes.
Q Okay. And right now we're handing out some documents. One is your testimony and the other is some charts that you prepared?

A That is correct.
Q And you did prepare both of these personally?

A Yes.
Q Okay. And in your preparation, you did not prepare them to take a side, is that correct?

A That is correct.
Q And you're not making, there is nothing, you're not making anything off of this, it's not personal for you?

A No, it is not.
Q Okay. If you can go ahead, you can go ahead and start then.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let me know which is which as far as numbers please.

MR. HILL: Let's go ahead and mark the testimony as Exhibit No. 5 if we could,
which would leave the charts as Exhibit No. 6. (Whereupon Exhibit Nos. 5 and 6 were marked for identification.)

BY MR. HILL:
Q And to those, okay, you can begin.
A My name is Marc McFetridge. I've worked for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 2006. I worked for the Marketing Order Administration Division from July 2006 through December 2009. From December 2009 to the present, I've worked with the Promotion and Economic Division as an agricultural economist. And my duties include preparing economic and statistical analyses which are used by government officials to help administer federal programs for Fruits and Vegetable Programs. All this part of my work is related to the Federal Marketing Order issues.

I received a Bachelor's degree in
Agriculture Business Management in 2001 from

Oregon State University, and a Master's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics in 2004 from Oregon State University.

Concerning the various proposed amendments, the Department takes a neutral position. For the hearing on Florida citrus, I've prepared a report titled "US and Florida Citrus Crop Years 2000-01 through 2011-12." The data source is the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS USDA).

The purpose of the report is to introduce US government data and other relevant information into the hearing record.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let me stop you there. Let's go off record.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. We're back on record at 9:23. Thank you, you may resume, Mr. McFetridge.

THE WITNESS: These graphs are intended to be used by all parties involved in the hearing in discussion and analyzing the
merits of the various proposed amendments. In the report, graphs are shown for US. Data for tangelos was only available from Florida, and Florida for oranges, grapefruit, tangelos, tangerines, and mandarins in bearing acres.

The graphs on pages 3 through 6 show the total bearing acres. For oranges, bearing acres reached a high during the 200001 crop year at 818,700 acres for the total US and 605,000 acres for Florida. Since the --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, let me make sure those numbers are right. So, the first number of acres that you said is printed in this transcript at 818,700?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And the second number you said will be printed in the transcript as 605,000?

THE WITNESS: That is correct. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you.

THE WITNESS: Would it be easier Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
for me just to read out the numbers instead of trying to --

JUDGE CLIFTON: No, you did fine. It's just that it's tricky when you hear it, trying to figure out how to type it. So, just if you need to clarify as you go on or expand on what you say, you may, and you do not have to stick exactly to the script.

THE WITNESS: All right. Since
the 2000-01 crop year, bearing acres for oranges have decreased 24 percent and 28 percent for the total US and Florida, respectively. For grapefruit, bearing acres reached a high for the 2000-01 crop year at 145,200 acres for the total US, and 107,800 acres for Florida. Since the 2000-01 crop year, bearing acres for grapefruit have decreased 49 percent and 58 percent for the total US and Florida, respectively. For tangelos, bearing acres reached a high for the 2000-01 crop year at 10,800 acres for Florida. Note NASS, the National Agricultural Statistic

Service, publishes data only for Florida on tangelos, so no data for total US will be available.

Since the 2000-01 crop year, bearing acres for tangelos have decreased 62 percent. For tangerines and mandarins, bearing acres reached a high for the 2011-12 crop year at 52,600 acres for the total US, and reached a high for Florida at 25,500 acres during the 2000-01 crop year. Note, NASS published aggregated data combining tangerines and mandarins. Since the 2000-01 crop year, bearing acres for tangerines and mandarins have increased 32 percent for the total US but has decreased 53 percent for Florida.

Average yield. The graphs on pages 7 through 10 show the average yield. For oranges, the average yield reached a high during the 2003-04 crop year at 382 and 428 boxes per acre for the total US and Florida, respectively. The net pounds per box for oranges in California is 80, for Florida it's

90, Texas 85; grapefruit in California is 80, Florida it's 85, Texas 80; tangerines, mandarins in Arizona and California is 80, and Florida is 95 . That is the definition of how boxes is represented from NASS.

The ten-year average yield for oranges for the total US is 325 boxes per acre, and 338 boxes per acre for Florida. For grapefruit, the average yield reached a high during the 2006-07 crop year for total US at 463 boxes per acre, and Florida reached a high during the 2003-04 crop year at 497 boxes per acre. The ten-year average yield for grapefruit for the total US is 398 boxes per acre, and 412 boxes per acre for Florida. For tangelos, the average yield reached a high during the 2007-08 crop year at 288 boxes per acre.

The ten-year average yield for tangelos is 211 boxes per acre. For tangerines and mandarins, the average yield reached a high during the 2010-11 crop year at Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

322 and 363 boxes per acre for the total US and Florida, respectively. The ten-year average yield for tangerines and mandarins for the total US is 265 boxes per acre and 298 boxes per acre for Florida.

Total utilized production. The graphs on pages 11 through 14 show the total utilized production. Utilized production is defined as amount of crops sold plus the quantity used at home or held in storage represents utilized production. For oranges, the total utilized production reached a high during the 2003-04 crop year at 295 million boxes and 242 million boxes for the total US and Florida, respectively.

Since the 2000-01 crop year, total utilized production for oranges has decreased 27 percent and 34 percent for the total US and Florida, respectively. For grapefruit, the total US utilized production reached a high during the 2000-01 crop year at 59.8 million boxes, and Florida reached a high during the

2001-02 crop year at 46.7 million boxes. Since the 2000-01 crop year, total utilized production for grapefruit has decreased 53 percent and 59 percent for the total US and Florida, respectively.

For tangelos, the total utilized production reached a high during the 2002-03 crop year at 2.4 million boxes. Since the 2000-01 crop year, the total utilized production for tangelos has decreased 45 percent. For tangerines and mandarins, the total utilized production reached a high during the 2010-11 crop year at 15.6 million boxes, and Florida reached a high point during the 2001-02 crop year at 6.6 million boxes. Since the 2000-01 crop year, total utilized production for tangerines and mandarins has increased 82 percent for total US but has decreased 23 percent for Florida.

Equivalent packinghouse door
returns. The graphs on pages 15 through 18 show the equivalent packinghouse door returns,
also referred to as prices received by growers. NASS reports the prices in terms of equivalent packinghouse door returns. The packinghouse door is generally referred to as the point of first sale. Packinghouse door prices are calculated by subtracting cost incurred through the packinghouse from the freight onboard price. These costs may include sorting, grading, packing, cooling, et cetera.

FOB or freight on board prices is defined as the commercial price term that signifies a contractual agreement between a buyer and a seller to have the subject of a sale delivered to a destination price usually either --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Read that again please, Mr. McFetridge.

THE WITNESS: Sure. You want me to start from the beginning?

JUDGE CLIFTON: How about seller to have the subject?

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THE WITNESS: Signifies a contractual agreement between a buyer and a seller to have a subject of a sale delivered to a destination place, usually either the place of shipment or the place of destination without expense to the buyer. This term indicates delivery will be made on board or into a carrier by the shipper without charge.

For oranges, the prices received by growers reached a high during the 2006-07 crop year at $\$ 17.45$ per box for fresh oranges for the total US, and $\$ 15.99$ per box for fresh oranges for Florida. The processed prices were $\$ 11.48$ per box for total US and $\$ 12.80$ per box for Florida. The ten-year average price received by growers for fresh oranges is $\mathbf{\$ 1 2 . 5 9}$ per box for the total US and $\$ 9.89$ per box for Florida. The ten-year average price received by growers for processed oranges is \$7.48 and \$7.95 for total US and Florida, respectively.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So, Mr.
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McFetridge, these last two figures were $\mathbf{\$ 7 . 4 8}$ THE WITNESS: Yes. JUDGE CLIFTON: And \$7.95?

THE WITNESS: That's correct. JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, thanks. THE WITNESS: For grapefruit, the prices received by growers reached a high during the $2004-05$ crop year at $\$ 21.06$ per box for fresh grapefruit for the total US and \$21.89 per box for fresh grapefruit for Florida. And processed prices reached a high during the 2011-12 crop year for the total US at $\$ 6.77$ per box, and during the 2004-05 crop year for Florida at $\mathbf{\$ 8 . 0 7}$ per box.

The ten-year average price received by growers for fresh grapefruit is $\$ 11.91$ per box for total US and $\$ 12.11$ per box for Florida. The ten-year average price received by growers for processed grapefruit is \$4.11 and \$4.81 for the total US and Florida, respectively.

For tangelos, the prices received Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
by growers reached a high for fresh and processed tangelos during the 2011-12 crop year at $\$ 16.45$ per box and $\$ 10.00$ per box. The ten-year average price received by growers for fresh tangelos is $\$ 11.29$ per box, and \$4.62 per box for processed tangelos.

For tangerines and mandarins, the prices received by growers reached a high during 2011-12 crop year at $\$ 26.68$ per box of fresh tangerines and mandarins for the total US, and Florida reached a high during the 2006-07 crop year at $\$ 19.50$ per box of fresh tangerines and mandarins. Processed prices for tangerines and mandarins reached a high during the 2006-07 crop year at $\$ 6.61$ per box and $\$ 9.89$ per box for total US and Florida, respectively.

The ten-year average price received by growers for fresh tangerines and mandarins is $\mathbf{\$ 2 0 . 7 0}$ per box for total US and $\$ 16.27$ per box for Florida. The ten-year average price received by growers for
processed tangerines and mandarins is \$3.34 and \$4.87 for the total US and Florida, respectively.

Total value production. The graphs on pages 19 through 22 show the total value production. For oranges, the total value production reached a high during the 2011-12 crop year for the total US at over $\$ 2.3$ billion. And the total value production reached a high for Florida during the 2006-07 crop year at almost $\$ 1.6$ million.

MR. HILL: Can you repeat that number one more time? 1.6?

THE WITNESS: Sure, $\$ 1.6$ million. JUDGE CLIFTON: Is it million or billion?

THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry, it's billion.

I'm getting towards the end. My eyes are getting a little fuzzy.

MR. HILL: So, it's \$1.6 billion?
THE WITNESS: $\$ 1.6$ billion. The
ten-year average value production for oranges for the total US is slightly over \$1.9 billion, and $\$ 1.24$ billion for Florida. For grapefruit, the total value production reached a high during the 2004-05 crop year for the total US at over $\$ 383$ million, and the total value production reached a high point for Florida during the 2003-04 crop year at \$225 million. The ten-year average value production for grapefruit for the total US is almost $\$ 296$ million, and $\$ 195$ million for Florida.

For tangelos, the total value production reached a high during the 2011-12 crop year at over $\$ 14.3$ million. The ten-year average value production for tangelos is $\$ 9.9$ million.

For tangelos and tangerines, the total value production --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Wait a minute. Start that sentence again please.

THE WITNESS: For tangerines and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
mandarins, the total value production reached a high during the 2011-12 crop year for the total US at over $\$ 351$ million, and total value production reached a high for Florida during the 2001-02 crop year at $\$ 76$ million. The ten-year average value production for tangerines and mandarins for the total US is almost $\$ 189$ million, and $\$ 63.8$ million for Florida.

BY MR. HILL:
Q Thank you very much for this. And just one more comment. I just want to make clear that you prepared this for anyone to use at this hearing, and not for a particular size, is that correct?

A That is correct. I've also included in my chart, there is a page, I believe 23 that has just some definitions for boxes that I've also covered in my testimony, so they can be a standalone piece if need be. JUDGE CLIFTON: I'd like you to read that into the record. It's very helpful.

THE WITNESS: Sure.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Do you have it? I think it is 23 of your chart.

THE WITNESS: Sure.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And before you do that, in this last section, when you were referring to these values of production, if you didn't say dollars, we know you were talking about dollars. For example, 189 million was $\$ 189$ million?

THE WITNESS: That's correct.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. All right, go ahead then with page 23 of your Exhibit 6.

THE WITNESS: So, it is entitled End Notes. The first end note is citrus crop year, begins with the bloom of the first year listed and ends with the harvest year with the year harvest is completed.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So, it ends with the year that harvest is completed, and we don't know what month because it varies?

THE WITNESS: That is correct.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. And same with the bloom, we don't know what month because it varies?

THE WITNESS: That's correct.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: Second end note, boxes, net pounds per box for oranges in California is 80, for Florida it's 90, for Texas 85; for grapefruit in California it's 80, Florida 85, Texas is 80; for tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California it is 80, and in Florida it's 95.

Looks like I have a typo, it should be utilized production, and that's defined as the difference between total and utilized production which is marketable fruit not harvested for economic or natural reasons, and harvested fruit not sold or utilized is utilized production.

JUDGE CLIFTON: I don't think that's what you meant.

THE WITNESS: Let's see here.
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Looks like there's another typo in that one, that's not correct. Is that what you're referring to, Judge?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, look at the whole thing and decide how it should read and tell us.

THE WITNESS: All right. Well, let me refer back to my testimony now. I believe my testimony actually should be the correct one. I believe I made an error and did not carry over the definition from my testimony to my graphs and charts. So, actually --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, now are you sure? Because the way you've got it here looks right to me without changing. In other words, it looks to me like you're properly defining unutilized production.

THE WITNESS: Oh, that's where, unutilized production, yes, it actually should be. That's where the error is. It should have been utilized production and not
unutilized production.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, I don't
know. Let me read it just the way you have it and tell me if this is right.

THE WITNESS: All right.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Unutilized
production. The difference between total and utilized production which is marketable fruit not harvested for economic or natural reasons, and harvested fruit not sold or utilized is unutilized production.

THE WITNESS: Yes, that would be the correct definition. But I believe I made an error and $I$ copied down the definition for unutilized production instead of putting in utilized production. That's where my error was. So, that definition is correct, just when I was going through and editing my end notes, I believed I looked at the wrong entry from NASS as their definitions and put in unutilized instead of the next or previous entry which should have been utilized
production. Because if we look on page -BY MR. HILL:

Q $\quad 3$ ? 3 to 4 ?
A So, it would have been for total utilized production which begins on page 11 through page 14, I was putting in the utilized production because that's what was titled in the graph instead of unutilized production. So, that was my error that I made.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. So, the definition that you show on page 23 is correct.

THE WITNESS: It is a correct definition.

JUDGE CLIFTON: And what you want to do is you want to add one for us, another end note that will be the definition of utilized production.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Will you need to go to a computer to do that where it's explained in some website?

THE WITNESS: It's in my testimony, I have utilized production defined, and so $I$ could just read that in if possible. JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, that's great. Tell us what page of your testimony. THE WITNESS: So, on page 3, bottom, last sentence begins, "Utilized production is defined as the amount of a crop sold plus the quantities used at home or held in storage represents utilized production." JUDGE CLIFTON: Very good. MR. HILL: So, your Honor, should we add that as End Note 6? Or just read that onto the record?

JUDGE CLIFTON: You know, it's up to you all. For the reviewer of all these documents, it really would be nice if it is added as End Note 6. It really would be helpful. So, let's have Mr. McFetridge, at a break, retrieve the copy from Kathleen Bright because that will be the record copy and it will be from that copy that postings are made Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
to the website. For the rest of us here, we don't so much need our copies changed. But that would be great.

THE WITNESS: Yes, no problem.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, good. All right, so we interrupted you. So, you were about to go on to your next end note.

THE WITNESS: Yes. End note for packinghouse door price. Packinghouse door is generally referred to as a point of first sale. Packinghouse door prices are calculated by subtracting costs incurred through the packinghouse from the freight on board price or FOB. These costs may include sorting, grading, packing, cooling, et cetera.

And then my fifth end note was the freight on board price (FOB), that's defined as a commercial price term that signifies a contractual agreement between a buyer and a seller to have a subject of a sale delivered to a designated place, usually either the place of shipment or the place of destination Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
without expense to the buyer. This term indicates delivery will be made on board or into a carrier by the shipper without charge. The abbreviation $F O B$ is usually followed by a shipping point or destination. Reports from fresh fruit sales organizations and from citrus packers provide data for an average $F O B$ price.

MR. HILL: I would like to move Exhibit No. 5 which is his written testimony into evidence if there is no problem with that.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 5? There is none. Exhibit 5 is admitted.
(Whereupon Exhibit No. 5
was received into
evidence.)

MR. HILL: And -- I'm sorry.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And I'd like to
wait until he has made the correction to 6 and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
then have him again testify and read that into the record, and then we'll deal with that one. MR. HILL: That's good. That's what $I$ was going to ask if you wanted to. JUDGE CLIFTON: Very good. All right. Do you have any other questions, Mr. Hill, of this witness at this time?

MR. HILL: I'm going to defer to Melissa if she has any questions. JUDGE CLIFTON: Ms. Schmaedick? MS. SCHMAEDICK: This is Melissa Schmaedick. Can you hear me? JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes. EXAMINATION BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:

Q This is Melissa Schmaedick. Good morning, Mr. McFetridge.

A Good morning.
Q Thank you for your testimony. I just have a couple of questions for you. For charts 1 through 15, you referred to total bearing acres, total yield, so on and so forth.

A Yes.
Q When you use the term total, does that total include, for example, bearing acres of fresh oranges that are used as fresh product as well as oranges that are used as a processed product?

A That is correct. It could include both fresh and processed.

Q Okay, so they're aggregated together in the tables?

A Yes.
Q And then for tangelos, you mentioned that NASS only carries data for Florida. Can you explain why only Florida is represented in NASS data?

A I can't speak specifically, but I believe it is for confidentiality purposes. Other states that produce tangelos, it could be such a small quantity that if published then competitors could know what they're doing and it would be an unfair advantage to them.

Q So, to your knowledge, is there any other commercial production of tangelos in the United States?

A I'm not sure.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. Those are my questions.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Ms. Schmaedick. Mr. Hill, do you have any further questions of Mr. McFetridge at this time?

MR. HILL: I do not, your Honor. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Does anyone else at USDA have any further questions of Mr. McFetridge at this time?
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, then I'd invite the industry to ask, if any of you have any questions. So, if you do, just get my attention and I'll call on you.
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: Well done, Mr.
McFetridge. You may step down. I'd like to take a comfort break at this time. Let's take Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
ten minutes and reconvene at three minutes after 10:00.
(Short recess.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. We're back on record at 10:05. Let's see, where were we? We were about to start with what, Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: Well, I think we have finished. We don't have any more witnesses. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. No other witnesses from USDA?

MR. HILL: No, your Honor.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And when do you want to recall Mr. McFetridge to talk about the addition to that exhibit?

MR. HILL: Okay, we're just waiting to print this, so if you can give me one moment?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, you're doing it very formally. I expected just a handwritten thing. All right, well, let's just keep going and we'll come back to that
later then.
MR. HILL: I guess we will do the handwritten so we can, yes, we do have a copy here. She has a handwritten copy.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, good. Let's leave Mr. McFetridge in place where he is. And Mr. McFetridge, you remain sworn. Looking at your Exhibit 6, what have you added?

THE WITNESS: I have added on page 23 in the End Notes a number 6 footnote for utilized production which is defined as the amount of crop sold plus the quantity used at home or held in storage represents utilized production.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent, thank you. And Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: And I would like to go ahead and enter that into the record as evidence, as an exhibit.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any
objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 6? There is none. Exhibit 6 is
admitted into evidence. Thank you.
All right. Now, who will be the first person to testify? I'm going to say from the industry, referring to citrus industry.

Oh, you want me to go by the written sheet that I already have. Very good. Then I would call Mr. Chadwell and ask him please to be seated so that I can swear him in and then I'll have him identify himself.

Would you raise your right hand please?
(Whereupon Exhibit No. 6 was received into evidence.)

Whereupon,

## ARTHUR B. CHADWELL

 was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:JUDGE CLIFTON: Please state and spell your name.

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202-234-4433

THE WITNESS: Arthur Chadwell, A-r-t-h-u-r C-h-a-d-w-e-l-l.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. You may proceed.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I have my testimony in three exhibits that I would like to enter.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. First, how many copies do you have that you want to give away?

THE WITNESS: I have ten if needed.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent. My priority is, the number one is the one that Kathleen Bright will keep, just the record copy. Then I want one to look at, and I want the court reporter to have one to look at. And from there, $I$ would think you would get one to Ms. Schmaedick and one to Mr. Hill. And how many have I named? About five of them?

THE WITNESS: Five copies. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

identification and received into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: Okay. The next exhibit I have produced, four tables. Table 1 is for oranges, early midseason in navels, Valencia and late type oranges. It's a tenyear average of bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, percent fresh utilization, percent processed utilization, on tree return for fresh, on tree for processed, combined on tree, and a total value per acre. And Table 1 is for oranges.

Table 1-A, $I$ broke out navel oranges on their own and it's the same ten seasons, bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, fresh utilization, processed utilization, on tree fresh, on tree processed, combined on tree, total revenue per acre.

Table 2, white and red grapefruit, ten seasons, bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, fresh utilization, processed utilization, on tree return fresh, on tree
return processed, combined on tree, total revenue per acre.

Table 3, Temple oranges and tangelos, Temple oranges ten seasons. It must be noted that after the '05-'06, we quit as an industry recording Temples, so that's limited there but it's the same seasons, bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, fresh utilization, processed utilization, on tree fresh, on tree processed, combined on tree, and the total acre. Then tangelos, ten seasons, bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, percent fresh, percent processed utilization, on tree fresh, on tree processed, combined on tree, and total revenue per acre.

Table 4 is tangerines, early tangerines which consist of Fallglo and Sunburst, ten seasons, bearing acreage, production per season, boxes per acre, fresh utilization, processed utilization, on tree fresh, on tree processed, combined on tree, and the total revenue.

Honey tangerines, ten seasons, bearing acreage, production, boxes per acre, fresh utilization, fresh processed, fresh on tree, processed on tree, combined on tree, total revenue per acre.

And then also is Table 5 which is utilized in the testimony. And what I did on Table 5, it is specialty citrus. Specialty citrus are tangelos, Temples and tangerines combined, and we're going to utilize that as fresh specialty citrus. And we have for the 1987-88 season, the 1997-98, and the 2011-12 by variety the bearing acreage, production, boxes, utilization fresh/processed, and total processed. And this is just to break these varieties up for information.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, all of these tables that you've just identified, were you wanting to capture information for Florida production?

THE WITNESS: This is all Florida.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All Florida. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent. Who double checked you getting these numbers off the NASS statistics? Anyone? Did anyone double check you to make sure you got the right numbers here?

THE WITNESS: Just my assistant who works with me, I mean but we work everyday with NASS numbers. We have a close working relationship and we utilize NASS numbers in addition to our numbers that we generate to do reporting. So, we are in daily contact with FASS, Florida Agricultural Statistics Service, and we provide them information mainly from the fresh because we're fresh oriented, and they provide us processed. But we work together with FASS to produce reports for the State of Florida.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent. So, your office is really a very reliable place to gather this information?

THE WITNESS: Correct. And these, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
and we'll get into this later, and all these numbers are certified numbers through the Inspection Service. And so, we have fresh, our fresh numbers, we don't post those until they are certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture. So, everything here is certified by the state, and then it's a combination of FASS reporting and our reporting.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Very, very
helpful. All right, shall I mark these tables as Exhibit 8? And Mr. Chadwell, is there anything else you want to tell us about these tables that I have marked as Exhibit 8 before I see if there is any objection to this being admitted as an exhibit?

> (Whereupon Exhibit No. 8 was marked for identification.)

THE WITNESS: No. And not only in my testimony but in some of the others, we will refer at points in times to those tables
as identified.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 8? There is none, Exhibit 8 is admitted into evidence.

And shall we mark your testimony as the next exhibit or this Citrus Administrative Committee report?
(Whereupon Exhibit No. 8 was received into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: In order, the testimony and then the PowerPoint will be following that.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Then
let's mark the testimony of Arthur B. Chadwell as Exhibit 9. And let's mark the Citrus Administrative Committee PowerPoint as Exhibit 10.

Mr. Chadwell, you may proceed.
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos.
9 and 10 were marked for
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433 identification.)

THE WITNESS: Can I get my water please?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, certainly. DIRECT TESTIMONY THE WITNESS: General Introduction. My name is Arthur B. Chadwell, A-r-t-h-u-r B. C-h-a-d-w-e-l-1. I reside at 723 Success Avenue, Lakeland, Florida. I am the manager of the Citrus Administrative Committee which administers Federal Marketing Order No. 905, Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines and Tangelos Grown in Florida. Due to the number of citrus-related terms that will be used in testimony today, $I$ have included a glossary of terms. Also included are four tables which include by variety for the past ten seasons bearing acreage production, production per acre, utilization both fresh and processed, and on tree returns.

This next sentence $I$ should have deleted because I've deleted the charts and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
graphs. Okay?
JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, when you say you should have deleted, obviously you're not going to read it as part of your testimony, but shall we also cross it off on Exhibit 9 ? Do you want it crossed out?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. Then Ms. Bright? Ms. Bright, I want you to read into the record what you're crossing out.

MS. BRIGHT: Starting at "Also", correct?

THE WITNESS: "There are also," correct.

MS. BRIGHT: "There are also charts for production and fresh shipments for the past ten seasons, and a pie chart of fresh shipments by variety for the 2011-12 season."

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. And you may resume, Mr. Chadwell.

THE WITNESS: The Florida citrus industry has a long history of cooperation Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
among government entities, industry organizations, competing growers and handlers. I will identify the major organizations that work for the benefit of the Florida citrus industry and to provide a brief introduction to their activities.

Government entities. Citrus Administrative Committee, Federal Marketing Order No. 905. Federal Marketing Order No. 905 order was promulgated in 1939 and was last amended on September 9th, 2009. The production area for the marketing order is that portion of the State of Florida which is bound by the Suwannee River, the Georgia Border, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Citrus Administrative Committee is comprised of 18 members and their alternates. 9 members and alternates are grower members, 8 members and alternates are shipper members, and 1 member and alternate represent the public. All members serve one-
year terms of office that run from August 1st through July 31st. Members may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. Producer grower members are nominated at grower nomination meetings; handler shipper members are nominated at shipper nomination meetings. The committee nominates a public member and alternate. All members and alternates are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve at the Secretary's pleasure.

Federal Marketing Order No. 905 authorizes grade, size, maturity, quality, and volume regulations. Additionally, export regulations including size, capacity, weight, dimensions, marketing or pack of the container regulations is authorized.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, go back to that. What's typed is marking or pack. How should that sentence read?

THE WITNESS: Marking is, or the markings on the container.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. So, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
it's correct exactly as written in the exhibit?

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Grade and size regulations are in effect for citrus shipped to destinations outside the production area. Volume regulations may be placed on red grapefruit and specific varieties based on size. Shipping holidays may be authorized during Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

The authority to establish projects including production research, marketing research and development projects, and marketing promotion including paid advertisement designated to assist, improve or promote the marketing distribution and consumption was included in the order in July of 2009. Under AD, grapefruit imports must be the same or comparable minimum grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements as
specified under the order. The order only regulates interstate and export shipments for the Florida citrus industry.

Florida Citrus Commission, Florida Department of Citrus. The Florida Citrus Commission and the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) were formed in 1935. The commission is appointed by the Governor of Florida to oversee the FDOC. The commission has 9 members which is made up of 6 growers, 2 growers/processors, and 1 grower/shipper. Each commissioner serves a three-year term. The FDOC provides marketing, research, and regulatory support for Florida citrus products. Although it is a state agency, the FDOC operates under a state marketing order which established a means to raise revenue through a tax. Growers fund the FDOC through an excise tax placed on each box of citrus that moves through processing plants and fresh fruit packinghouses. The commission sets the tax rate each year.

During the 2011-12 season, about 63 percent of the FDOC's operating budgets, $\$ 58$ million, is allocated to marketing. With the onset of HLB, citrus greening disease, in Florida, the commission directed 23 percent of the FDOC's budget to disease research. The research money is channeled through the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Incorporated (CRFD) for disbursement to researchers in the from of competitive grants. There --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excuse me, the initials of that foundation again please?

THE WITNESS: CRFD.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. It looks to me like your letters are mixed up. If it's Citrus Research and Development Foundation, tell me again what the letters are?

THE WITNESS: Okay, I'm sorry. Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Incorporated, CRDF.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Very good. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

THE WITNESS: Whew!
JUDGE CLIFTON: It's the little things.

THE WITNESS: Okay. There will be more detailed information presented in later testimony on the FDOC's regulation of intrastate fresh citrus shipments.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Fruit and Vegetables. The Division of Fruit and Vegetables Division operates under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and, through the Bureau of Inspection (Bureau) under the citrus section of the Bureau, inspects and certifies all fresh shipments of Florida citrus as may be assigned or supported in connection with regulations issued under the order and FDOC regulations and/or rules. In support of that goal, licenses for all citrus dealers, registrants and agents of licensed fruit dealers, citrus packinghouses are collected
and maintained annually. The division maintains testing equipment facilities at citrus packinghouses and conducts methods for minimum grade and size regulation as established by the committee under the order.

Section 905.53, Inspection and Certification, requires a carton of regulated citrus is inspected, well, it should be requires each. Let me start over.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes. And I'm going to ask Ms. Bright to make the change that he's saying right on the exhibit if you will. So, yes, read that sentence again please.

THE WITNESS: Section 905.53, Inspection and Certification, requires each carton of regulated citrus is inspected by the division. And a certified copy of the manifest is furnished to the committee for the collection of assessments and statistical information, and the committee pays a fee of the manifest information.

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida (IFAS). The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida (UFIFAS) conducts research, extension, and education programs on citrus through its main campus in Gainesville and at three research and education centers at Lake Alfred, Immokalee and Fort Pierce. In addition, a network of multi-county extension faculty is located in various offices throughout the citrus production region. UFIFAS is funded by state appropriation from the Florida legislature through the USDA formula funding and by grants and contracts from a wide range of public and private agencies.

The Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) in Lake Alfred was established in 1917 with grower funds and is the oldest and largest off campus research center in the UFIFAS organization. CREC is unique among citrus centers in that it focuses entirely on Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
one commodity, citrus. It is the largest -JUDGE CLIFTON: Would you start again with that sentence please?

THE WITNESS: CREC is unique among research centers in that it focuses entirely on one commodity, citrus. It is the largest citrus research facility in the world and has the world's largest citrus library. Today, faculty members work to provide relevant time and assistance through the development and delivery of information, technology, educational opportunities to numerous and diverse clients.

The University of Florida students pursuing master's degrees and doctorates in agricultural fields may enroll in several courses at CREC or attend via a long distance video conferencing network. Designated extension faculty members serve the public by providing publications and conducting education programs for growers, processors,
packers, related industry groups, and homeowners. Short courses, field demonstrations and seminars are also held at CREC.

Eight disciplinary departments of the University of Florida are represented at CREC including horticultural sciences, soil and water science, plant pathology, entomology and nematology, microbiology and cell science, agriculture and biological engineering, food science and human nutrition, and food and resource economics. Faculty are organized in interdisciplinary working groups and address a wide array of topics. In addition, CREC is home to the scientific research staff of the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC).

Agriculture Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) has a facility located in Fort Pierce. The USDA-ARS unit has been a major player in research
related to both citrus canker and citrus greening. It is formally known as the US Horticultural Research Laboratory (USHRL) with national responsibility for control methods for insect pest of citrus and other subtropical fruits, vegetables and ornamentals, for basic physiological, biochemical, and pathological research on post harvest problems of horticulture crops, and for developing new citrus scion and rootstock varieties that enhance fruit quality and yield and are resistant to disease. There are 20 PhD research scientists divided into three units: horticulture and breeding, subtropical insects and subtropical plant pathology.

Florida Agricultural Statistics
Service. The Florida Agricultural Statistics Service (FASS) is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). It is located in Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Orlando and collects data on a wide array of crops and livestock products produced in Florida including citrus.

The citrus summary is published annually and reports production utilization and prices for all major citrus varieties produced in Florida as well as data on citrus produced in other US states. FASS also publishes biannually commercial citrus tree inventory, another valuable report that provides tree numbers and acreage by age, variety and county. Most of the statistical data used in this hearing was taken from the citrus summary. Also, each box of Florida citrus fruit is assessed a fee to fund FASS.

Section 905.31, Duties of Citrus Administrative Committee (G), requires an adequate system for determining the total crop of each variety. The committee and FASS work closely during the season to share statistical data for the Florida citrus industry.

Citrus Research and Development Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Foundation, Incorporated. The Citrus Research and Development Foundation was created in May of 2009. The foundation exists as a Florida not-for-profit corporation, is organized as a direct support organization (DSO), and is certified by the University of Florida's board of trustees. It operates for the benefit of citrus industry in the State of Florida in a manner consistent with the goals of the University of Florida.

The foundation plans to serve as ground zero for Florida's research by coordinating citrus disease researchers, managing contracts, assessing research progress, and addressing intellectual property and other commercialization and product development issues. Ten of the foundation's board members are citrus growers and three represent the University of Florida.

Florida Foundation of Seed
Producers, Incorporated. The Florida
Foundation of Seed Producers, Incorporated
(FFSP) is a non-profit corporation acting on behalf of the Florida Agriculture Experiment Station for the release of proprietary UF germplasm.

New Varieties Development and Management Corporation. The New Varieties Development and Management Corporation (NVDMC) is a non-profit organization funded by Florida citrus growers through the Florida Citrus Commission. Its stated mission is to provide Florida citrus growers affordable and timely access to new citrus varieties that will enhance Florida's competitive position and enhance the potential of interstate, domestic, and international breeding programs while maximizing the crop values of the growers and packers it serves. About 70 percent of the NVDMC's budget goes directly to breeding programs. There will be additional testimony concerning the NVDMC presented with testimony on proposal 1 as given.

Voluntary Trade Organizations, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Florida Citrus Mutual. Founded in 1948, Florida Citrus Mutual (FCM) serves as a lobbying voice for Florida citrus growers in Washington, DC and Tallahassee Florida. The group which maintains about 8,000 grower members also provides marketing information, communications, and grower fairs to its memberships led by a board of 21 member elected directors from various growing regions across the state. FCM's annual budget is approximately $\$ 3,000,000$ and is generated on a per box assessment.

Regional Grower Associations.
Formed at various times over the past three decades, four regional grower associations each handle local issues for their members such as water management, community relations and local planning. Politically active growers in each of the growing regions established the associations after rapid urban development in Florida began conflicting with citrus farming which created the need for more Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
local representation for the industry. The regional associations subsist on small budgets funded by annual membership fees. Often, the larger citrus organizations use the regional associations as sounding boards for issues or ideas circulating around the industry.

The grower member alternates of the CAC that are members of each of the regional associations are as follows: Gulf Citrus Growers Association, Highlands County Citrus Growers Association, Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association. And each of these above grower associations produces mainly round oranges for processing with some specialty citrus. Members of each of these organizations are grower members of the committee.

Indian River Citrus League. The Indian River Citrus League is comprised mostly of fresh grapefruit growers and shippers and is well represented on the committee.

Florida Citrus Packers. Chartered
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433
in 1960, the Florida Citrus Packers is a nonprofit cooperative association representing growers whose focus is selling their citrus to the fresh market rather than to processors. Fresh growers face unique shipping issues that processed growers do not often face. The packers is supported by a per box assessment on all fresh citrus shipments from committee member companies. Representing the vast majority of the volume of all citrus shipments from Florida each year, the organization endeavors to solve the shipping --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Wait, let me have you go back. Read that sentence again beginning with representing.

THE WITNESS: Representing the vast majority of the volume of all fresh shipments from Florida each year, the organization endeavors to solve the shipping problems its members encounter and to secure cooperation between producers and shippers in the marketing of fresh citrus. Most of the
shipper members and alternates on the CAC are members of the packers. The packers work closely with the committee on issues involving the shipment of fresh citrus fruit and the majority of the committee's shipper members/alternates are members of the packers.

Grower. The number of citrus grower farms in Florida was reported to be 6,061 in the 2007 US Census of Agriculture, the most recent data on FASS website. The same census report stated there were 654,747 acres of citrus in Florida on those farms. Given the citrus acreage and number of grower farms reported in the 2007 census, the average acreage per grower farm is 172 acres. It should be noted that in the past season, 201112, more than 90 percent of the citrus produced in Florida was utilized in the production of fruit juice while less than 10 percent was utilized for fresh citrus shipments. Therefore, it is estimated within the industry that approximately 10 percent of Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
the Florida citrus growers, 500 to 600, produce fruit for the fresh market.

A small grower as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) is one that grosses less than \$750,000 annually, and given the on tree returns and boxes produced per acre as shown on Tables 1, 1-A, 2, 3 and 4 gives support that a small Florida citrus grower during the 2011-12 season is one that has approximately 274 acres. Using this as a base for estimating the number of small growers, a case can be made that a majority of Florida's fresh citrus growers would meet the SBA definition. There are a minimum of two grower cooperative member alternates on the committee, and there are an increasing number of growers that own a packinghouse or have an exclusive relationship with a shipper to handle their fruit.

Shipper. Over the past ten seasons, the number of Florida citrus shippers that shipped regulated citrus fruit has
declined from 59 shippers during the 2002-03 season to 44 shippers during the 2011-12 season, a reduction of 25 percent. The Small Business Administration (SBA) definition of a small shipper is a shipper which grosses less than $\$ 7,000,000$. Given the average FOB price for all Florida's fresh citrus shipments during the 2011-12 season, each shipper shipments, 21 shippers would meet the SBA definition of a small shipper. During the 2011-12 season, the ten largest shippers accounted for more than 51 percent of Florida's shipments while the top 23 large shippers (large shippers SBA) accounted for more than 89 percent of the shipments.

Also changing is the number of shippers with their own in-house packing sales. 25 years ago, there were only three major sales agencies that marketed fruit for multiple independent shippers. During the 2011-12 season, approximately 6 or 25 percent of the larger handlers had their own in-house
sales agencies. Last season, 11 percent of the fresh shipments were handled by 21 small growers (small growers SBA).

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, growers and shippers are different, so tell me how you want that sentence to read starting with last season.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Last season, 11 percent of the fresh shipments were handled by 21 small shippers (small shippers SBA definition). The consolidation of shippers has been greatest within the marketing cooperatives and mid-size handlers. There are a minimum of two cooperative shipper members/alternates on the committee. Also, of the 44 shippers of record last season, the vast majority, approximately 80 percent, owned and operated groves.

Citrus acreage and production. Citrus is grown in 29 of Florida's 67 counties. The top 15 citrus producing counties produced 94 percent of the citrus Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
produced during the 2011-12 season as reported by FASS in the citrus summary 2011-12. There were 531,493 acres of commercial citrus in Florida in 2012 as compared to 797,303 acres -

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, I think we should change that on the exhibit. So, Ms. Bright, are you going to put a comma instead of a period in Exhibit 9, page 10?

MS. BRIGHT: Yes, I will, your Honor.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And so, read this again from the beginning, that sentence if you will.

THE WITNESS: There were 531,493 acres of commercial citrus in Florida in 2012 as compared to 797,303 acres of commercial citrus in 2002, a 33 percent reduction.

Of the 265,810 acres lost during this ten-year period, 28 percent was orange acreage, 46 percent was grapefruit acreage, and 43 percent was specialty citrus fruit
acreage. During the same time frame, Florida citrus production decreased 32 percent from over 250 million boxes to 171 million boxes. It must be noted that Florida's citrus production during the past season has been greatly impacted by greening. The bearing acreage, production, fresh and processed utilization and on tree prices farm gate for the past ten seasons are listed in Tables 1, 1-A, 2, 3 and 4. The sources of the statistical data and definition used in the development, we need to strike "the charts," it needs to be struck now.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. Read us what words should be stricken.

THE WITNESS: "The charts." JUDGE CLIFTON: How about the word "and"?

THE WITNESS: Yes. JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, so maybe "charts and." Leave "the."

THE WITNESS: Yes, "the charts
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
and" should be --
JUDGE CLIFTON: How about leave the "the" in and just strike "charts and"?

THE WITNESS: "Charts and," okay. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. So, Ms. Bright, tell me what you struck in Exhibit 9, page 10.

MS. BRIGHT: I have struck out "charts and."

JUDGE CLIFTON: Very good. Then if you'd start again and leave that?

THE WITNESS: Okay. The sources of the statistical data and definition used to develop the charts are noted --

JUDGE CLIFTON: How about the tables?

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, the tables are noted, whoa, let me start again. The sources of the statistical data and definition used to develop the tables are noted, wait a minute.

JUDGE CLIFTON: It's perfect. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: You're saying, you've got right on the tables.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: The sources.
THE WITNESS: Okay, yes. Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: So, it's a perfect
sentence. Go ahead and read it.
THE WITNESS: Okay. The sources of the statistical data and definition used to develop the tables are noted on the tables. The vast majority of citrus produced in Florida is utilized in the production of processed juice products. During the last ten seasons, approximately 90 percent of Florida citrus produced in Florida was utilized in the production of processed products while approximately 10 percent was utilized for fresh shipments.

Fresh citrus shipments. Over the past ten seasons, our Florida citrus industry has utilized 3 percent of the orange crop
(includes navel oranges), 39 percent of the grapefruit crop, and 56 percent of the specialty citrus fruit crop for fresh shipments. Round oranges, early mid season, and Valencia oranges accounted for 17 percent of the fresh shipments. Navel oranges averaged 37 percent of the orange shipments, and over 10 percent of the total fresh citrus shipments each season. Grapefruit accounted for 53 percent. And specialty citrus, Temple oranges, tangelos, Fallglo tangerines, Sunburst tangerines, and honey tangerines accounted for 20 percent of fresh shipments.

The amount of Florida citrus utilized in fresh channels of trade decreased 40 percent from approximately 24.7 million boxes shipped in the 2002-03 season to 14.7 million boxes shipped in the 2011-12 season. Given these statistics, it is apparent that the fresh segment of the industry is not the dominant player within the Florida citrus industry. Last season, 2011-12, round oranges
made up 19 percent, navel oranges 11, specialty citrus 20 percent, and grapefruit 50 percent of all domestic, which account for all domestic --

JUDGE CLIFTON: No, the sentence is good.

THE WITNESS: Okay, of which domestic accounted for 38 percent of the grapefruit shipments while 62 percent were exported.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. So, after the grapefruit 50 percent, if there's a comma there, then all of us goes -- no, these statistics are only grapefruit, okay. I'm with you.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: So, go ahead and read it again at that tail end.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Last season, 2011-12, round oranges made up 19 percent, navel oranges 11 percent, specialty shipments 20 percent, and grapefruit 50 percent, of
which domestic accounted for 38 percent of the grapefruit shipments while 62 percent were exported.

Each export grapefruit shipments accounted for 30 percent of fresh shipments last season. Last season was chosen as it, in my opinion, represents the current status of the fresh segment of our industry. The shipment of fresh Florida citrus begins in mid to late September when Fallglo tangerines and navel oranges are shipped, followed by grapefruit shipments in October. By the first of November, all fresh fruit packinghouses are up and shipping fruit.

Fresh fruit shipments peak the second week of December. By mid January, early tangerines, Fallglo and Sunburst, navel oranges and tangelo shipments are ending up. Offshore export of grapefruit is heaviest from mid January to the end of March. Honey tangerines and Valencia orange shipments begin in mid February. The fresh fruit season is 95
percent complete by the end of April with Valencia oranges shipped through June.

Most of the citrus designated for fresh utilization is harvested and packed within two days and is shipped within four to six days. However, in the late spring, there are some Valencia oranges placed in cold storage to be marketed during the summer months. Therefore, Florida citrus is in the fresh channel of trade approximately nine to ten months each year.

The market for fresh Florida citrus extends beyond the borders of the United States. Last season, 67 percent of Florida's fresh shipments went to the United States, 17 percent to the Pacific Rim countries, 10 percent to Europe, and the remaining 6 percent to Canada. It must be noted that on October 14th, 2010, the USDAAPHIS published the fresh fruit shipment procedures for the shipment of all fresh citrus from Florida. This rule has since been
revised as needed to combat pest and disease that are affecting the shipment of fresh Florida shipment.

MR. HILL: Can I stop him for one second? Just to correct the word "reaming" as far as last season.

THE WITNESS: Oh.
JUDGE CLIFTON: I'd like Ms. Bright to make that change on page 11 of Exhibit 9, the word "reaming" will be changed to "remaining" 6 percent. I think spell check did that.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And there's one other change I think we should make. It's the line above where it talks about the market extending beyond the "boarders" of the United States. Let's just take out the a in the word boarders. And do you agree with those changes, Mr. Chadwell?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. You Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
may resume.
THE WITNESS: Okay. Cost of production and grower returns. In September of 2012, Ron Muraro, Professor of the Extension Farm Management Economics, University of Florida, IFAS CREC, published information on production costs for producing oranges and grapefruit in the production areas.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let's go off record just a minute.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. We're back on record. It's 10:57. First, I'm going to ask, Mr. Chadwell, that you instruct Kathleen Bright, on the bottom of page 11 of Exhibit 9, what word needs to be added?

THE WITNESS: Of Florida. Production areas of, just Florida needs to be added.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. And now would you read that sentence again please?

THE WITNESS: In September of 2012, Ron Muraro, Professor of the Extension Farm Management Economics, University of Florida, IFAS CREC, published information on production costs for producing oranges and grapefruit in the production areas of Florida.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, I see. Then that sentence is repeated on the next page. So, no problem. Go ahead and just read it again, we'll leave it in there. It's not a problem.

THE WITNESS: Word process. In September of 2012, Ron Muraro, Professor of the Extension Farm Management Economics, University of Florida, IFAS CREC, published information on production costs for producing oranges and grapefruit in the production areas of Florida. He reported that eight seasons ago the average cost of citrus production in Florida averaged $\$ 771$ per acre. For the 201112 season, Mr. Muraro reported the cost of producing oranges for processed market, 98
percent of oranges used for processing was \$2,370. This cost could be as much as 20 percent more for oranges produced for the fresh market.

It should be assumed the cost of producing specialty citrus for the fresh market would be similar to the cost to produce grapefruit for the fresh market. The cost to produce grapefruit for the fresh market was $\$ 2,935$ per acre, and these costs have increased greatly due to canker, greening, increased energy cost which affects not only production cost but also harvesting and packing of citrus for the fresh market.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. Let me stop you there. Ms. Bright, on page 12 of Exhibit 9, would you insert the word "market"? And that's how the witness read it, so that word market goes just before the phrase "was \$2,935 per acre."

MS. BRIGHT: Got you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
you. You may resume, Mr. Chadwell.
THE WITNESS: Whew, okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: With the cost of producing citrus in Florida.

THE WITNESS: The cost of producing citrus in Florida continues to increase as the cost to combat the spread of citrus canker and greening. These two diseases will be discussed later in my testimony. Also, the loss of trees and very limited supply of replacement trees available for growers to reset their groves is adding to the cost of each box of citrus produced. As more trees are lost to these diseases, it is becoming very difficult for Florida growers to cover the cost of production.

Grower returns over the past ten seasons have gone from below the cost of production for some varieties to some of the highest returns on record. Some of the highest returns were during the three previous seasons when demand was greater than supply,
and during the 2004-2005 and the 2005-2006 seasons caused by the hurricanes in 2004 and 2005, coupled with the reduced supply of navel oranges from California. However, given the projected decrease in citrus production from Florida for the next five seasons or more and the rising cost of production, it will become much more difficult for growers to cover their costs in the upcoming seasons. For growers, producing navel oranges, grapefruit, tangelos, early tangerines, and honey tangerines for the fresh market is their only viable option as the on tree prices they receive for the portion of their crop that is utilized for processing will not cover their cost of production.

I have a PowerPoint presentation that will go in more detail. There are two major diseases, canker and greening, that are having a devastating effect on Florida citrus crops. Citrus canker is a bacterial disease that affects fruits, leaves and stems.

Unsightly lesions caused by this disease result in fruit not sellable in fresh markets.

Greening, sometimes called HLB, is considered by many to be the most devastating citrus disease. This disease causes a serious and rapid decline in citrus trees that is impossible to contain once it has become established in a planting. Tree health and crop quality are profoundly affected.

Both of these diseases are adding additional costs to production, harvesting and packing of Florida citrus products for the fresh market. These two diseases are the greatest threat to the viability of Florida citrus industry, and finding a cure for these diseases must be put on the fast track or there may not be a citrus industry in Florida within five seasons. Florida has supplied fresh citrus to consumers for over a hundred years, and I believe there will be a citrus industry in Florida, research and market development will play an important role in the

|  | Page 97 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | survival of our industry. |
| 2 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Mr. |
| 3 | Chadwell. I think this would be a good time |
| 4 | for a ten-minute break. And then we'll go on |
| 5 | to what you have for us next. So, please be |
| 6 | back and ready to go at 11:15. 11:15, thank |
| 7 | you. |
| 8 | (Short recess.) |
| 9 | JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. We're |
| 10 | back on record at 11:22. Mr. Chadwell? |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: I'd like to present |
| 12 | a short PowerPoint on some -- |
| 13 | MS. BRIGHT: Excuse me, your |
| 14 | Honor. Can I interject? |
| 15 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, yes. I'm |
| 16 | sorry. |
| 17 | MS. BRIGHT: That's okay. |
| 18 | JUDGE CLIFTON: You wanted to |
| 19 | clarify something? |
| 20 | MS. BRIGHT: I wanted a |
| 21 | clarification on Mr. Chadwell from his |
| 22 | testimony, and I'm going to refer you back to |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

page 8 of your testimony.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, this is
Exhibit 9.
MS. BRIGHT: On page 8 of your testimony, the third sentence from the bottom, when you read it into the record, you said "while less than 10 percent was utilized for fresh citrus shipments," did you mean "while less than 9 percent"?

THE WITNESS: Yes, it should have been less than --

MS. BRIGHT: 9 percent.
THE WITNESS: It was 9 percent, yes, and --

MS. BRIGHT: And 10 percent for the next one?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MS. BRIGHT: Correct, I just want to make sure that's on properly. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Ms.
Bright. So, the exhibit is fine and the testimony is now clarified.

All right, Mr. Chadwell, the PowerPoint. So, you've provided the slides. They've been marked as Exhibit 10. And you have equipment here, laptop, projector. Everyone who would like to reposition so you can see better, please do.

All right. And do you have a helper? Oh, you can do control it from the witness stand?

THE WITNESS: Electronically. I hope, that's the plan.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent. And if you need to move, feel free to as long as you're near a microphone.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. You may proceed.

THE WITNESS: Public Hearing Marketing Order 905. Florida citrus varieties, just to reiterate, round oranges, early mid season and Valencia oranges, red and white grapefruit, specialty citrus includes

Fallglo tangerines, Sunburst, tangelos and honey Ts.

I wanted to put this picture in as this is what we were discussing, the 2002-2003 season. This is what we as an industry envision a citrus grove to look like.

Production and shipment from the previous picture for the 2002-2003. Total citrus production was 250,850,000 boxes. Fresh utilization was 24.7 million boxes, 10 percent; processed utilization, 226.15 million boxes, 90 percent. Round oranges made up 79 percent of the total crop, 2 percent for fresh utilization, and accounted for 13 percent of fresh shipments. Navel oranges, red and white grapefruit, specialty citrus were 21 percent of the crop but made up 87 percent of the fresh shipments.

This is, unfortunately, kind of what we see in groves today. We have trees that have been completely removed, reset, trees of one to two years old inter-dispersed Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
between mature trees.
We move forward. For production and shipments for last season, total production was 170.9 million boxes. Fresh utilization was 14.7 million boxes or 9 percent of the production. Processed utilization, 156.2 million boxes or 91 percent of the production. Round oranges were 81 percent of the crop, 2 percent fresh utilization and 19 percent of fresh shipments. Navel oranges, red and white grapefruit, specialty citrus, 13 percent of our crop, 81 percent of our fresh shipments.

A quick comparison to the 20022003 season compared to last season, the 201112 citrus crop. Total Florida citrus crop down 32 percent; fresh shipments down 40 percent; round orange production down 27 percent; navels, red and white grapefruit and specialty citrus production down 50 percent.

And there again is just another view of what we have today. And that's what's Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
producing the crop we are currently in, the production and shipments for the 2012-13 season. The October 2012 estimate was 179.9 million boxes which was up 5 percent from the 2011-12 season's production. In April 2013, the estimate was 159.5 million boxes, 11 percent below the October estimate, and 7 percent below the 2011-12 season's harvest. And the estimated shipments for this season are estimated to be 13.2 million boxes, 10 percent below the 2011-12 season.

As a point, how our fresh industry has reacted, in the $1987-88$ season, specialty acreage was 26,300 acres. In the 1997-98 season, specialty citrus acreage was 45,900 acres, a 74 percent increase in ten seasons with new varieties, Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines. Move to last season, the 2011-12 season, specialty, 16,200 acres, disease and outdated varieties, and were down 35 percent.

Moving forward, putting the tools in the Florida citrus growers' toolbox, that's Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
a term that we utilize here in our industry a lot, is the tool things that can help our growers to grow, market, harvest their fruit, adapting organizations to fresh fruit grower needs. As part of what this whole marketing order and amendments we are proceeding is adapting our order more toward the fresh needs of Florida fresh fruit growers; continued research to solve disease problems is going to be paramount; development of new varieties and hybrids; and to promote the Florida fresh citrus industry. These are how we are going to move forward from where we are now where it looks pretty bleak. These are the tools and what is happening within our industry for us to help ourselves and move forward so that we can get back to having groves that look like the one represented here.

And I'll entertain any questions. JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hill, would you like to begin? MR. HILL: I'm going to let Ms.

Schmaedick go first.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Ms.
Schmaedick?
EXAMINATION
BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you, Mr. Chadwell, for your testimony and your presentation. This is Melissa Schmaedick from USDA.

I'd like to begin with just asking for a clarification on your PowerPoint presentation.

A Okay.
Q If you could go to the slide that is titled Production and Shipments, 2012-13 Season? Yes, that's the one.

A Okay.
Q So, could you explain what caused the slightly higher increase of an estimate? You said the estimate was up.

A Yes. The NASS, Florida Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the USD NASS, in October, around the 10th

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of October each year, projects the Florida citrus crop using the data on tree numbers, tree sizes, and past history. And in October, when the estimate was presented, it was for 179.9 million boxes which was up 5 percent from where we were the previous season. Subsequent to that, and they update their estimate every month during the season, and so the most current estimate was on or about the 10th of April. And that estimate had gone from 179.9 million boxes to 159.5 million boxes which is an 11 percent decrease.

Numerous reasons, but the effects of greening have been paramount this season, even though we've had greening for a number of years. It seems that this season it manifested itself the most with premature fruit drop. So, the fruit was on the trees when they measured in July and August and September for the crop estimate, but subsequent to that with the effects of greening, dry weather or climatic conditions,
and it started in December and each months subsequently there leading up to April, there was a reduction in the crop because of the effects of greening. And that was really pronounced in the droppage of fruit, fruit dropping off the trees, and therefore, not harvestable.

So, the fruit was in place in October but has dropped off the trees until now. And so, that's an 11 percent. And we have an estimate coming up again in May and in June, and there is anticipation that it could be further reduced.

Q Thank you. And when a tree is impacted by this disease and it drops fruit, does that also impact the future yield of fruit from that particular tree or is it just for the specific crop?

A That would be for the specific crop. And so, what the industry's concern is that this is the first year with greening that we have noticed pronounced drop of fruit. But
that is symptomatic of the disease, but it is just massing itself such that we are starting to see the effects in greater percentages of fruit drop.

Q Thank you. I'd like to turn to your written testimony, that would be Exhibit No. 9. And I'll just sort of start from the beginning and go through on the points that I've made some notes to myself.

A Okay.
Q So, on page 2 of your testimony, you state at the end of the first paragraph, and I'll read the sentence, it says, "The order only regulates interstate and export shipments for the Florida citrus industry." Could you clarify which organization currently regulates intrastate?

A Yes. Currently, the Florida Department of Citrus, under Chapter 20 of Florida Department of Citrus rules, is the authorizing body that regulates intrastate shipments.

Q Is there a close working relationship between the order and that organization?

A Yes, there is. In fact, we've got commissioners that serve on the, Florida Citrus commissioners are members of the committee and vice versa, yes, but there is a close working relationship.

Q Thank you. On page 3 of your testimony and then further on throughout the document, when you refer to specific sections, so the example on page 3 would be about twothirds the way through, that last paragraph, you say Section 905.53 , is that section from the marketing order?

A Yes, it is.
Q And referring to that last sentence of that paragraph that begins with Section 905.53, could you clarify whether or not the collection of assessments occurs at the handler level or the grower level?

A Yes. Inspection is required under Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
905.53 in the order. The inspection is delegated to the Florida Department of Agriculture Consumer Services in cooperation with the USDA. And so, they inspect each lot for the regulated citrus per the order, regulated interstate and export shipments. And that data, and so when it's inspected, then they certify it on a manifest and then those numbers are what we derive as, and it's on the manifest, it specifies what is interstate shipment, what is export, and certifies the number of cartons that are put in to that channel of trade.

And then that is how shippers derive, that is what we use, of certified regulated shipments, to assess the shippers the assessment that they pay but the growers, it's taken from their growers' returns but paid by the handler. And we provide them with that number of, a certified number each month.

Q Thank you. On page 5 of your testimony, in the first paragraph, you refer
to something called ornamentals. Could you explain what ornamentals are? It's in the middle of that first paragraph.

A Oh, okay. Within Florida, some of our major crops, in addition to citrus fruit crops and other crops such as avocados and then vegetables, peppers, tomatoes and ornamentals or ornamental horticultural fruits. I meant shrubs, trees, landscaping material. And so, that's an integral part of Florida's agricultural base are ornamentals and we've referred to those but those are basically landscape plants and trees.

Q Okay, thank you. On page 6, the paragraph under the heading New Varieties Development and Management Corporation, about halfway down through that paragraph, you state that the mission statement of the NVDMC is to provide Florida growers affordable and timely access to new citrus varieties that will enhance Florida's competitive position. My question for you is when you state competitive Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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position, is that through control of the disease that you spoke of and increasing production? Or could you explain what it means?

A This is, when we talk about competitive, is developing new varieties and hybrids that are consumer friendly, easy to peel, seedless, and those varieties as was presented in the testimony previously, how Florida's tangerine production has shifted. Some varieties are no longer in commercial production, and the ones that are have been waning, whereas California has developed some new varieties that are easy peel, seedless. And so, we in Florida, with a different type of climate, are trying to develop varieties that the Florida grower can produce and the shipper to compete with like varieties that are being produced in California and other places in the world.

Q Would the control of disease through development help the competitive Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
position though in any way? Or do you see them as being separate?

A Well, we've got to solve our disease problem, greening, before we can move forward on any of the varieties because as we sit now, greening is affecting all of our varieties. And so, even with new varieties, and hopefully it will be addressed later, there may be greening resistance brought into those varieties, but we've got to solve our disease problems so that we can move forward with new varieties and hybrids.

Q Thank you. On page 7 of your testimony under Regional Grower Associations, were the proposals being presented today discussed with these regional grower association groups?

A Yes. As I stated, each of these regional growers, there are members on the committee that are on the board of directors actively involved in each of these grower associations. And testimony will be presented
and we have supporting documents/positions from some of these, as I mentioned, the Indian River Citrus League is a predominantly freshoriented region where they produce fresh grapefruit, and Florida Citrus Mutual represents all citrus growers. And we have letters of support from those, and the Florida Citrus Packers, that will be presented later.

Q Thank you. Would you, in your opinion, were these proposals then widely discussed as well as supported by the industry at large?

A Yes. This has been an ongoing process which began back in 2010. So, we've had almost two years of discussing these, and so, yes, the industry has been very well informed of what we're doing and the process we're going through.

Q And during that process, have you also examined other alternatives?

> A Yes, we did other alternatives. Yes.

Q Thank you. On page 8 of your testimony under the heading Florida Citrus Packers, you state that fresh growers face unique shipping issues that processed growers do not often face. Could you give me some examples of what those are?

A Yes. Fresh growers, for an example, there are certain diseases that affect the exterior of the fruit that for processing would not be as much of a concern. But blemishes on fresh fruit would lower the grade or, to some cases, they would not even meet grade so they could not be shipped. So, there are diseases that affect the Florida grower and shipper that the processed grower does not face in producing for the processed orange market.

Q Thank you. On page 9 of your testimony, you identify, 1 believe it's 274 acres as sort of, my question is, is that a benchmark that you're using to identify small producers?

A Yes, according to the $\$ 750,000$. And then we looked, you can go back through many but I just used last year's on tree fresh returns to come up with how many acres it would take to meet that threshold. So, it was a purely statistical-driven number.

Q Okay, thank you. And you mentioned two cooperative grower members. Are there cooperatives in the Florida citrus industry?

A Yes, there are grower-owned cooperatives in the Florida citrus industry. And now there currently, there are two major ones, and they each have membership of other cooperatives as our industry, our fresh industry has changed and shrunk, for lack of a better term. It became where the cooperatives that owned their own packinghouse, it just got inefficient, so they closed their packinghouses and became members of other cooperatives. So, each of our two major cooperatives have a number of other
cooperatives as membership in their cooperatives.

Q Do you have an idea for what percentage of the industry is represented by cooperatives?

A I would suggest that right now it would be probably 15 to 20 percent of the fresh shipments. It's changing so rapidly, I would have said three or four years ago it would have been 20 plus percent. If you look at currently, it may be down in the 10 to 15 percent range.

Q Thank you. At several points in your testimony, you refer separately to oranges and then navel oranges. Can you explain to me --

A What I was trying to do is, our industry is, in layman's term, is a processed industry. Over 90 percent of the fruit produced is for processed, and the greatest percentage of that, round oranges. And when I talk about round oranges, $I$ tried to
differentiate them, round oranges are the early mid season and the Valencia varieties where approximately 98 percent of their production is used for processed product and only 2 percent of their production is for fresh. In that fresh, it's only about, it ranges from 13 to maybe 18 percent of total fresh shipments.

So, what we've tried to do as a fresh industry is kind of removed them from the discussion because it taints statistics because they're such a big brother in the room. And navel oranges which get grouped with round oranges, navel oranges have the vast majority, I'm going to say over 80 percent of their production is for fresh shipments, less than 20 percent for processed. So, we've termed them as a fresh variety because a grower could not stay in business producing navel oranges if their only outlet was processed, because many times that's a negative return to the grower on tree.

And then the grapefruit, red and white grapefruit as well as your tangerines, early tangerines and honey tangerines, those varieties in numerous seasons have, especially for tangerines, negative returns for processed to the on tree, grapefruit are different, but those are predominantly fresh oriented. The producers of those varieties, navel oranges, red and white grapefruit, and your tangerine varieties are dependent on the fresh shipment of those, the fresh market to return them a positive return. They could not stay in business just on processed returns for those varieties.

Q Thank you. Is it typical for a grower to grow a mix of, let's say navel oranges and grapefruits and tangerines? Or do they just specialize in one type of fruit?

A There are, the largest percentage of growers in Florida produce round oranges, early mid season, Valencia oranges for the processed market and have no fresh fruit at
all. And that's the vast majority of growers. Those growers that produce naval oranges, red and white grapefruit, and specialty are for fresh. However, most of those would also produce some round oranges.

Q So, to clarify, a grower who produces mainly for the fresh market would have in his production oranges, grapefruits, tangerines?

A Yes.
Q And not just grapefruit, for example, they wouldn't just specialize in grapefruit?

A Except for the Indian River district. We have a district that is the predominant production of grapefruit, the Indian River citrus district. And they, over there it's not uncommon for a grower to only be a grapefruit grower. But it's also not uncommon for them to have some other specialty fruit or some round oranges.

Q Okay, thank you. On page 12 of Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
your testimony, you state that the supply of replacement trees is limited. Can you explain why the supply is limited?

A Yes. With the onset of diseases, historically, reset trees were grown outside. In other words, they were grown in field conditions. In the last few years, all replacement trees have to be grown inside, and so that has just limited the number of nurseries, limited the number of trees. And so, the supply chain has somewhat been shrunk down because of the requirements on how they must produce trees.

Q And when you say reset trees, what does that mean?

A A reset is what we term, in our industry is a small tree that has been budded to whatever variety and then is transplanted into the grove. And so, it's like in the pictures that I've shown, you'll have where trees are removed, we call it a reset, we bring a new tree and put it in the ground to
replace the trees that were taken out.
Q Thank you for that clarification.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: I believe that concludes my questions. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Does anyone else from USDA have questions for this witness?

MR. HILL: Yes, $I$ do have a couple.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hill?
EXAMINATION
BY MR. HILL:
Q In your Exhibit 10 which is the PowerPoint that you gave us, there's a page that says "How our fresh industry has reacted." Question, you mentioned something about outdated varieties. Could you kind of give me a rundown on what you mean by that?

A Yes. What I was trying to present in pretty graphic terms so to speak is that we've had a number, if you go back 30-40 years, we had a very prominent, two prominent
varieties that would be called fresh fruit, it would be Temple oranges and Dancy tangerines which at this point we do not even regulate Dancy's because they're not commercial viable. Temples are shortly going to be not commercially viable, they are down. And so, we've had varieties that were very prominent that are no longer being produced. When that trend started, our industry has been successful with the Fallglo and Sunburst tangerines, and they came in and filled the void. Subsequently, in that ten-year period, we saw such an increase in those acreage. Subsequent to that, between diseases and those varieties which maybe not as easily peeled and have a number of seeds, with the onset of easy-peel seedless variety, they have fallen out of favor, for lack of a better term, with the consumer. And so, what was I was trying to show is that's what's happened. We've had this, it's showing that our industry, when we have a promising new
variety, how we are quick to react to that variety and move forward. And I just tried to show that we were at a point where we needed some new varieties, Fallglo and Sunburst came in, production and shipments went up, through diseases and then them falling out, you know, we've lost our production.

Q So, and on Exhibit 9, page 9, you mention shippers, Florida citrus shippers diminishing from 59 to 44 over a period of time.

A Yes.
Q Would this be one of the reasons why?

A Yes. You're correct. I think it was, we used a ten-year period and these are shippers of regulated varieties, there were 59 in 2002-2003, in the last year 44 . And that reduction has been a reduction of acreage, the dropping out of some varieties, and then of course disease. And so, we're at a, I wouldn't say a low but we are at a lower ebb
where we don't have, we're in need of some new varieties to gain consumer acceptance.

Q And so, to your knowledge, have other areas that produce this type of citrus outside of Florida have had the same problems with the greening and so forth?

A Greening is prevalent in Florida. It has, if I'm not mistaken, they have found greening in Texas. I don't know if they found it in California --

MR. HAMNER: They're found in California.

THE WITNESS: California, too. JUDGE CLIFTON: Let me just, for the record, have the clarification identified. Tell me who you are and what you just said.

MR. HAMNER: I was only prompting the witness.

JUDGE CLIFTON: I know. Prompting counts here.

MR. HAMNER: My name is George F. Hamner, Jr. I'm a grower/shipper in Florida.

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.


A There is not. I'm talking about the Citrus Administrative Committee, when we deregulated, took out of the order those varieties, we did not have a defined number per se. It just got that their volume had decreased to, I think in most cases under 50, 000 cartons. And so, it had come from at one point over a million cartons, but it just got to where they became such a small percentage and they were being phased out. And so, production had dropped and shipments were dropping, and so we just deregulated those because of what we termed that they were probably going to be used more locally intrastate because of their just lack of production.

Q Looking at sort of a reverse trend, at what point would you decide that a variety, perhaps a new variety, has become commercially viable? And then, and what would you do if a variety reached that point?

A I think at this point, I'm
assuming, we're hoping that we get some new varieties. And I think it is a pretty common thinking within our industry that where we had varieties that may be extended to the three months in a harvesting situation, that we may have multiple new varieties with a shorter production time frame. And we may be moving, transitioning from an industry of fresh shipments where we had millions of cartons to where we very likely could have some multiple new varieties in smaller quantities that may end up being a 200,000 to 400,000 carton variety in a short window of time.

So, that is something that we have not addressed yet but as these new varieties come into production and we start seeing their shipping pattern, we as an industry will have to consider where they're being shipped, the volumes and the time frame. But I think it's pretty much a given that we think that there are going to be multiple varieties but smaller
production in a smaller window of shipment. So, what we considered maybe when we had 70 million cartons being shipped and 50,000 cartons for a variety not being commercial viable where we're an industry with 25 to 26 million cartons, you know, those numbers are going to be, maybe we'll take a closer look at. But I think going forward, those are some issues that the committee will have to address, but we know that that's going to be some questions asked.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. That's it for me. JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, Mr. McFetridge?

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. McFETRIDGE:
Q Marc McFetridge, USDA. I just have a couple of quick questions. I know you've stated that the Florida citrus industry as a whole has seen decline in the last five years, and you've specified, you know, disease Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
and then some of the varieties losing favor with consumers. Has there been any international competitors that have come on the scene in the last ten years that have kind of taken some of the market share away from Florida?

A Yes, there has been an increase in offshore imports of specialty varieties or clementines from Spain, South Africa, I guess Israel. You know, so we have seen a great increase in those which has prompted California which has more like growing conditions to start producing those varieties. And if you look at California, it was Valencia and navel orange industry with very limited specialty fruit or tangerine varieties. And this is off the top of my head, their expansion in the last ten years has been pronounced in the amount of specialty fruit that they are producing to fill not only the lack of our fruit in the market but also to counteract the imports that are coming in.

Q On another topic, talking about the diseases, the canker and the greening, when that's observed in the groves, what type of measures do you see the growers doing? Would they have to completely remove a tree when this is spotted that they completely quarantine it? What type of measures are, and feel free if you'd like me to hold my questions and defer to another person. JUDGE CLIFTON: He needs his coach again.

MR. HAMNER: This is George Hamner, Florida citrus grower. We do have processes that's usually seen on the outside of the grove. Initially, we were removing trees. Now we are not, we're simply treating the area to try and reduce the population of the psyllid which is the bug that spreads the disease throughout the groves. There are also some serious plans or plans in the works now for nutritionals to help beef up the strength of the tree, maybe masking the symptoms but
overcoming the symptom itself. So, we've made a huge amount of progress on it but we're not removing trees, no.

JUDGE CLIFTON: What's the word you used that is the bug?

MR. HAMNER: It's called a psyllid, it's p-y-s-i-l-l-i-d. P-s-y, sorry, p-s-y-l-1-i-d, psyllid.

JUDGE CLIFTON: P-s-y, what comes next? P-s-y?

MR. HAMNER: Yes, p-s-y-1-1-i-d, psyllid.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Psyllid.
MR. HAMNER: It's a nasty little booger.

JUDGE CLIFTON: And how are you spelling booger?

MR. McFETRIDGE: And so, is this insect, is this native or is this something that's been brought over from another country?

MR. HAMNER: We're not, we first found the psyllid, it was about ten years ago

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in Palm Beach, the Palm Beach area, and we believe, and we're not sure exactly where it came from, Dr. Gmitter probably knows better than I do.

DR. GMITTER: I'm Fred Gmitter, University of Florida. The Asian citrus psyllid is the full name of this creature. It was found in Florida in 1998. It was introduced, it is not a native insect.

MR. McFETRIDGE: Thank you. Another quick question. So, before when you were removing trees and you had replacements, how many years would it usually take once you've replanted a tree before it would become, you know, fully, meet its full production capabilities?

MR. HILL: Your Honor, would it be helpful to swear --

JUDGE CLIFTON: You know, it
would. That's an excellent idea. I like the way this is going, this is very good, but those of you who are seated here at the, I'll
call it the board table, I'll swear you in and then I'll ask you if what you've told me so far is the truth. So, would each of the three of you please raise your right hand?

Does each of you solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the evidence you will present will be the truth? And when you say I do, I want your name.
(Witnesses sworn.) GEORGE HAMNER, FRED SMITTER, FRANK M. HUNT III, called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

MR. HAMNER: I do, George Hamner.
DR. GMITTER: I do, Fred Gmitter.
MR. HUNT: I do, Frank M. Hunt III.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. And for the gentlemen who have already helped us with some of these difficult questions, is what you have presented so far the truth? And
again, I need your name with your answer.
MR. HAMNER: This is George
Hamner, Jr., and yes, what I have presented was the truth.

DR. GMITTER: Fred Gmitter, yes, what I have presented is the truth.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Mr. Hill. Mr. McFetridge, your next question? MR. McFETRIDGE: Yes. When you're replacing trees, about how many years would you say it takes for a tree, once it's been replaced, to reach full production capacity or capabilities?

MR. HAMNER: The rule of thumb in history is we all count on about five years. We have new production technics that are coming in with new plantings and densities that may change that fairly dramatically in the future, at least we hope they do. But let's say rule of thumb for today is five years.

MR. McFETRIDGE: Before greening Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
and canker were observed or became prevalent in your industry, how long would you say a grove could last without having to replace any trees? Would they last 30, 40, 50 years? Or was it a shorter time frame than that?

MR. HAMNER: Frank, you can chime in. This is George Hamner. The rule of thumb, we would all talk about 25 years but there are groves around the state that are well into their $40^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$, some 50 's. So, the age of trees was, $I$ won't say indefinite, it was fairly significantly long.

MR. McFETRIDGE: My last question is you discussed development of new varieties, you know, easier peel, fewer seeds. I guess what would be a rough estimate would you say to develop something like this before it can actually be put in to the mainstream market? How long would you say that, if it has happened yet, would you say --

MR. HAMNER: We would like to know the answer to that. I don't know.

DR. GMITTER: I'm Fred Gmitter, and you see, you caught some interest here in the industry. Citrus breeding, the development of new varieties historically has taken as long as 25 to 30 years from the time the cross was made until the variety was released. We have shortened that substantially by some new technology and new approaches, but most significantly by the approach that we're taking toward commercialization.

Historically, our industry expected that we would have 15 to 20 years worth of data, performance of a variety in different locations on different rootstocks and so on. Given the sense of urgency that you hear in our industry here, we have, we the University of Florida at least has developed a new model in conjunction with the industry that we're calling a fast track option. It's a tiered system, three tiers of involvement.

The first tier is something where
we're trying to encourage the growers to plant a limited number of trees so in fact they can have the experience of testing them on different rootstocks in different locations. Tier two comes when a decision is made to commercialize, and that is going beyond a certain predetermined limited number of trees, we're going to plant more trees and there's royalties and so on associated with that. And then the third tier is for people who did not engage in tier one to come in.

So, we're trying to hasten all of this now. And currently, we have in this past year released nine new varieties that are about to become available to our industry through this fast track option.

MR. McFETRIDGE: So, this fast track option, how many years was that about? DR. GMITTER: The plan as it is for tier one is to allow two years for increase in trees, production of trees in citrus nurseries, and then five years of
evaluation in growers' orchards, in groves. That being said, we did not exclude the option of some entities, some grower or group of growers immediately leaping into the so-called tier two and making a decision that they have enough faith in what they see in the product and their marketing instincts that they want to run with it. So, potentially, theoretically, one or several of these nine that have currently been put on the block if you will could go commercial immediately.

Still, there is a two-year time lag to produce the numbers of trees needed, and a few years in the grove for the trees to grow and produce a crop sufficient to be marketed.

MR. McFETRIDGE: Thank you. How many years in development before the trees are available?

DR. GMITTER: The development, you mean the breeding process itself?

MR. McFETRIDGE: Yes. Yes,
exactly.
DR. GMITTER: Depending on the kind of citrus that you're working with, when one makes a cross and you harvest seeds at the end of the year and you grow them out, you have a family of individuals from which you're selecting the superior individuals, that can take anywhere from three to seven years before those trees first flower and fruit. You want to observe fruit for two or three years because as the trees mature, the quality attributes of the fruit change somewhat, just like humans. You're mature at age 14 but you're not as mature as you are when you're 25. And so, there are these changes that take place.

So, you're looking at another two or three years of evaluation. And then, as I mentioned, historically we would like to propagate from that selection, that individual tree that's been selected, propagate trees and test them under different conditions. This
fast track option is where we're interfering with that process. We are actually allowing growers in some cases on the basis of the performance of one individual tree to take the gamble and get into the fast track option and to see whether or not there is something there of interest.

MR. McFETRIDGE: Thank you very much.

DR. GMITTER: You're welcome.
MR. McFETRIDGE: My last question with the diseases, canker and greening, have you noticed any specific, like do they attack oranges or grapefruits, do you see it as nonspecific or is it one section of the industry being hit harder than the others?

MR. HUNT: Okay, I'm Frank Hunt III. Some clarification with canker and citrus greening, you're actually talking about two different diseases. With the citrus canker, it's a bacteria that is spread by wind and rain and impacts pretty much all
varieties, some to a greater extent than others. It's been particularly hard on grapefruit, particularly hard on navel oranges, and is really a fresh fruit issue. We have learned, initially we were roguing trees on the canker, we were pushing out large areas. We've learned that we can suppress the canker and maybe live with it.

Citrus greening is a whole other animal spread by the Asian citrus psyllid that is devastating the industry and is pretty much affecting all varieties, again some perhaps a little more than others. But a lot of it depends on how the grower responds to it. These diseases tend to have a latency period before they manifest themselves, and in some cases the growers have let the disease get out of hand before they've responded. Well, growers that aren't managing the disease are suffering to a greater extent.

With the citrus greening, we are trying to suppress the psyllid, we're pushing
nutritionals to enhance the tree because the greening impacts that tree's ability to take up nutrients and to sustain itself. And so, we're trying to support it by nutritional sprays, both foliar and fertilizers to the root system. So, it's one of these diseases that over time we're not sure what the outcome is going to be because right now we're simply maintaining and we really need a solution to those diseases.

In the meantime, this industry also is challenged in the varieties that we have and what we're producing to deliver to the market. And so, that's why for the new varieties that are coming on, we've really been challenging our breeders to get these out and deliver them to us so we can determine whether they're going to be commercially viable and something we'll have going forward, trying to shorten up that time period.

MR. McFETRIDGE: Thank you very much. I don't have any further questions.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else from USDA has any questions either of the witness in the stand or of the others?

MS. VARELA: I do. I have one question for you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: And you're Ms.
Varela? If you would identify yourself?
MS. VARELA: Jennie Varela, USDA.

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. VARELA:
Q Going back to page 2 of your testimony, I know earlier you clarified for us that usually when you mentioned a section number you were talking about the order. But when you're talking about grapefruit imports and you mentioned 8-E, I just wanted to clarify that you're not talking about a section of the order, you were referring to a section of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act, right?

A Correct. It is not, 8-E is not in Marketing Order No. 905.

MS. VARELA: Okay, thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Good job. Are there other questions from USDA? All right. Are there other questions from anyone for this witness? Well, either the witness who is on the stand or the others who have assisted in the areas of interest that we've covered so far?

Is there anything, Mr. Chadwell, that you'd like to add based on what others have said during your testimony time?

THE WITNESS: No, ma'am.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 9 which is Mr. Chadwell's testimony? There is none. Exhibit 9 is admitted into evidence.

Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 10 which is the PowerPoint that Mr. Chadwell presented? There is none. Exhibit 10 is admitted into evidence.

All right. Now, any witness can be recalled at any time. So, if you step down and you think of something later that you want to present, you're welcome back. Just let us know. You may step down, Mr. Chadwell, thank you.

All right. It's 12:19. I show that Mr. Hamner would be the next witness. Would you like to proceed now?
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos. 9 and 10 were received into evidence.)

MR. HAMNER: I can present now. My testimony is basically a summary, brief summary of all the proposals, and the people that follow me will give the most detail. So, I can either go quickly or go through my proposal now, or we can go to lunch and come back and I'll do it afterwards, whichever feels most coherent to the group.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. I don't want to encourage anyone to go quickly.

I mean I don't want anyone to --
MR. HAMNER: I'm sorry, I'm
redheaded, ADD and challenged. I was more worried about happy hour.

JUDGE CLIFTON: You are funny.
I'd like to just have a show of hands, and the vote is whether to break for lunch now or hear some testimony first and break for lunch later. So, the choices are now and later. How many of you would like to break for lunch now? Zero. How many would like to break later? Also zero.

MR. HAMNER: Either way. JUDGE CLIFTON: What would you choose?

MR. HAMNER: I'm good to go and then we could, you know, it's 12:30, if they're going to eat lunch we probably ought to break now and then we could come back at 1:00 maybe, do it quickly.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, you just answered both ways.

MR. HAMNER: I am ready to go now but I think if you really want to have lunch and you're going to have an afternoon session, it probably would be better to break now and then come back hopefully by 1:00 o'clock or 45 minutes, quickly.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. Now, when you say by 1:00 o'clock, that's 40 minutes. Is that doable? I'm getting yeses. 1:15? I think that's more reasonable. That's 55 minutes.

MR. HAMNER: Okay. All right. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we'll break now. Please be back and ready to go at 1:15.
(Lunch recess at 12:22 p.m.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: Back on record at
1:25. I fell in love with Winter Haven during the break, it's gorgeous out there. Will we have Mr. Hamner be the next witness?

MR. HILL: Yes, ma'am. I'm going to sit over here if that's all right with you
all.
JUDGE CLIFTON: It is. Let us mark your exhibits with numbers. The first one will be 11.

MR. HILL: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Which one will
that be, the testimony?
MR. HILL: That would be the testimony is first. There are five exhibits. The testimony is first, No. 11.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, let's mark the testimony then as Exhibit 11. (Whereupon Exhibit No.

11 was marked for identification.)

MR. HILL: The PowerPoint which is the summary of the proposed amendments would be next.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, the PowerPoint then will be Exhibit 12.
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
12 was marked for
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433 identification.)

MR. HILL: And there are three letters from individuals, some of the regional and the statewide grower organizations which we had alluded to earlier, and the first one is Florida Citrus Packers.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let's see now. I want to make sure I've got them in the same order as you. So, Florida Citrus Packers?

MR. HILL: If you want to wait until after, $I$ can't remember, the PowerPoint presentation has get them. If you want to wait until --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, we'll wait to mark those until you get to that.

MR. HILL: Okay, wait. He says
it's Florida Citrus Mutual is first.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, so that will be, Florida Citrus Mutual will be Exhibit 13. All right?
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
13 was marked for

|  | Page 150 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | identification.) |
| 2 | MR. HILL: And Florida Citrus |
| 3 | Packers. |
| 4 | JUDGE CLIFTON: That will be |
| 5 | Exhibit 14. |
| 6 | (Whereupon Exhibit No. |
| 7 | 14 was marked for |
| 8 | identification.) |
| 9 | MR. HILL: And then Indian River |
| 10 | Citrus League. |
| 11 | JUDGE CLIFTON: That will be |
| 12 | Exhibit 15, 1-5. |
| 13 | (Whereupon Exhibit No. |
| 14 | 15 was marked for |
| 15 | identification.) |
| 16 | MR. HILL: Okay. |
| 17 | JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Mr. |
| 18 | Hamner, you remain sworn. I'd like you now to |
| 19 | state and spell your full name. |
| 20 | MR. HILL: My name is George F. |
| 21 | Hamner, Jr., G-e-o-r-g-e, middle initial F, |
| 22 | last name is H-a-m-n-e-r, Jr. |

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, you may proceed.

TESTIMONY BY MR. GEORGE HAMNER
THE WITNESS: The purpose of my testimony is to give you all a brief summary of the proposals that will follow with the individuals behind me. My name is George F. Hamner, Jr. I reside at 995 Sandfly Lane, Vero Beach, Florida. I am the current Chairman of the Citrus Administrative Committee which we call the committee, and was the Chairman of the Rules Study Subcommittee, the Rules Subcommittee during the 2010-11 season when these proposed amendments were developed and presented to the committee.

I have been a shipper member or an alternate of the CAC for over 25 years. I am President of Vero Producers, Inc. which produces citrus in the Indian River production area, and President of Indian River Exchange Packers, Inc., a shipper of Florida citrus to both domestic and export markets. These are
family-owned companies and would be considered by the SBA as a large grower shipper.

During my tenure in the Florida citrus industry, I have served as President of the Florida Citrus Packers, Florida Citrus Mutual, Indian River Citrus League, as well as having been a member of the 601 Study Committee of the Florida Department of Citrus.

The last time Marketing Order 905, which we will refer to as the order, was amended was in July 2009. And in the past four seasons, there have been numerous new developments within the citrus industry as evidenced in the opening remarks by Mr. Chadwell. Due to the many changes in the industry, Chairman Marty McKenna of the Florida Citrus Commission, we'll refer to as the commission later, appointed a group of industry leaders to the 601 Committee to review and make recommendations to the commission on Chapter 601 of the Florida statutes, we'll refer to as Chapter 601.

Since Chapter 601 is the basis for the industry's governing legislation, a number of public meetings were held with input being given from all the various Florida citrus organizations. The 601 committee's recommendations were approved by the Florida Citrus Commission and, subsequently, the Florida legislature. Part of the 601 committee's recommendations supported moving a number of the regulations along with the authority to make or change the rules governing fresh fruit out of Chapter 601 and into Florida Department of Citrus Rules regulated under Florida Statutes Chapter 20, which I'll call Chapter 20, which governs fresh fruit.

The purpose of moving these rules and regulations out of Chapter 601 to Chapter 20 was to grant rulemaking authority to the Florida Citrus Commission rather than leaving the sole authority in the hands of the Florida legislature, thus, simplifying the process for Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
growers and shippers to make alterations as needed. Currently, the order does not regulate intrastate shipments as they are now regulated only under Chapter 20. The Florida Citrus Packers sent a letter requesting the committee to consider formal rulemaking in order to amend the order to include the regulation of intrastate shipments.

It was in response to this request that the CAC Chairman Paul Genke appointed me to the Chair of the Rules Subcommittee which was to review and consider their request as well as to identify any other rule changes, both formal and informal, that would benefit the fresh industry in administering the order. A list of possible rule changes to the order was developed for the subcommittee's review and consideration after discussions with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Marketing Order Administration Branch (MOAB), and the Committee Chairman Genke and Manager Chadwell.

The Rules Subcommittee was made up of committee members, alternate members, and subcommittee members who were also members of Florida Citrus Mutual, Florida Citrus Packers, Indian River Citrus League, Gulf Citrus Growers, and Peace River Citrus Growers. Meetings were held throughout the 2011-12 season to develop language for amendments to the order. In addition to the subcommittee meetings, there were meetings with the legal team from MOAB, representatives of the USDA Marketing Field Office in Winter Haven, and with Peter Chaires, Executive Director of the New Varieties Development and Management Corporation (NVDMC).

The Rules Subcommittee met again on June 12th, 2012 and, after due consideration, recommended nine amendments to the order which will allow the inclusion of new varieties and hybrids to the order, and changes that will aid in the administration of the order. These recommendations were
reviewed, considered and approved by the committee on July 17th, 2012. The CAC requested that the Secretary of Agriculture set a public hearing date on the proposed rulemaking, and it was noticed in the Federal Register on March 28th, 2013.

Ladies and gentlemen, that's why we're here.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. Before you go on, I would like someone from the USDA side to clarify what used to be called MOAB with a B and the current designation. Who would like to explain that for the record?

THE WITNESS: Are we confused over here again?

JUDGE CLIFTON: They all know and they're fighting over who does this. Ms. Schmaedick?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Melissa
Schmaedick, USDA. In 2012, what was formerly known as the Marketing Order Administrative Branch was redesignated as the Marketing Order Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

|  | Page 157 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Administrative Division. |
| 2 | THE WITNESS: Oh, you're a D now. |
| 3 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: And Agreement |
| 4 | Division. There you go, Marketing Order and |
| 5 | Agreement Division. |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Marketing Order -- |
| 7 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: And Agreement |
| 8 | Division. |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: And Agreement |
| 10 | Division. |
| 11 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Correct. |
| 12 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, are all |
| 13 | marketing agreements regulations? |
| 14 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: I'm sorry? |
| 15 | JUDGE CLIFTON: The ones that your |
| 16 | office would administer? |
| 17 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Agreements or |
| 18 | orders? |
| 19 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, let me start |
| 20 | with orders. Are all marketing orders |
| 21 | regulations? |
| 22 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Yes. |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

JUDGE CLIFTON: Are all marketing agreements regulations?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: What's the difference?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Are you asking me to testify?

JUDGE CLIFTON: If you want to answer. If you don't want to answer, you can make it clear to me as we go on.

MR. NISSEN: Orders are mandatory, agreements are not.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Orders are established under certain authorities under the AMAA. And, excuse me, agreements are components that are typically party to marketing orders and they are of voluntary recognition by handlers and industry to comply with the order.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And for the record, I'd like to have identification of your helper, your coach.

Mr. Nissen, would you approach the microphone so that you can say who you are?

MR. NISSEN: Christian Nissen with SEMFO. Do you want me to say what I said before?

JUDGE CLIFTON: First, I want you to say who you are.

MR. NISSEN: I am Christian Nissen with the Southeast Marketing Field Office. JUDGE CLIFTON: And then I want you to say what you said before.

MR. NISSEN: The primary difference between orders and agreements is that orders are mandatory. If they're put in place by the industry, all industry are held accountable to the order. Whereas agreement, you can choose to sign and be a part of the agreement or you don't have to.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you.
MR. NISSEN: And you know, most agreements are included as part of an order but you can have a freestanding stand-alone Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
agreement which I don't believe we have currently.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And is
it your understanding that even if the item is an agreement, that it would still be found somewhere in the federal regulations?

MR. NISSEN: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. All right, that's all very helpful. Thank you, Mr.

Nissen. And thank you, Ms. Schmaedick. Does anyone want to add to that?

THE WITNESS: Your Honor, would you like my testimony amended to the -JUDGE CLIFTON: No, your testimony is perfect.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: It's just that I was surprised by the change, and now I know even more about it which I appreciate. Okay, good. Mr. Hamner, you may proceed.

THE WITNESS: Okay. The next order from my standpoint is to go through a
summary of the proposals as they stand. I have them on a PowerPoint over here. And if you have questions, I'm going to, I'll read the proposal but I also may ad-lib or whatever. If you have questions, you can stop me on each proposal. And if there's anything in detail requested, then I'll pass it on to the people for the more detail later if that's all right.

So, okay. Proposed Amendment No. 1 is Section 905.4 "Fruit" and 905.5
"Variety." This amendment provides for the inclusion of new varieties and hybrids under the order. Currently, the New Varieties Development and Management Corporation whose board is composed of citrus growers and handlers and funded by citrus growers is actively working to identify, acquire, and sublease promising citrus varieties and hybrids for Florida --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let me stop you. You said sublease, but your slide says subNeal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
license.
THE WITNESS: Did I say sublease? JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes.

THE WITNESS: Damn, I thought I'd get through this without, $I$ only majored in graduation. So, it's identify, acquire and sub-license promising citrus varieties and hybrids for the Florida citrus grower.

In order to regulate these new varieties and hybrids, new language must be adopted that would allow them to be included under the order. You're going to see and hear later that we're not sure the blends, the mixes and what's coming. What we tried to do is, as you will see, is simplify in the order, grapefruit, tangerine, mandarin, round oranges, et cetera, rather than identifying all of the citrus reticulata, et cetera; all of the blends that we used to do in the past. Which leaves us open to call a new variety what we feel like it should be. And that's what this is all about.

Proposed Amendment No. 2, Section 905.9, handle or ship. This amendment provides the authority to regulate intrastate shipments. Given the increasing segmentation of the Florida citrus industry, the fresh segment of the industry, through the Citrus Administrative Committee, has determined that it may be beneficial to incorporate all fresh citrus regulation under the order to provide an orderly transition if, and if is key here, the Florida Department of Citrus discontinues or modifies its regulation of the fresh segment.

This started in 2009, when we added the taxation base to the CAC, and we added some other regulations. This is going full circle now, as an industry, and the CAC, in particular. We felt like the CAC should b e in a position to regulate fresh shipments in all facets should they ever need to. There's never been, and never will be, an intention to override the Department of Citrus or the

Florida Department of Agriculture, or anything.

But, should this arise and either dissolves or changes long-term, that's the purpose that starts. And you're going to see several of these proposals tied to this. This gives us kind of control of our own destiny. Proposed Amendment No. 3, Section 905.14, redistricting. The amendment would grant flexibility to the CAC in redefining grower districts within the production area when the criteria and relevant factors within the production area warrant redistricting. Disease and natural disasters over the past decade have significantly affected bearing trees.

The amendment would allow the CAC, at any time, to base their determination of grower districts on bearing trees, volume of fresh fruit, total number of acres of citrus, and other relevant factors when conditions warrant. It is imperative, if we're going to
control our destiny and eventually taxation, rules and regulations, that potentially down the road we may have to redistrict ourselves where the fruit is.

Which, rather than looking at a five-year order or some determined lineal time frame, we may end up just wanting to change ourselves around based on what we know about the industry. And the committee would do that on its own now with this. And that just lets us, it gives us a flexibility to regroup if necessary. We're down to three districts, I think, now, and you know that may change again.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, I just want to point of clarification. The committee that you're referring to is the one that operates this marketing order that we're here about. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. And so, when you say they could do it on their own,
you mean on their own with the oversight of the Secretary of Agriculture.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. No question.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: I would not ever, couldn't oversee, we're overseen by the Secretary, yes, ma'am.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. Thank you.
THE WITNESS: We would recommend the change would be probably what would happen. You sure I'm not married to you? This is like my wife. I only get a recommendation. That's the best I can get out of this.

Proposed Amendment No. 4, Section 905.2, term of office. This amendment would extend the term of office to two years, and limits a member to two consecutive two-year terms. Two-year terms would allow for biennial nomination meetings, which would aid in the administrative efficiencies and
stability. The current one-year term of office is administratively inefficient and requires additional committee resources.

We think that what we'd like to do is just simply extend ourselves out. Do twoyear terms, and move off of the three one-year terms. And I think that will broaden our base of participation, as well. And save us some money, we hope.

Proposed Amendment No. 5,
nominations. Nomination meetings require time, travel and administrative costs and, consequently, have low participation. This amendment would allow the CAC to conduct the nomination and/or election of members and alternates by mail or other means, according to rules and regulations recommended by the CAC and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Currently, the CAC holds grower nomination meetings in each of the three grower districts, and one shipper nomination
meeting annually. Conducting nomination meetings by mail or other means would be cost effective, and allow for direct communication, and could increase participation and diversity. One of the informal changes has been we hold conference calls now. And we feel it's only practical, for a nomination, that we be allowed to do in writing of some form, whether it's e-mail or mailing. That we broaden our perspective of how we nominate members.

Proposed Amendment No. 6, Section 901.42, handlers accounts. This amendment would allow the CAC to increase their reserves up to two fiscal periods' expenses. Currently, reserves are capped at approximately one-half year's fiscal expense, which limits flexibility to develop and implements projects requiring advertising, promotion or research, without raising the assessment rate during the season.

The amendment would also provide Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
greater flexibility to the administration of the marketing order programs, and promote assessment stability. Currently, we've burned down our reserves to almost zero. We're going to have to build back up. This is, we have got a history in the Florida CAC of not doing something if we don't think it's necessary. With the changes we have made five years ago, or four years ago with the taxation, et cetera, if something did happen, and if the CAC was in charge of its own destiny on fresh fruit, we would have to have a bigger reserve because we'd have more money coming in.

And this is the one way to do that. And we don't, this is not mandatory. This would be by a vote of the board, or the committee. It's not something that's written in stone, but we wanted the flexibility to broaden, to be able to allow it to go up.

Proposed Amendment No. 7, Section 905.52, issuance of regulations. The amendment provides for regulating containers
and for having different standards, grade and size regulations within the production area. Currently, the DOC governs containers and standards for Florida citrus sold within the production area, which is intrastate. This is, basically, intrastate.

As proposed, Amendment No. 2, regulation of intrastate shipments, at this time, there is not a plan to utilize this authority, but to put it under the order so it will be in place if the DOC discontinues regulating the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry. Same thing. For us, this is almost housekeeping. If you're going to run your own show, or be in the position to run it, you have to do this.

Proposed Amendment No. 8, Section 905.28, acceptance of membership. The amendment would eliminate acceptance statements. The nominees currently complete both a background and acceptance statement when they are nominated. The elimination of
the acceptance statement would reduce paperwork and save administrative costs.

As you can see, we're good at killing trees around here. We actually all have to fill out a background statement, sign on the bottom that we agree to serve. After we've been nominated and elected, we get another statement from the government that says okay, you did accept, correct? This, to us, is redundant, and we'd like to eliminate it. We would put it in the sequester, but it didn't work.

Proposed Amendment No. 9, Section 905.7, handler. This amendment provides for the registration of handlers. Currently, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Fruit and Vegetable, has a registration program for handlers of Florida citrus. However, the CAC determined registering handlers would be beneficial, as it would enhance the compliance provisions of the order.

Unseen to you all, in formal rule making, we want our handlers to list our growers, in some form or fashion, as one items listed under this in a different way. But, so that we're contacting growers for votes without doing a blank mailing of the whole state. The second part is, if we are taxing or we have authorities, et cetera, this is just one list, a pressure to keep everybody compliant. That's what the registration's for.

Okay, any questions? We do have, we did run this, $I$ know that, Melissa, you asked about this before. We did run this through, for a long time, with the industry. This was not something haphazardly done. Because of the fact that starting for years ago and five years ago, with the taxation and the potential for being under our own guidance, we wanted the industry to know that's what we were looking at.

We ran this by Florida Citrus Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Mutual, Florida Citrus Packers, the Indian River Citrus League. We had committee members from Peace River, the other regional growing areas. And we have letters to prove it from these three people, which we've put out as Exhibits 13, 14, and 15. Any questions? What did I miss, Melissa?

EXAMINATION
BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you, Mr. Hamner, for your testimony. This is Melissa Schmaedick with USDA. I have two questions for you. One is a clarifying question. You've mentioned a couple of times taxation or taxing. Can you explain what you mean by that?

A The tax, that's probably in this hearing, is not necessary. We already have taxation. We had broadened our taxation rights in the previous order in 2009, so that we can expand into advertising and research. And we have a litany of items that we could do that we couldn't do before.

Q And --
A And interstate shipments.
Q By using the term taxation, are you referring to the assessments that are collected?

A Yes.
Q Thank you.
A We interchange words in our industry. That's the assessment, sorry.

Q Thank you. You also mentioned, when you described Proposals No. 2 and No. 7, which would, as you stated, allow the marketing order to have some parallel authorities that currently exist under DOC. Based on your experience in the development of these proposals, what have the conversations with DOC been like over these?

A It's been fine. Everything thing, we've acknowledged in a lot of the rule making, in fact, $I$ believe, technically, written in, and you may hear this later, there's a part that we acknowledge, even in
our rule, that we won't usurp their authority. But we had long conversations with them. We've got, actually, two commission members here in the audience. And the fact is it just came through the 601 rules committee, as well. It came up in that when we were moving these rule making out of Tallahassee into the Bradenton with the DOC.

Q So, based on your knowledge, DOC is aware of and supports these proposals?

A Yes, yes.
Q Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Chadwell,
would you like to add to that?
MR. CHADWELL: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: You may. MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell.

Last Wednesday, a week ago today, I was with Chairman Marty McKenna, chairman of the Florida Citrus Commission, and we took some time, and he had gotten the notice of this amendment hearing. And I just wanted to
reassure with him that there was, from his perspective, that there was no conflict of interest in what we were doing. And he assured me that they were fine with what was being proposed, and to have the authority within the marketing order, knowing that we weren't, weren't in a movement to use it, much like five years ago when we put the advertising promotion.

So, I took the opportunity of seeing him last week, and just reassuring that, have him reassure that there was not any conflict from the Florida Citrus Commission on this issue.

JUDGE CLIFTON: That's helpful. For the record, I would like someone to spell Marty McKenna.

THE WITNESS: Marty McKenna is M-a-r-t-y, M-c-K-e-n-n-a.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. Other questions from USDA? Ms. Schmaedick?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I have no further
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
questions. Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else has questions?

THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you all. JUDGE CLIFTON: Whoa, you're not done yet.

THE WITNESS: English class.
JUDGE CLIFTON: One question that occurs to me, in some industries, handlers don't identify their growers when asked because it's proprietary or it's sensitive or the growers wouldn't like that, or something. Is citrus different?

THE WITNESS: No, not at all.
This is an offshoot of that, why you handle through the committee, informally. And we are proposing to the industry a very strict guideline on how to do this so that it doesn't put everybody in jeopardy. But it will save us quite a bit of money on mailing. We'll get a much higher participation in mailing. Because now we blanket the whole industry, and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
you saw how many oranges there were that go to process. And we're not sure who's a fresh grower at times and who's not.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, is it guarded information that's not publicly available if you gather it for a limited purpose? Is that what you envision?

THE WITNESS: Excuse me. I'll let Duke answer.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, then, Mr. Chadwell, you'll respond to that.

MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell. Yes. We are currently in, we have an informal rule that is in the comment period until May 6th. And in that rule, it's allowing the committee, the marketing order, it requires each handler to submit a list of their growers for the current season with their contact information. It will be handled, because there were quite a few questions, as you may expect. When you see data that we put out, the marketing order, if anything, we do not
put any shipment, regulated shipment data per shipper out.

And we notify, on reports I will state that this is the Division of Fruit and Vegetables information, because it would have intrastate shipments. So we are bound, through the order, for confidentiality on each shipper's regulated shipments. In developing this informal rule, that was a concern of the industry.

And so, we are proposing that we will get the, garner the information from each shipper. We will maintain it by alphabetical of grower, with no identification as to what packing house they are associated with. So, for the Freedom of Information Act, we will have, if required, a list. But it will be only a list of growers by alphabetical order. No relationship of which shipper submitted their names. So we have addressed that, hopefully, in this informal rule making. Which, hopefully, will come out in the next 60

|  | Page 180 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | days. |
| 2 | THE WITNESS: I think one other |
| 3 | thing was is we would -- |
| 4 | JUDGE CLIFTON: If you'd say who |
| 5 | you are. |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: I'm George Hamner |
| 7 | again. I think the other thing that we were |
| 8 | working through is we were going to identify |
| 9 | the grower with no contact information for |
| 10 | public record keeping. |
| 11 | JUDGE CLIFTON: So a person would |
| 12 | have only the alphabetical listing of names of |
| 13 | growers? |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: Right. |
| 15 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Without knowing |
| 16 | anything more about them? |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: Right, correct. |
| 18 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Which is not very |
| 19 | useful, is it? |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: Well, it can and it |
| 21 | can't be. Most people probably know most of |
| 22 | the growers in Florida. I mean, there's a lot |
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of crossover. But, the reality is that's, we were trying to keep it more confidential that way, and keep the contact information out. Making it easy, you know, if nothing else. You gotta work at it.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Other questions, first by USDA? Ms. Schmaedick? MS. SCHMAEDICK: No further questions, thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. And now, questions from anyone else in the room. There are none. Mr. Hamner, do you think of anything else you'd like to add at this time?

THE WITNESS: No ma'am, thank you very much.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. Are there any objections to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 11, which is the testimony of Mr. Hamner, Exhibit 12, which is his PowerPoint, and Exhibit 13, 14, and 15, which are letters from individuals who are not expected to be here. Is that correct, Mr.

|  | Page 182 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Hamner? They're not here to be cross |
| 2 | examined? |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. |
| 4 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, it's true |
| 5 | that they will not be here? |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: They will not be |
| 7 | here, no ma'am. |
| 8 | JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. So, |
| 9 | let me start just with 11 and 12 because the |
| 10 | author of those is here. Is there any |
| 11 | objection to the admission into evidence of |
| 12 | Exhibit 11? |
| 13 | (No response.) |
| 14 | JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. |
| 15 | Exhibit 11 is admitted into evidence. Is |
| 16 | there any objection to the admission into |
| 17 | evidence of Exhibit 12? |
| 18 | (Whereupon Exhibit No. |
| 19 | 11 was received into |
| 20 | evidence.) |
| 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. |
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Exhibit 12 is admitted into evidence. Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibits 13, 14, and 15, whose authors are not present for cross examination? Ms. Schmaedick.
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
12 was received into evidence.)

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Point of clarification. The letter from Florida Citrus Packers. I believe that Peter Chaires is here. Is he not here? Oh, he was here this morning, okay. Excuse me.

A The president, the executive director of Florida Citrus Packers was here. He was going to testify shortly on new varieties, but he has taken ill and has left, and we're just going to read in his letter, if that's okay with people, later.

Q Okay, thank you. No further questions.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, when you say, Mr. Hamner, that you're just going to read in his letter --

THE WITNESS: That's later. But just --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, his testimony. So that's in addition to Exhibit 14?

THE WITNESS: Yes, that's something when we cross the line.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, so we'll address that when we get to it. All right, are there any other questions, or any other comments? And are there any objections to the admission into evidence of any of these letters, 13,14 , and $15 ?$
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: There are none.
Those are admitted into evidence. All right, and Mr. Chadwell and Mr. Hamner, who will be the next witness?
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos.
13,14 , and 15 were
received into evidence.)
THE WITNESS: We have some people that need to be here and be gone, so we'd like to move, change the schedule that we had set, had provided earlier. I refer to these as housekeeping, which is a dangerous word. But these have more to do with the shipping and then we, and we'll move into the new varieties after we go through them, if that's all right. So, we'd like to have Paul Genke come forth first to talk about Proposal 4, 5, and 8. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and that's 4 and 5 and 8.

THE WITNESS: We grouped them where we thought they would make more sense being together.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Very fine. If you'd come forward, Mr. Genke, and have a seat in the witness stand, and I'll swear you in from a seated position.

MR. GENKE: Do you want me to hand out my testimony, first?

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JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, that would be excellent. Let's go off record while you distribute those copies.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we're back on record at 2:03. Would you raise your right hand, please? Whereupon,

PAUL GENKE,
called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

JUDGE CLIFTON: Please state and spell your name.

THE WITNESS: My name is Paul Genke, P-a-u-l, G-e-n-k-e. And, Your Honor, I do have some exhibits that we need to enter.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Let's number these.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, the next number we'll use will be No. 16.

|  | Page 187 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | THE WITNESS: Number 16. |
| 2 | JUDGE CLIFTON: What should that |
| 3 | be for? |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: That will be for the |
| 5 | grower sample ballot, which is included in |
| 6 | your packet there. |
| 7 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, grower |
| 8 | sample ballot will be, now okay, so that will |
| 9 | be -- |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: 16. |
| 11 | JUDGE CLIFTON: EX, for Exhibit, |
| 12 | 16. All right, and what's next? |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: The next one will be |
| 14 | the shipper's sample ballot. |
| 15 | JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, the |
| 16 | shipper's sample ballot was be Exhibit 17. |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: The third one is a |
| 18 | confidential background statement for Citrus |
| 19 | Administrative Committee Marketing Order 905. |
| 20 | That's a two-pager, two pages. |
| 21 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, let me make |
| 22 | sure, now the ballot was only a one page. |
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have that.
THE WITNESS: That's the second page of it.

JUDGE CLIFTON: But I don't have page one. Are we on record right now? Let's go off.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we're back on record at 2:07. I'm going to mark a document that has a form number down at the bottom left called FV163, and so is page two. They both say FV163. So the first page of it says, up at the top left, reproduced locally. That's page one. So those two pages together are Exhibit 18.

THE WITNESS: 18.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, what's next?

THE WITNESS: And the final exhibit will be the, let's see, Citrus Administrative Committee Marketing Order No. 905, up in the upper right-hand, OMB No. 0581-

|  | Page 190 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0189. |
| 2 | JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, that |
| 3 | will be Exhibit 19. |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: Okay. |
| 5 | JUDGE CLIFTON: And then, your |
| 6 | testimony, I'm going to give a number, as |
| 7 | well. |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. |
| 9 | JUDGE CLIFTON: And that will be |
| 10 | Exhibit 20. |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: 20, okay. |
| 12 | (Whereupon Exhibit Nos. |
| 13 | 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 |
| 14 | were marked for |
| 15 | identification.) |
| 16 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, tell me |
| 17 | again your full name and how to spell it, |
| 18 | please. |
| 19 | TESTIMONY BY PAUL GENKE |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is |
| 21 | Paul Genke, P-a-u-1, last name G-e-n-k-e. And |
| 22 | I'm going to go over proposals 4, 5 and 8. I |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

reside at 5877 Pine Ridge Circle in Vero Beach, Florida. I am director of sales and marketing for the Packers of Indian River, Ltd., family-owned grower, shipper of fresh Florida citrus.

Packers of Indian River is mainly a producer and shipper of grapefruit. Last season 93 percent of our packing house shipments were grapefruit, 60 percent in the export market, 40 percent domestic. We'd be considered the Small Business Administration's definition of a large grower and shipper.

I was chairman of the Citrus Administrative Committee when we began the process amending Market Order 905, and currently serve on the committee as an alternate shipper member. I'm also a member of the executive committee and past president of Florida Citrus Packers, and a committee member of the Indian River Citrus League.

We've grouped these three proposals covering the term of office,
nominations and acceptance of membership for my presentation, as they pertain to the nomination process of members and alternates to the order. All right, the first of these proposals is a proposed Amendment No. 4, Section 905.20, term of office. The term of office of members and alternate members shall begin on the first day of August of even numbered years, and continue for two years, and until their successors are selected and have been qualified.

Consecutive term of office of a member shall be limited to two terms. The term of office of alternate members shall not so be limited. Members, their alternates, and their respective successors shall be nominated and selected by the secretary as approved in Section 905.22 and 905.23. This proposal will change the term of office for committee members from one to two years, and the tenure requirement for committee members from three to four.

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The current term for members and alternates servicing on a committee is a oneyear term, with a limit of three consecutive one-year terms. The committee feels that there are some administrative efficiencies and stability to be gained by extending terms to two years for a member, being able to serve two consecutive two-year terms. Increasing terms to two-year terms, with a maximum limit of two consecutive terms would incorporate consistency, saving administrative time and resources.

The fresh segment of our industry is in a rapid transition. In the last 10 seasons, the fresh industry has experienced fresh citrus production declines of 50 percent, fresh shipment declines of 40 percent. Given the transition phase our industry is experiencing, the committee determined this change will support continuity of leadership and representation on the committee.

The next proposal is Amendment No. 5, Section 905.22, nominations. A) Grower member, Section 1, committee shall give public notice of a meeting of producers in each district to be held no later than June 10 of even numbered years for the purpose of making nominations for grower members and alternate grower members. The committee, with approval of secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to govern such meetings and the balloting thereat.

The chairman of each meeting shall publicly announce at such meetings the names of the persons nominated. And the chairman and secretary of such meetings shall transmit to the secretary their certification as to the number of votes cast, names of the persons nominated, and such other information as the secretary may request. All nominations shall be submitted to the secretary on or before the 20th day of June.

Section 2, each nominee shall be a Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
producer in the district from which he or she is nominated. In voting for nominees, each producer shall be entitled to cast one vote for each nominee in each of the districts in which he or she is a producer. At least two of the nominees and alternated so nominated shall be affiliated with a bona fide cooperative marketing organization.

Section B, shipper members.
Section 1, the committee shall give public notice of a meeting for bona fide cooperative marketing organizations which are handlers, and a meeting for those handlers which are not so affiliated, to be held no later than June 10th of even numbered years for the purpose of making nominations for shipper members and their alternates. The committee, with approval of secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to govern each such meetings and the balloting thereat.

The chairman of each such meeting shall publicly announce at meeting the names
of the persons nominated. And the chairman and secretary of each such meeting shall transmit to the secretary their certification as to the number of votes cast, the weight by volume of those shipments voted, and such other information as the secretary may request. All nominations shall be submitted to the secretary on or before the 20th day of June.

Section 2, nomination of at least two members and their alternates should be made by bona fide cooperative marketing organizations which are handlers. Nominations for not more than six members and their alternates shall be made by handlers who are not so affiliated. In voting for nominees, each handler or his or her authorized representative shall be entitled to cast one vote, which shall be weighted by the volume of fruit by such handler during that current fiscal period.

Section C, notwithstanding the
provisions of Paragraph $A$ and $B$ of this section, nomination and/or election of members and alternate members of the committee may be conducted by mail or other means according to the rules and regulations recommended by the committee and approved by the secretary.

This proposal would authorize mail balloting procedures for committee membership nominations. The proposal of changing terms and term limits, as well as this proposal allowing the committee to conduct nominations by mail or other means, would aid in the administration of the order by direct communication with both growers and handlers in the nomination process. Allowing voting by mail for the nomination or election of members and alternates should increase participation as the committee would directly contact each grower and handler for record by mail or other means, according to the rules and recommendations recommended by the committee and approved by the secretary.

This personal contact should help increase participation and diversity in the nomination process. These proposals mainly deal with the administration of the order, and would have no measurable impact, other than to facilitate the operation of the order for the fresh fruit growers and shippers of Florida citrus.

The committee currently conducts grower nomination meetings every year at set locations within the three grower districts. Currently, each grower district nominating meeting requires a grower to vote in person in their respective district. The current process can limit participation due to time and travel requirements to attend the nominating meeting, since some of the grower districts cover a large geographical area.

Shipper nominations are currently held at the Florida Department of Citrus headquarters, as it is central location for shippers. Shippers may vote by proxy, and
each shipper's vote is a volume vote of their regulated shipments for a specific time frame. By allowing voting by mail or other means, participation should increase and may increase diversity among the members involved in the nomination process.

The committee believes that there will be cost savings to conduct the nominations of members and alternate members by mail or other means. As presented earlier, this measure is coupled with the proposal to extend the term of office from a one-year term to a two-year term, which would decrease administrative and travel costs related to nomination meetings.

However, if there is any cost increase, it would be outweighed by the benefit of increased participation and involvement. Also, in anticipation of these changes, the committee has proposed informal rule making to minimize costs by requiring handlers to provide the committee with a list
of the growers whose fruit they handle during the season.

Thus, the committee will have an accurate list of the Florida citrus growers engaged in citrus production for the fresh market. Also, the number of fresh citrus growers that are members of a bona fide cooperative marketing organization should offset some of the cost, as their cooperatives would be voting for their membership, thus reducing costs to the committee. The committee will be able to communicate directly with the growers of Florida citrus that market their fruit in the fresh market.

It is the committee's anticipation that this change will, in addition to keeping the growers better informed of the committee's activities, but also foster increased participation in our programs. Attached is a sample ballot, sample of the grower ballot for District 1 for voting by mail. The grower ballot is designed to include both independent
and cooperative members. The two major cooperatives are located in District 1 . The sample ballot for independent shippers is attached. And there would be a like form for, there would be a like ballot required for cooperative shippers.

Proposal 8 would eliminate the requirements to send out a separate acceptance statement with the background statement for nominees, combining both forms. Section 905.28, qualifications and acceptance. Any persons selected by the secretary as a member or alternate member of the committee shall, prior to selection by USDA, qualify by filing a written qualifications and acceptance statements indicating such person's qualifications and willingness to serve in the position for which nominated.

This will eliminate separate acceptance statements that would reduce paperwork associated with the nomination process. Under this proposal, the nominees

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agree to serve, and must only complete the required background statement, which includes a statement of acceptance. Examples of the confidential background statement for Florida Citrus Administrative Committee Marketing Order 905, and the Citrus Administrative Committee Marketing Order No. 905 acceptance letters are included in this testimony.

The order currently requires each member and alternate to complete an acceptance letter in addition to the background statement when nominated to serve on the committee. Eliminating the acceptance letter would reduce paperwork and save the time required to complete the letter.

All three of these proposals have industry support, and they're designed to aid in the nomination process, and encourage greater participation in the administration of the order for the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry. And that concludes my testimony, Your Honor.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. You notice how we didn't interrupt you at all?

MR. GENKE: You were waiting for the end, right?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who would like to ask questions of Mr. Genke? Start with USDA. EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q This is Melissa Schmaedick, USDA. Thank you, is it Mr. Genke or Genke?

A Genke.
Q Genke. Thank you.
A I answer to both.
Q Thank you for your testimony. On Page 2 of your testimony about the middle of the first full paragraph, you indicate that the committee feels that there would be administrative efficiencies and stability to be gained by extending terms. Could you describe to me what type of increases in stability you'd like to see, and if you have any examples of things that need to be
corrected?
A Currently, it's a one-year term. So, each year you have to go through the nominating process again which, you know, takes time and resources to do it. By going to two-year term, and then having two consecutive terms, you're basically going from three to four. It keep continuity in there for, you know, for going through items like this on changing marketing orders. You have the same group in there that are working through it, and can carry the process through, which is a perfect example.

Like this year, we spent a lot of time. I was a the chairman when we started this review committee, and then luckily George is on the committee, too, and carried it through. But, continuity and leadership, it would definitely help.

Q And, in your experience, is there a concern with turnover or folks not renewing their participation?

A No. Generally, the participation, members on the committee have pretty much filled out their three one-year terms. I don't know of really anybody that's bailed out before that.

Q What about concerns over finding new folks to participate?

A As our industry shrinks, that is a little bit of a problem. So, part of it is if we get that grower list, right now, as Mr. Chadwell mentioned earlier, we're sending out letters to thousands of growers. Some of them are maybe just process growers. You don't know that. By narrowing it down to get just the fresh fruit growers and keeping them informed of our processes all the time, we hope to create some new membership. But, yes, as the numbers do dwindle, Melissa, it's getting tougher.

One example, Florida grapefruit.
You go back eight years ago, we produced 40 million boxes. This year it's 17.

JUDGE CLIFTON: That would be 17 million, I hope.

MR. GENKE: Million boxes, 17
million boxes. Another example of the industry getting smaller.

MR. HAMNER: Your Honor, could I add something to that?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, please. MR. HAMNER: Briefly, Melissa, the other part. We were on three one-year terms, which is actually a six-year term. And if you look at the history of the CAC as we got new people, rarely did anybody, you served out your term three times in a row. And then you would either become an alternate, or we would find someone else. This actually shortens the term to four years from six, with the hope that, even though we're shrinking, we will find more people, and we can actually turnover more often, if you think about it.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hamner, you lost me. I multiplied one year times three Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
times and I got three. How did you get six? MR. HAMNER: You're allowed to be a member for three one-year terms, and then you were also allowed to become an alternate for three one-year terms. So that would be your, if you rolled over as an alternate from the membership, that would be six. In this case, you'd have a two-year, the two two-year terms, and then you would be off.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So you don't rollover to be an alternate?

MR. HAMNER: You could be, you could rollover, I guess. I'm sorry, I had it, I was thinking two and two.

JUDGE CLIFTON: But it really is six and eight, right?

MR. HAMNER: You're right.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Possibly.
MR. HAMNER: My apologies.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Possible.
BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Would a person who served a full
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term as a member, and then served as an alternate, would they be allowed to, then, serve as a member after their service as an alternate?

A Yes.
Q So they would, essentially, be able to serve as long they wanted to, as long as they were alternating, or serving in both capacities?

A As long as they were nominated.
Q Correct, thank you. But is that a fair statement?

A Yes.
Q And you mentioned the possibility for increasing diversity on your board or your committee. What type of changes in diversity would be possible?

A We're, yeah, we've been very active in increasing our, or attempt to diversify the committee beyond just male citrus growers. There are some females involved that are members of the family.

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There's some minorities involved. So that's what we're trying to increase. And we do have some members, and Duke's been very active in pursuing diversifying the committee.

Q Thank you. I believe I have no further questions, thank you.

A Thank you. JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else from USDA? Mr. Hill?

BY MR. HILL:
Q Okay. You talked well about 4, 5, and 8. I'm just going to ask you some questions about the other ones just briefly. Have you looked at the other proposals, 1, 2, 3, 6, 7?

A Me, personally, yes.
Q So, I'm just going to go ahead and ask you. The first proposal, amending the definitions of fruit and variety. Are you for or against that?

A I'm for it.
Q The second one, amending the
definition of handle or ship. Are you in support of that?

A Support, yes.
Q The third proposal is to amend to revise the process for redistricting the production area. Are you for or against that?

A Support.
Q The sixth one, and sorry to keep badgering you here, is to amend to authorize the committee to increase the capacity of its financial reserve funds. Are you in support of that?

A Support.
Q And could you tell me why for that one? Is there something about that one?

A There's, in my view, there's two reasons. One is, you know, our shipments have been going down each year. We're working into our reserve. Our reserve right now, we have enough reserve to get us just past the mid point of this coming season. And with the disease, and not knowing where we're going to
go in total shipments, that could continue to drop somewhat. So it would be prudent for us to start, if we can, build up our reserves.

And then, also, the second reason would be if we do see where we want to look at some scientific research or marketing research or advertising programs, we would have a reserve to go ahead and implement those programs.

Q The seventh proposal is to amend, to authorize pack and container requirements for domestic shipments and authorize different regulations for different markets. Are you in support or not?

A Support.
Q Now, I do have a question about that. Why is that necessary, different regulations for different markets? Why would you think that to be necessary?

A In Florida you have, the CAC is the fresh fruit side of the industry. The Florida Department of Citrus is the fresh and
the processing side. So, if anything changes, as mentioned earlier, at the Department of Citrus, which I don't think we really anticipate right now, the length of time it takes to get these amendments through and authorize and everything, it takes years.

So we decided that, since we're going to go ahead and amend it anyway, let's bring in everything that we would possibly need so we could govern the whole fresh fruit side of the industry, whether we need it right now or not.

Q Okay, and finally, the last amendment proposal is to amend 905.7 to require handler to register with the committee. Are you in support of that?

A Support, yes.
Q All right, that's all I have. Thanks.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else has questions for Mr. Genke? Let's start, again, with USDA people. Mr. McFetridge.

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCFETRIDGE:
Q Marc McFetridge, USDA. I just had one quick question for the three proposals that you discussed, No. 4, 5, and No. 8. Can you foresee any possible way that these proposals could cause any type of undue burden on any small agricultural growers or shippers?

A No, not at all. I think, on the contrary, it's going to be a benefit, especially on the nominating where, now, the grower is required to vote in person. You know, time constraints or travel constraints might, you know, put a burden on them to have to vote in person. Thus, we don't get the participation we would like to see. So no, not at all.

Q Thank you. That's all.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Chadwell?
MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell.
I'd just like to add a comment. Excuse me. We have eight shipper members, and each with
an alternate, so 16 . And we have the largest shipper member to the smaller shipper, one of the smallest shipper regulated shipments. So we have a great diversity amongst our shippers from the very largest to almost on of the smallest. So we have encompassed shippers of all sizes are members of the committee.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else has questions for Mr. Genke? Ms. Schmaedick, do you?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Yes, thank you, Your Honor.

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Melissa Schmaedick, USDA. Mr. Genke, according to your statement, you're the director of sales and marketing for the shipper packers of Indian River. Is that correct?

A That's correct.
Q I'd like to, if you would, expand on your position on Proposal No. 9, which is
handler registration. You did state that you were in favor of that proposal.

A I'm probably the wrong one to ask that, Melissa, because we grow and pack one hundred percent of our fruit. We don't have outside shippers, outside growers.

Q Okay. All right, thank you for that clarification.

A Okay, thank you.
Q No further questions. JUDGE CLIFTON: Ms. Varela.

EXAMINATION
BY MS. VARELA:
Q Jennie Varela, USDA. Mr. Genke, I have kind of a different question for you. A few years ago, the committee moved toward, and you spoke about this a little, toward having meetings via conference calls and kind of changing the way you did business that way. Do you, first of all, did you see more participation in meetings when you made that change?

A Yes. I would say our participation the last couple years on conference calls has been real good. When you have to, I mean, we're from Vero Beach all the way up to the northern part of the state. And you want to have a meeting over in Lake Wales, it's hard for a lot of people to do that, especially during our shipping season which is, you know basically, from October through April, into May as our shipping season. Trying to get out of the office and drive 120 miles and back in a day, it makes it very difficult. So, yes, it has increased a lot.

Q And having been through that, do you anticipate that making some of these changes to the nomination process will have a similar effect? That you'll see that big a difference in participation?

A I think it will. Plus, also, the fresh grower mailing list. I think that's very important, because right now we don't
know that it's all getting out to them. Some may be receiving it, some may not. A lot of processors may be receiving the information. So, if we can target it down to just fresh fruit growers, tailor make all our programs, or tailor make our message to them so they get it, yes, I think you'll see greater participation.

Q Thank you. JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else at USDA has questions for Mr. Genke? All right, anyone else in the room, do you have questions for Mr. Genke? Stay where you are, and we'll deal with the exhibits.

THE WITNESS: I'm not picking up my stuff yet.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Exhibit 16 and Exhibit 17 are sample ballots. Let's start with those.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of
either Exhibit 16 or 17?
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. Exhibit 16 is admitted into evidence. Exhibit 17 is admitted into evidence. Exhibit 18 is the form required by USDA, and I guess I need a clarification here, if you will, Mr. Genke. Exhibit 18 is what is filled out when a person agrees to be nominated. Is that correct?
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos.
16 and 17 were received into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: After they're nominated, they would be filling this out to, well, $I$ guess it would be after they're nominated, correct, Duke? JUDGE CLIFTON: Let's get some help. Mr. Chadwell, what do you know about this form?

MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell.
We have our nomination process. And then, once the nominees are, we have them nominated,
then we give, this form is submitted to the secretary. And it's to aid the secretary so he has some background information on our nominees, and to make sure that they are qualified. And just some background information of who he is approving to be on the committee.

So it's an informational form that, after they are nominated by growers nominating growers, shippers nominating shippers. We complete our nominating process. I send out a copy of the background statement. It is completed by those that have been nominated. Then it is submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture, because it is the Secretary of Agriculture that selects the order.

We present the order to the
secretary. This is an informational package saying that they agree to serve. And then it's the secretary that appoints them or selects them to the committee.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, so Mr. Genke, I'll ask you first. The intent would be to keep using Exhibit 18.

THE WITNESS: Oh yes, yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and you agree with that, Mr. Chadwell?

MR. CHADWELL: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And then, what is it that will not happen under your proposal?

THE WITNESS: Number 19 will not. After the nominee fills out No. 18 and it's submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture, and then the secretary approve them as a member or alternate, No. 19 was mailed to you after that, saying will you agree to serve.

But, on the second page of No. 18, when you sign the certification statement, 1 certify that the information is above is correct and I am willing to serve on the committee. So 19 comes back to you, again and says are you sure? It's like they're given time to back out, but so 19 is kind of
redundant. And that's why we're saying do away with that. We've already stated on No. 18, the confidential statement, that we are willing to serve.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, so the only thing that Exhibit 19 adds, besides the fact that it's after the person actually is nominated --

THE WITNESS: Or is seated, or I mean approved.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes. Voted in, I guess.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Is this other
statement that $I$ agree to carry out assigned duties in administering the terms and provisions of the marketing order to the best of my ability. So that would be missing if you eliminated Exhibit 19. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, yeah, 19 would be eliminated. That's correct.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, so those Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
words, if they're essential, I don't know what's essential. But those words could be added to this FV-163, I guess, if those are essential words. I don't know if those are essential words. Yes, please, Mr. Nissen. Again, identify yourself, Mr. Nissen.

MR. NISSEN: Christian Nissen, Southeast marketing field office. The forms in your hand, those are largely prepared by USDA. So yes, we could make an adjustment to the initial background form to include that other language. These are just the two existing forms as they are, so they read like that. But we definitely could make it an adjustment to encapsulate both of them into one form. Actually, it would be beneficial for them and for us, as well. JUDGE CLIFTON: Oh, this is good. Thank you. All right, first of all, is there any question for this witness about Exhibits 18 and 19 before I ask if there's any objection to their being admitted into
evidence? Ms. Schmaedick?
EXAMINATION
BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Melissa Schmaedick. Mr. Genke, are you aware of any other marketing orders that have gone through the process of combining their nomination and acceptance?

A I am not, no.
Q Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, are there any other questions on these two forms? Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibits 18 and 19?
(No Response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. Exhibits 18 and 19 are admitted into evidence. Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 20, which is Mr. Genke's testimony?
(No Response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none.
Exhibit 20 is admitted into evidence. Mr.
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Genke, do you have anything to add before you step down?
(Whereupon Exhibit Nos.
18, 19 and 20 were admitted into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: No I do not. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you so much. You may step down. And, do we need short break, or are we ready for the next witness? Ready for the next witness. Who would that be? Mr. Chadwell?

MR. CHADWELL: Mr. Raley, Mr.
Lindsay Raley, Proposal No. 6.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And let's go off record while documents are distributed.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we're
back on record at 2:42. I'm going to swear you in in a seated position. Would you raise your right hand? Whereupon,

## LINDSAY RALEY,

called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you Please state and spell your name.

THE WITNESS: My name is Lindsay Raley, L-i-n-d-s-a-y, R-a-l-e-y.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. I have marked the document that has your name and says testimony Proposal No. 6 as Exhibit 21. You may proceed.
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
21 was marked for
identification.)
TESTIMONY BY LINDSAY RALEY

THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor. My name is Lindsay Raley. I reside at 208 Palmola Street, Lakeland, Florida. I am the treasurer of the Citrus Administrative Committee, otherwise known as the committee, and was a member of the amendment study
subcommittee which recommended the nine proposed amendments to the committee last July.

I am also a small grower and president and chairman of the Dundee Citrus Growers Association. Dundee Citrus Growers Association was founded in 1924 as a growerowned agricultural cooperative with 113 grower members, and two packing houses located in Dundee and Lake Hamilton. Also, members of Dundee Citrus Growers Association are Lake Regional Packing Association, Winter Haven Citrus Growers Association, and Lake Wales Citrus Growers Association.

These cooperatives, in the past, operated their own packing houses, but with the reduction of production and fresh shipments, they joined our cooperative to gain efficiencies for all grower members. The majority of grower members of Dundee Citrus Growers Association would meet SBA definition of a small grower, and our packing house would
meet SBA definition of a large shipper.
My testimony will be for Proposal No. 6, which would increase the amount of reserves the committee could carry over each fiscal year. We are proposed to amend Section 905.42, handlers accounts to read as follows: A) If at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the committee, with the approval of the secretary, may carry over such excesses into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve provided that funds already in reserve do not exceed approximately two fiscal periods' expenses.

Such reserves may be used 1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part, and 2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in reserves, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund shall be credited with such refund against the operations of the
following fiscal period, unless he demands payment of the sum due him, in which case, such sum shall be paid to him.

Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such a manner as the secretary may determine to be appropriate provided that, to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned, pro rata, to the persons from which such funds were collected.
B) The committee may, with the approval of the secretary, maintain in its own name or in the name of its members a suit against any handler for the collection of such handler's pro rata share of the said expense.

This amendment will allow the committee flexibility to increase their reserves up to two fiscal periods' expenses. Currently reserves are capped at approximately one-half years' fiscal expense, which is limiting the committee's flexibility to Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
operate under increased fluctuations in regulated shipments each season.

Also, without the authority to increase reserves in the future, the order would be impeded from being a tool used by the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry to develop and implement projects requiring advertising, promotion or research for the new varieties being developed that will be the future of the fresh citrus industry in Florida.

As described above, the new language is for up to two fiscal years' expenses. The fiscal year of the committee begins on August 1st and ends the following July 31st. The fresh citrus season normally begins, in Florida, in late September, with the majority of the fresh shipments occurring by the end of March, with Valencia orange shipments continuing until late May or early June.

The Florida fresh shipping season Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

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currently lasts about eight months, with approximately 87 percent of our volume being shipped in six months. In addition, the volume of regulated shipments of fresh citrus from Florida has declined 17 percent in the last five seasons, and 41 percent in the last decade. This season, fresh shipments from Florida are projected to be down another 10 percent from just last season.

This season's projected 13.2 million boxes shipped fresh would be the lowest amount of fresh citrus shipped from Florida since the 1919-1920 season, when Florida's entire citrus crop was utilized in the fresh market. As you can tell from the decline in fresh citrus volume, it is getting more difficult to carry over the amount of reserves needed to fully fund the committee if only one-half of one years' fiscal expenses may be carried as reserves.

The committee has tried to avoid assessment increases each year, and would
rather set an assessment rate that would fully fund the committee's operations and build reserves to handle the fluctuations in fresh shipments. Without raising the authority to increase reserves, it will become more difficulty for the committee to avoid assessment rate increases annually, or even during a season.

By raising the assessment rate to a level that will properly fund the operations of the committee and build ample reserves to handle the increased fluctuations in fresh shipments can only be arrived by increasing the amount of reserves the committee is allowed to carry over from fiscal year to the next fiscal year.

The committee did consider going up to one full fiscal year's reserve, but felt there is too much variation in regulated shipments for only increasing reserves to one fiscal year's expenses. Also, it has been the practice of the committee to hold excess
assessments during the past few fiscal years to ensure there would be ample reserves to fully fund their operations.

During the past year, when we reviewed and considered this change to Section 905.42, there was complete support within the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry. As I have previously stated, there has not been any opposition to this proposal and, in fact, is a cornerstone of the committee's financial stability moving forward until the above-mentioned problems are solved and there is a reassurance of new plantings of varieties with the characteristics desired by consumers of Florida fresh citrus.

The order will be the tool for our fresh industry to fully utilize, to move forward as we overcome as many obstacles as our industry currently is working to overcome. The Florida citrus industry has been a cornerstone of Florida agriculture for many decades, and we believe the future is bright
as we retool for the future.
The increased reserve ceiling would be in effective immediately. Particularly, it would be implemented with the executive committee recommends its annual budget to the full committee early each fall. Thank you, and that's my testimony.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Mr. Raley. Who would like to ask questions of Mr. Raley, beginning please with USDA employees. Ms. Schmaedick.

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you for your testimony. This is Melissa Schmaedick with USDA. Mr. Raley, earlier in the day $I$ believe there was a comment that indicated that reserves had been drawn down over the last year. Is that correct?

A That is correct.
Q And then, in your testimony on Page 3, you indicate that the committee has
tried to avoid assessment increases. I'm wondering if you could explain how, without assessment increases, you might be able to continue to build reserves, if they're in the process of being depleted?

A Well currently, I mean I believe, up until last year our assessments have been very level and, Duke remind me, prior to this past year, it's at 8.8.

MR. CHADWELL: $\$ 7.2$ million.
THE WITNESS: $\$ 7.2$ million. You know, well, we had increased volume. Our expenses at the committee have been, for the past 10 seasons, have averaged about \$230,000, and have been that level through that whole time. So the ability to build reserves has been, really, based on volume of shipments in any one year. And with the last few years, they've been declining, declining, declining. So, without raising, we've been eating into reserves each year. And without raising the assessment rate, there's really no way to
maintain any reserves. I hope that answers your question.

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q So would you potentially foresee, at some point in the future, increasing assessments in order to build reserves?

A I would, yes. No, absolutely, absolutely, $I$ would see. And this only gives the committee the ability to take the reserves up to two year. It doesn't, necessarily, mean that we would take it up to two years.

Q If I understand your statement correctly, are you indicating that this ability to have a larger reserve might assist the industry in sort of riding through this bumpy next five years that you foresee?

A Yes I do. And also, especially if the committee chooses, in the future, we have the ability to do marketing, advertising and research. Those are types of programs that really need a consistency in funding. And I wouldn't think the committee would want to
commit itself to those types of programs, unless they had a built-in reserve program that could continue those programs.

If we had, you know, it doesn't have to be disease related. It could be a freeze or a weather event that takes our assessments down for even just one year. To have those reserves built in would be, I think, just a prudent business decision.

Q Thank you. And in you current role as president and chairman of the Citrus Grower Association, which I believe you state is a cooperative, are you speaking on behalf of your small grower members?

A I'm speaking as chairman of the committee of the Citrus Administrative Committee. That's my role here.

Q And would it be fair to say that you've discussed this issue with your members?

A Yes, yes, and there's widespread support.

Q Thank you. Have the other
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proposals been widely discussed with your members?

A Not directly through communications from Dundee Citrus Growers Association, but certainly through the industry at large. I believe all growers got notification of this meeting and, you know, a lot of us serve on multitudes of different industry committees that, you know, this has been well discussed within the industry for the past couple years.

Q You also stated that you, yourself, are a small grower by SBA definition.

A I would be classified as a large grower for the SBA.

Q Oh, is that --
A I would just say that the majority of Dundee's members are probably small growers. We have a lot of small, and some large growers, also. But, I would say the majority of our members are small grower
classification.
Q In your testimony on Page 1, it's the second sentence, it says $I$ am also a small grower. Does that need to be corrected?

A Well, I didn't, is that under, is a small grower in the definition of SBA or, okay, then I would think. What was the cap on that?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Let's go off record just a minute.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we're back on record at 2:57. Mr. Raley, you may respond to Ms. Schmaedick's question.

THE WITNESS: This is a bit of an oversight on my part. I would be classified as a large grower under those terms.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And let's correct that on Exhibit 21, Ms. Bright. The fourth sentence, or the fourth line. How do you want it to read, Mr. Raley?

we're what's called a federated cooperative. We have cooperatives that are members of our cooperative. Those cooperatives, the other three listed here, have their own individual grower members. Some of those grower members are also members of Dundee Citrus Growers Association. There's a lot of duplication in the industry with, especially, the fresh side of the industry.

I think by having the, you know, this kind of "master grower list," we'll eliminate that duplication. And you would have duplication just out of our own organization because we have members that are members of more than one cooperative.

Q Thank you. Are you familiar with the other potential impacts of Proposal 9, handler registration?

A Familiar with other impacts or any other --

Q Would there be any other potential impacts?

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Q You do support all of them.
A I do.
Q All right, that's all I wanted to know. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else has questions for Mr. Raley? Mr. McFetridge.

## EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCFETRIDGE:
Q Marc McFetridge, USDA. Mr. Raley, I just have a few questions. Now, Proposal 6 is talking about increasing the fiscal reserves, and there is this number of two years being in the proposal. Is it possible that if the committee decides they could increase it to three to four, or is this two year going to be written in as a hard number that would have to go through an amendment process? Or could it be changed through, informally?

A As far as I know, it cannot be changed informally. Once it's set at two years, it would be at two years.

Q All right, thank you. And you stated that you're also the treasurer of the committee?

A Currently, yes.
Q Could you explain to the USDA the process to use committee funds? What is like the checks and balances that the committee uses so that one person can't just write, basically, a check to purchase a boat or things of that nature?

A Well, we have very strict procedures and policy that are in place. We've been audited by the USDA under, I don't know which group came in and audited the committee, but I believe it was someone from MOAD. Currently, our check signing requires more than one signature, so one individual couldn't go buy their boat. We're audited by an outside independent CPA firm. The committee has a finance committee that recommends the budget to the full committee each year. Duke, do you Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
want to add anything to that? I mean, I think that's really about all $I$ can answer to that.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Did he say Duke?
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chadwell.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Arthur, who's also known as Art is also Duke?

MR. CHADWELL: Duke. Nobody knows me as Arthur.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Just Duke.
THE WITNESS: Just Duke.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, would you like to add anything to that, Mr. Chadwell?

MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell, we do have an internal control policy that is reviewed and updated annually by the committee, as well as a compliance claim, and in the internal policy, as Mr. Raley indicated, dual signatures is a safeguard. Requiring an audit each year. And then, we just went through a federal audit last

November sometime. So, we are audited annually. We have internal control policies in place, the dual signatures on both checks and deposits. So we're pretty locked down as far as our internal controls for managing funds.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Thank you.
BY MR. MCFETRIDGE:
Q Quick question, so if this proposal goes through, and it's approved by the secretary, what would the calculation be to determine what the average two years could be for the fund? Would it be the last three years, the last five years, or --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Raley, do you want to take a crack at that?

THE WITNESS: Well, I mean, it would be the past two years.

BY MR. MCFETRIDGE:
Q The past two years.
A I would imagine. And, like I
said, our expenses have been extremely level
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for the last 10 years. So it'd be pretty easy to determine.

Q Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: And, Mr. Chadwell, did you want to add to that?

MR. CHADWELL: Yes, it would be the previous two years, as Mr. Raley said.

BY MR. MCFETRIDGE:
Q Would this specific proposal warrant an increase in the assessment rate, or is that just a possibility that could happen in the future?

A I don't believe this proposal, specifically, will warrant an increase. I think just the declining volume in the industry will warrant an increase of assessments. I don't think this, this would, you know, this proposal itself, necessarily, wouldn't cause an increase.

Q Thank you. My final question. Proposal 6, can you foresee any possible way that this would cause any type of undue burden

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | onto any small growers or shippers? |
| 2 | A I do not. |
| 3 | Q Thank you. |
| 4 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else at USDA |
| 5 | has questions for Mr. Raley? Who else in the |
| 6 | room has questions for Mr. Raley? Mr. Raley, |
| 7 | was there anything you wanted to add? |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: No ma'am, not at |
| 9 | this time. |
| 10 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Is there any |
| 11 | objection to the admission into evidence of |
| 12 | Exhibit 21? |
| 13 | (No response.) |
| 14 | JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. |
| 15 | Exhibit 21 is admitted into evidence. Thank |
| 16 | you, Mr. Raley. |
| 17 | (Whereupon Exhibit No. |
| 18 | 21 was received into |
| 19 | evidence.) |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. My |
| 21 | pleasure. |
| 22 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Let's take a |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

10-minute stretch break, nine minute. Please be back and ready to go at 3:15.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: We're back on record at 3:16. I want everyone to be aware that there are a couple of contacts we need to make before long. One is there is a gentleman who is willing to stay if we need to work a little longer in order to finish. We can stay as late as 6:00. And my understanding is that if we stay after 5:30, he's doing extra work for us, and he's willing to do it. So, fairly soon, we should try to communicate to him whether we expect him to stay until 6:00.

The other is the company that will be picking up our amplification equipment and taking it back to Orlando would kind of like to know whether we're going to be using it tomorrow. And so, we're welcome to, but they'd like to know. So, as we get a little longer in the afternoon, help me try to calculate whether we're going to be back here
tomorrow. And now's the time to get this done. If we need tomorrow, that's fine with me. But we just need to touch base with these folks who would be helping us. So, I'll ask you in about an hour where do you think we are.

All right, 1 'm going to swear in you seated. Would you raise your right hand, please? Whereupon, EMERY SMITH, II, called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you Please state and spell your name.

THE WITNESS: My name is Emery Smith, II, E-m-e-r-y, S-m-i-t-h. JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, and I have marked the document that says Emery Smith testimony, Proposal No. 3, redistricting, as Exhibit 22. You may proceed.

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(Whereupon Exhibit No. 22 was marked for identification.)

TESTIMONY BY EMERY SMITH, II
THE WITNESS: Thank you. Again, my name is Emery Smith. I reside at 2851 S. Lake Leta Drive in Avon Park, Florida. I serve on the executive committee of the Florida Citrus Packers and the board of directors of the Highlands County Citrus Growers Association. I am not on the Citrus Administrative Committee, but our company works closely with the committee and utilizes their statistical information.

I am the vice president of Citrus Marketing and Industry Relationship for Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., a vertically integrated, family-owned citrus operation. And my family is also engaged in citrus production. Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. is one of the larger growers of Florida citrus with groves located in multiple counties within the production
area of Florida.
We also operate a packing house and market our fruit mainly to the domestic market. Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. groves and packing house would meet the SBA's definition as a large grower shipper. Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. has been growing and shipping fresh citrus in Florida for more than 60 years. Of citrus produced by Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., the majority of our fruit is produced for the process market, but the fruit produced for the fresh market is a very important component of our overall citrus operation.

As a fresh fruit grower, we think it's important Florida's fresh growers have the order's grower districts better defined so those Florida citrus growers producing citrus for the fresh market are fairly represented on the committee. Proposal No. 3 would change Section 905.14, redistricting, to read as follows: The committee may, with the approval of the secretary, redefine the districts into
which the production area is divided, so reapportion or otherwise change the grower membership of the districts or both, provided that the membership shall consist of at least eight, but not more than nine, grower members.

And any such change shall be based, so far as practical, upon the respective averages for immediately preceding three fiscal periods of 1) the number of bearing trees in each district, 2) the volume of fresh fruit produced in each district, 3) the total number of acres in each district, and 4) other relevant factors. Each redistricting or re-apportionment shall be announced or prior to March 1 preceding the effective fiscal period.

The proposal to remove the time frame for redistricting, and to base any changes on three fiscal periods of 1) number of bearing trees in each district, 2) volume of fresh fruit produced in each district, 3) total number of acres in each district, and 4)
other relevant factors would allow the committee to redistrict grower districts as often as factors within the production area mandate.

Due to the major declines in bearing tree numbers, production and fresh shipments, the Florida citrus industry has experienced over the past decade, this proposal would allow the committee to determine grower districts on a timely basis based on these factors. The authority under the order to redistrict on an established time frame every fifth year, with the factors outlined in Section 905.14, redistricting, the committee has, in the past, redistricted grower districts when warranted under the current provisions of Section 905.14.

The committee has compared five years of data on acreage, shipments and production. However, given the increased loss of trees per acre due to disease pressure and natural disasters, the current guideline for
calculating grower districts using acreage is no longer an applicable method to determine grower districts. The new industry standard is to consider bearing trees, not acreage, when calculating production capacity within a county or grower district.

Due to heavy tree loss within producing groves, acreage is not a reliable indicator of production, as too many groves have anywhere from 10 percent to as much or more than 50 percent of their grove acreage with non-bearing trees or no trees at all. It is the bearing trees that produce our crops, and utilizing them for calculating production is a more reliable indicator of production. It must be noted the Florida citrus industry pays an assessment on each box of citrus to help fund the Florida Agricultural Statistical Service to not only provide crop estimates every season, but an accurate tree census every other year.

Therefore, the committee has an accurate and
up-to-date census of bearing trees, by variety and county, to utilize in the redistricting of grower districts.

As previously noted, the Florida citrus industry utilizes 90 percent or more of its annual production to produce processed products. During the last complete season of 2011-'12, approximately two percent of the early-mid and Valencia orange crop was utilized for fresh shipments. Which means that 98 percent of the round orange crop is utilized for the production of processed products.

Therefore, when these varieties' production are used by county, it skews the volume to process utilization, and is not reflective of fresh volume. Therefore, calculating fresh volume can best be arrived at by taking the fresh fruit varieties, those varieties that return the grower an on-tree value that exceeds cost of product, and using their bearing trees per county to calculate Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
fresh volume is much more representative of fresh growers per county.

It should be noted the varieties we will be using are Navel oranges, red and white grapefruit, specialty citrus varieties, Fall-Glo tangerines, Sunburst tangerines, Tangelos, honey tangerines. Tables 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 5 illustrate these points.

The committee determined, in their deliberations, that implemented the proposed changes would allow the committee, in future seasons, the flexibility to adjust grower districts to reflect the shift in production of fresh varieties and fresh volume. In addition, we foresee the continued loss of trees and fresh volume, and the shift in varieties that make up our industry's composition of fresh shipments.

The committee, having the authority to constitute grower districts according to where the fresh fruit product is will better serve the growers of fresh fruit.

On a positive note, as our industry begins to plant with new fresh fruit varieties/hybrids, and fresh fruit volume is increased with new and improved production practices currently be addressed by the USDA and IFIS researchers that combats greening and canker, the committee will be positioned to adjust grower districts as they evolve in the future.

In closing, the fresh segment of our industry has been very supportive on this proposal. It has been stated more than once today this proposal will give the Florida citrus grower of fresh fruit a tool in the toolbox to better administer the order for the benefit of growers.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Who has questions for Mr. Smith, starting with USDA employees? Ms. Schmaedick. MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, Your Honor .

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:

Q Thank you, Mr. Smith, for your testimony. On Page 3 of your testimony, you refer to some tables, Tables 1(a), 2, 3, 4 and 5. It's mentioned at the bottom of that middle paragraph.

A I believe those were the tables from Mr. Chadwell's testimony in the very beginning.

Q Okay, thank you. That was just my question for clarification.

A Sure.
Q And then, you mentioned, on Page 2, you're discussing the need to include bearing acres. Is that correct? Bearing trees.

A Bearing trees versus acres.
Q Correct, sorry, thank you. My question is how would a newly planted tree be counted? I believe earlier in the day we heard that it took about five years for a tree to become fully productive.

A That's correct. Initially, a new
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planting is classified as non-bearing. And after so many years, it is put into the bearing category. I think three or four years is the time frame. The first couple of years, it is still considered non-bearing, which we do have a number of acres in that category today from trees that were removed from canker that have been reset and are still nonbearing.

Q Thank you for that clarification. And, just to, I guess, to focus on other proposals, other than Proposal No. 3, are you aware of, in general, the other proposals being proposed today?

A Yes.
Q And are you supportive of those?
A Yes.
Q To what extent have you been involved in the development of these proposals?

A I'm, as I stated, I'm not on the committee, but attend the committee meetings.

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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | And, as a fresh grower and shipper, we're |
| 2 | involved with the rule making that the |
| 3 | committee develops. |
| 4 | Q And are you aware of outreach |
| 5 | activities to educate the industry at large |
| 6 | about the proposals? |
| 7 | A I think, as has been stated, many |
| 8 | of us serve on a number of committees, so |
| 9 | these things kind of work their way around as |
| 10 | different meetings take place. |
| 11 | Q So, in your opinion, it's fairly |
| 12 | widely known throughout the industry? |
| 13 | A Yes. |
| 14 | Q What's being proposed today. |
| 15 | A Yes. |
| 16 | Q Thank you. No further questions. |
| 17 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Who else has |
| 18 | questions for Mr. Smith. Mr. McFetridge. |
| 19 | EXAMINATION |
| 20 | BY MR. MCFETRIDGE: |
| 21 | Q Mr. Smith, just one quick |
| 22 | question. For Proposal No. 3, redistricting, |
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can you foresee any undue burden that would be placed on any small growers or handlers?

A No I don't.
Q You stated here that Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., that's where you are a grower for them?

A I work for Ben Hill Griffin.
Q You work for them. As an employee for them, how do you feel about Proposal 9 about grower sign-ups?

A I think that would also be beneficial. That we have, the majority of our fruit is company-owned that we pack. But we do have outside growers that we handle fruit for. So some of, I mean, other than our communication, some of those growers would not, necessarily, be aware of meetings, notices and so forth. So, by having that comprehensive list to make sure you're targeting all of those folks, I think that would be an improvement.

Q Thank you very much.
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as a compliance tool?
A I don't think so. I mean, I think, $I$ think it would be beneficial to ensure, but as a shipper, you know your own growers. So, if there's a compliance issue, you're going to make sure your own growers are in compliance with whatever the rules might be. So, maybe that's handled more individually. I don't know if, by gathering that information through the handlers of the individual growers, if that would be a help. I guess it would depend on what the issue was.

Q Could you foresee handler registration being a compliance tool for ensuring that handlers comply with assessment rules?

A Yes, I think that would, you would be ensuring that everyone's covered. That everyone is accounted for.

Q And, in your opinion, is that a good idea?

A I think you want to make sure Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

$\square$ evidence.)

THE WITNESS: No ma'am. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Thank you so much.

THE WITNESS: Thank you. JUDGE CLIFTON: You may step down. And, Mr. Chadwell, who will be the next witness?

MR. CHADWELL: It would be Proposal No. 1, variety development.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Do you want to deal now with the testimony of the gentleman who had to leave, Mr. Chaires?

MR. CHADWELL: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Who would like to handle that?

MR. HUNT: Yes, if I could, I was going to read Mr. Chaires's testimony. I am Frank Hunt, III. And I will read in Mr. Chaires's testimony. And then, if I'm correct, then Dr. Gmitter will follow that. And then, I would follow with my testimony,
all in regards to Proposal 1.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and we've had some mention of this earlier, but I just want the person who knows best to explain why it is that Mr. Chaires was here this morning when we started.

MR. HUNT: Okay, Mr. Chaires spent a couple days in the hospital with pneumonia here, what about a week ago, a little less than a week ago, and was released on Sunday. And so, he was not capable of continuing. We felt like he needed to go. He has respiratory issues from his illness.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and why is it that you know that this is his testimony?

MR. HUNT: I happen to have it in front of me with his name on it.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Who knows, who can establish that this is what he would have provided were he here?

MR. HUNT: Okay, Mr. Chaires is
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202-234-4433
the executive --
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, just a minute. One at a time.

MR. HUNT: Mr. Chaires is the executive director of the Florida Citrus Packers, and I serve as president of Florida Citrus Packers, and so we have worked very closely on these testimonies together, along with Mr. Hamner and others.

JUDGE CLIFTON: That's very
helpful. Thank you. All right, let's go off record while we distribute the testimony of Mr. Chaires.
(Off the record.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we've back on record at 3:38. Would you please spell the name of Mr. Chaires?

MR. HUNT: Okay. It's J. Peter Chaires, the letter J, and then P-e-t-e-r, C-h-a-i-r-e-s.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you. And I have marked the document that says
testimony, J. Peter Chaires as Exhibit 23, and it's a five-page document. And you will be reading it into the record. I'd like for you to identify yourself, spell both your names, and remember that you remain under oath.
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
23 was marked for identification.) Whereupon, FRANK M. HUNT, III, previously called as a witness herein, having been previously duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE WITNESS: Yes, okay. I am Frank M. Hunt, F-r-a-n-k, M, H-u-n-t. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, are you familiar with this testimony that's been marked as Exhibit 23?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I am. JUDGE CLIFTON: And do you know that Mr. Chaires intended to present it himself today?

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THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
JUDGE CLIFTON: You may proceed.
TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY FRANK HUNT
ON BEHALF OF PETER CHAIRES
THE WITNESS: My name is Peter Chaires, and I reside at 457 Cardinal Oaks Court, Lake Mary, Florida 32746. I serve as executive director of New Varieties Development and Management Corporation, NVDMC. NVDMC is a grower funded, not-for-profit corporation formed in 2005, which is funded through a contract with the Florida Department of Citrus.

NVDMC's mission is to support the development of new citrus varieties, identify, acquire and evaluate varieties from other global production areas, serve as a central licensing mechanism for proprietary citrus varieties on behalf of nurseries, growers and packers. Liaison with state and federal agencies in the field of variety development and import procedures, and to assure that

Florida citrus producers have timely and affordable access to new varieties.

I also serve as executive vice president of the Florida Citrus Packers, a 53year old, not-for-profit cooperative association. Florida Citrus Packers represents the interests of commercial packers and shippers of fresh citrus fruit. The organization involves itself in regulatory, legislative, marketing and market access activities. There are presently 29 packing houses within its membership.

Proposal No. 1a revises Section 905.4 to read as follows: Section 904.4, fruit. Fruit means any or all varieties of the following types of citrus fruits grown in the production area: (a) citrus sinesis, Osbeck, commonly called oranges; (b) citrus paradisi, McFadyen, commonly called grapefruit; (c) citrus reticulata, commonly called tangerines or mandarin; (d) citrus grandis, Osbeck, commonly called pummelo; and Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
(e) citrus hybrids that are hybrids between or among one or more of the four fruits (a) through (d) of this section and the following: trifoliate orange (Poncirus trifoliate), sour orange (C. aurantium), lemon (C. limon), lime (C. aurantifolia, citron (C. medica), kumquat (Fortunella species), tangelo (C. reticulata crossed with C. paradisi or C. grandis), tangor (C. reticulata crossed with C. sinensis), and varieties of these species. In addition, citrus hybrids include tangelo (C. reticulata crossed with C. paradisi or C. grandis), tangor (C. reticulata crossed with C. sinesis), and temple oranges, and varieties thereof.

Proposal 1b would revise 905.5 to read as follows: Section 905.5, variety. Variety or varieties means any one or more of the following classifications or groupings of fruit: (a) oranges, (a)(1) would be early and midseason oranges, (2) Valencia, Lue Gim Gong, or similar late maturing oranges of the

Valencia type, (3) navel oranges.
(b) would be grapefruit, red grapefruit, to include all shades of color and white grapefruit. (c) would be tangerines and mandarins which would include (1) Dancy and similar tangerines, (2) Robinson tangerines, (3) Honey tangerines, (4) Fall-glo tangerines, (5) US Early Pride tangerines, (6) Sunburst tangerines, (7) W-Murcott tangerines, and (8) tangors. (d) Pummelos, Hirado Buntan and other pink seeded pummelos. (e) would be citrus hybrids which would be Tangelos, including Orlando Tangelo and Minneola Tangelo, and (2) Temple oranges. (f) other varieties of citrus fruits specified in 905.4, including hybrids, as recommended and approved by the secretary, provided that in order to add any hybrid variety of citrus fruit to be regulated under this provision, such variety must exhibit similar characteristics and be subject to cultural practices common to existing regulated varieties.

New citrus varieties are the lifeblood of our industry. In Florida many of the mainline varieties we have packed and sold for generations have either succumbed to pest and disease challenges, or reached a point of market obsolescence. Florida growers have invested heavily and steadily in the development of new citrus varieties to meet changing demand and consumer preferences.

It is imperative that Marketing Order 905 be amended to keep pace with the rapidly changing industry, and to maximize its relevance and utility to the industry. The utilization of varieties in fresh market channels is quite variable. The most recent data indicates that only five percent of Florida round orange production was utilized fresh.

However, fresh packed round oranges account for up to 60 percent of the volume of some family-owned Florida packing houses. This fruit is economically Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
significant for their business. Approximately 81 percent of Florida navel oranges are utilized fresh. And though they are not a large part of statewide production, they are very significant to many packing operations and producers.

Approximately 50 percent of the Florida red grapefruit crop is now utilized fresh. But we hope to improve on this figure with time. Packing a variety fresh often provides superior returns to the grower, and is the preferred route of utilization for navel oranges, grapefruit and specialty varieties. The ability to regulate fresh shipments protects the interest of growers.

The proposed amendment are intended to update order language to expand the definition of fruit and varieties to include new varieties and hybrids of citrus, consolidate fresh citrus regulation, and better reflect current Florida citrus industry operations. Marketing Order 905 was last
amended in 2009. Since that time, there have been many changes within the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry.

The Florida citrus industry continues to contract due to the loss of bearing trees and production, which has been brought about by the effect of two diseases, citrus canker and greening, and natural disasters such as hurricanes. Also, the percent of Florida's citrus crop utilized for fresh shipment has contracted to approximately nine percent of the citrus produced in Florida.

> During these years, Florida's
bearing citrus trees have declined by 29 percent, production by 42 percent, and fresh utilization by 45 percent. The loss of production has placed increased pressure on Florida fresh packing operations. In addition, the value of the juice produced by some of the most, some or most of the fresh fruit varieties has continued to decline,
which has further segmented the fresh from the process sector of the Florida citrus industry.

The establishment of quality standards supports demand and improves Florida's competition position. To maintain this benefit of the marketing order, the CAC must include new varieties and hybrids as they are developed and gain consumer acceptance. They amendment to include new varieties and hybrids could have a great impact on growers, handlers and consumers by ensuring that new varieties meet the same quality standards applied to current varieties.

Without the development of seedless and easy-to-peel varieties and hybrids that can produce in Florida, consumers will seek varieties currently produced in California and imported from Spain, Australia and South Africa. Without new varieties and hybrids, the future for fresh Florida citrus would be in doubt.

However, the existence of abundant Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
land, infrastructure, expertise, and productive breeding programs fuel the belief that the downward trends will be reversed. When new varieties and hybrids are available to the Florida citrus industry, it will be important that the marketing order have the authority to regulate quality and size standards, and that it's language be inclusive of all material likely to emerge from the breeding programs.

Finally, the ability to regulate all varieties utilized in fresh channels assures universal participation and support. It is important that all varieties participate in programs related to quality, research and promotion. Universal participation and inclusion assures maximum benefit to the Florida grower.

JUDGE CLIFTON: First, I want to ask if there's any objection to Exhibit 23 being admitted into evidence due to the fact that Mr. Chaires is not, himself, here for
cross examination. Is there any objection?
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: There is none. I admit into evidence Exhibit 23. Mr. Hunt, are you comfortable in answering, or at least attempting to answer any questions that anyone here might have about the statements in Exhibit 23?
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
23 was received into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: With Dr. Gmitter's support here beside me, I'm comfortable trying to answer any questions.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Good. All right, let's take it that way, then. First of all, who from USDA has any questions about the content in Exhibit 23? Ms. Schmaedick.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, Your Honor .

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHAMEDICK:

Q And thank you, Mr. Hunt, for reading in the testimony for your colleague. I was wondering if you could speak to the inclusion of pummelos into the new definition of fruit? Why are pummelos being added?

A Well, you know, pummelos is a variety that, it's actually been a minor use variety that's out there. But it is of a citrus type, and pummelos are gaining popularity. And a pummelo is a grapefruit-like fruit. And so, it seemed that pummelos should come under regulation. Dr. Gmitter, would you add anything to that, or is that --

DR. GMITTER: The production of pummelo in Florida, as well as in California, is increasing. It's initially been targeted at Asian markets. But there is becoming more and more mainstream interest and acceptance of the variety. You can buy them at Walmart. So pummelo has, in fact, become a player in very recent years.

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Would this be an example of a fruit that has met or is starting to cross that commercially viable threshold that we spoke of earlier?

A I think it would be.
Q And, I apologize up front if I, this may seem like a really silly question, but is pummelo its own fruit, or is it a variety of another fruit?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And, perhaps, that might be a better question for you, Dr. Gmitter.

DR. GMITTER: Pummelo is a category of fruit. There are a number of different varieties of pummelo that exist in the world. There are white fleshed pummelos. There are red fleshed, pink fleshed, even green fleshed pummelos. So, it's one of the true biological species in citrus, and there's a great diversity in fruit types. But they all would be recognized as distinctive based
on their size. They're a large fruit. Bigger than any other citrus fruit.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, I appreciate that clarification. So, would that be the reason for including it as a distinct line item, if you will, in the definition of fruit, as well as a specific mention under variety or the potential parentage of future hybrids?

DR. GMITTER: They are distinctly different from all other citrus fruit. So, I think it's justified, it's rational that they should be listed as a separate item, in my opinion.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. I appreciate that. I do have further questions about the proposed definitions and the changes to these two definitions. I'm wondering if I should, Your Honor, if I should just ask them now, or if I should wait for further testimony.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Perhaps you should Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
wait, because we don't know what Dr. Gmitter is going to say. You can always come back to Exhibit 23 to ask questions of him, Mr. Hunt, or anyone else. So, it's up to you. The hardest part will be knowing how to pronounce the question you want to ask.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you for that guidance. I will wait for further testimony. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, would anyone else from USDA like to ask any questions now about Exhibit 23? And you all can wait until you have Dr. Gmitter or Mr. Hunt testifying, and then use Exhibit 23 to ask questions if you'd like. All right, are there any other questions from anyone in the room right now about Exhibit 23? Everyone may bring it up later if you wish. But, are there any questions right now?
(No response.)
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, none. Then, Dr. Gmitter, I think you're next.

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MR. HUNT: Well, George is throwing us a curve again, Your Honor. He suggested, while $I$ have the mic, to go ahead and read my testimony, and then we'll have Dr. Gmitter, if that would be okay.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Certainly, fine.
MR. HUNT: I am, basically, just in support of the proposal with my testimony, so I'll go ahead and read that, if that would be all right. And Mr. Chadwell's passing out copies.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay now, hold on just a second. What he's passing out now is a black and white version of what $I$ had in color attached to Mr. Chaires testimony. So, it's the same, correct?

MR. HAMNER: They had them attached --

MR. HUNT: I don't know whether it is or not. I assume it is. It looks the same.

DR. GMITTER: Yes, they were Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
attached, yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay. I like the color version myself.

MR. HUNT: Okay, Duke, collect that other copy, then.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So I'm going to mark the document that has very beautiful letterhead that says Hunt Bros., brothers abbreviated, as Exhibit 24. All right, and Mr. Hunt, although you remain sworn, tell me again your full name and spell it, please. (Whereupon Exhibit No. 24 was marked for identification.)

Whereupon,
FRANK M. HUNT, III,
recalled as a witness herein, having been previously duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE WITNESS: I'm Frank M. Hunt, III, F-r-a-n-k, letter M, H-u-n-t, III.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. You may proceed.

TESTIMONY BY FRANK M. HUNT, III
THE WITNESS: Okay, I reside at 803 North Lakeshore Boulevard, Lake Wales, Florida. I am president of Hunt Bros. Cooperative located in Lake Wales, Florida. Hunt Bros. is a closely held family citrus cooperative made up of family members or family-controlled corporations. Hunt Bros. was founded in 1922 by my grandfather, and today we are into the fourth generation of family members working in the business.

We are growers, packers and shippers of fresh Florida citrus, producing and packing fresh various varieties of navel oranges, round oranges, tangerines, tangelos and grapefruit. Our fresh fruit is all marketed and sold by Seald Sweet, LLC located in Vero, Florida. Hunt Bros. Cooperative would be considered by the SBA definition, a large grower and shipper.

I am currently serving as president of Florida Citrus Packers and am a
charter board member of the New Varieties Development and Management Corporation, of which I am a past president. I currently serve on the committee as a cooperative shipper member.

The development and availability of new fresh citrus varieties is of great importance to our family business. Although we see a bright and continued future for many of the varieties we currently pack, it is clear that we also need access to new varieties that meet changing consumer preferences, and that are more robust and able to survive our unique mix of pest and diseases.

We recognize that our best hope will be varieties bred in our climate. Because of this, we have invested tremendous time and effort to support variety development and commercialization programs. Shifts in variety demand can change an industry quickly. Thirty years ago, our company packed
substantial quantities of Robinson and Dancy tangerines.

Though these were fine varieties for the time, they both fell into disfavor. They were quickly supplanted by Fall-Glo and Sunburst tangerines. Eventually, so few of the Robinson and Dancy varieties were packed that they were both deregulated. Honey tangerines have been packed throughout this time period, but are now seeing an erosion of support.

Fast forward to 2012. For the first time in a quarter century, the top two propagated tangerine varieties were not Sunburst or Honeys. There were two new tangerines that are rapidly making inroads. Packers need to be prepared, and the marketing order needs to be prepared. Hunt Bros. intends to plant experimental trials of new easy-peel and seedless varieties in the near future. Those that prove to be the best performers, and which our marketing company
determine meet the demands of consumers, will be planted in greater quantity.

Companies that plan to be in this business for the long term must adapt with the times, and we are taking the steps we feel are necessary to position ourselves for long-term success. It is important to Hunt Bros. and the Florida citrus industry that all new varieties emerging from the University of Florida and USDA breeding programs be eligible for regulation under Marketing Order 905.

The ability to regulate these varieties will assure our company, and other like us, that the quality and consistency of the fruit entering channels of trade will meet consumer demand, compete with product from other global production areas, and assure a fair economic return. The marketing order revisions will enable the regulation of new varieties, giving us the confidence to plant and invest.

Hunt Bros. is also heavily
invested in the process sector of the Florida citrus industry. We were one of the founding members of what is today known as Florida's Natural. It is our expectation that the process side of our business will remain an important market. However, we also see a bright future for the fresh sector. Florida is the closest local supplier to the eastern seaboard of the United States, the largest citrus consuming populous in the world.

This is a coveted market by many, and one that Florida is well positioned to recapture. New consumer-friend varieties will be a key to our competitive position in this market. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Mr. Hunt. Before I invite other questions, I notice that the first page has a date April 19, 2013, and the second page has a date April 22, 2013, but it was clearly all one statement. Do you have any comment about those dates?

THE WITNESS: I think the second one was computer generated. So, I didn't notice it when it was printed.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Now, I would invite questions, first by USDA employees.

THE WITNESS: Okay, it perhaps might be, in regards to this, if they would allow Dr. Gmitter to go ahead with his. And then we can answer questions together. It might save us a little bit of time.

JUDGE CLIFTON: That's fine with me.

THE WITNESS: If that's okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: That's fine with everyone. We'll do that. Dr. Gmitter, would you, first, you're sworn, so if you'll just state and spell your name for us. Whereupon, DR. FRED GMITTER, JR., recalled as a witness herein, having been previously duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE WITNESS: My name is Fred Gmitter, F-r-e-d. The last name spelled G-m-i-t-t-e-r.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and I see Jr.

THE WITNESS: Jr.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and what is your doctorate in?

THE WITNESS: I have a PhD in
plant breeding and genetics through the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the University of Florida.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent. Well, we're very happy to have you here.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, your testimony is being distributed now, and I have five pages here, and I'm marking that as Exhibit 25. And you may proceed.
(Whereupon Exhibit No.
25 was marked for
identification.)
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202-234-4433

## TESTIMONY BY FRED GMITTER

THE WITNESS: Thank you. I am a professor with a 95 percent research appointment in citrus breeding and genetics, based at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, since 1985. I received my BA and MS degrees from Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey, with a specialization in plant breeding.

I, subsequently, was graduated from the University of Florida in 1985, and was awarded the PhD degree with a specialization in citrus genetics and breeding. I have nearly 30 years of professional experience in the area of citrus genetics.

Currently, I am a University of Florida research foundation professor of citrus genetics and breeding at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center, and a member of the faculty of the

Department of Horticultural Sciences where I have remained since 1985.

My research is focused on the development of genetically improved citrus scion and rootstock varieties through the application of traditional breeding approaches, and the incorporation of various tools and techniques of molecular biology and genomics. In addition, my research program is deeply involved in structural and functional genomics of citrus.

I have produced more than 130 research articles on citrus genetics and breeding that include refereed journal publications, book chapters, bulletins, invited manuscripts and trade journal articles. I have gained recognition nationally and internationally for my accomplishments and achievements in this research area, as evidence by more than 85 invitations to speak on these topics at national and international conferences,
meetings and symposiums.
I served as the chair of the Crop Germplasm Committee of the National Clonal Germplasm Repository for citrus and dates. I have served as the leader of the International Citrus Genomics Consortium, ICGC, from 2006 until now. During the past two years, I have been a principal investigator, PI, or co-PI on competitive research grant projects that have totaled more than $\$ 4$ million.

I serve on the editorial board of several national and international journals. I am also an ad hoc reviewer of several national research program agencies in plant genetics, genomics and breeding, including the USDA National Research Initiative and National Science Foundation.

Most relevant to today's topic, I have been responsible, along with my colleagues at UF, for the development and release of more than 10 new citrus varieties that are aimed at improving the
competitiveness of the Florida citrus industry, processing and fresh market segments both, in the domestic and global markets.

By providing improvements in existing categories, e.g., sweet oranges with earlier or later maturity, improved color and flavor attributes, et cetera, as well as generating new and unique hybrids that may revitalize the struggling fresh fruit business.

The scientific world is in the midst of a pervasive revolution based on genome sequencing technology, which is leading to dramatic new insights on fundamental understanding of biological organisms and their relationships one to another. Citrus science is sure to be affected by these tremendous advances in technology, and subsequent new understandings.

However, these advances are proceeding more rapidly than are the conventions of taxonomy upon which the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
definitions of citrus species and their derived varieties are based. At the present time, I see no need to be concerned with changes in names or identifies of citrus species as they currently exist.

There are two changes I would recommend to the existing, and I'll add here, proposed definitions as found in 905.4, fruit, simply to be in line with currently accepted norms. Specifically, the currently accepted binomial for pummelo is citrus maxima merr, m-e-r-r, not citrus grandis, as listed previously. Further, there is an incorrect spelling of poncirus trifoliata, ending with an "a", not p. trifoliate, ending with an "e" as currently written. Minor corrections from a professor.

As indicated, I am a citrus breeder who, together with colleagues, has released many new varieties already, some of which have already been produced and marketed commercially, such as our sugar belle mandarin
hybrid and the valquarius sweet orange, which is just now coming into production for the juice industry. We are actively developing several more that we hope may have benefit to the Florida citrus industry in the coming years.

Some of these will, very obviously, fit into existing categories such as sweet orange. But others, clearly, are of hybrid origin, and will present relatively unique attributes that may distinguish them from currently known market varieties. Varieties are being released by the UF Citrus Breeding Program in a fast track testing option under pre-negotiated conditions, where limited numbers of trees will be grown by interested growers, but no fruit will be allowed for sale.

Once these selections have been assessed for their potential value, and growers or others make decisions to plant sufficient numbers of trees to produce a
supply of fruit for marketing through ordinary commercial channels, commercialization will proceed. In my opinion, this seems a logical point at which questions regarding regulation of quality standards could be considered and addressed.

There will, undoubtedly, be situations where the fruit of varieties will not meet quality or size standards, particularly the latter. The fresh citrus market has seen dramatic growth in consumer preference for small sized mandarin fruit that are easy to peel, seedless and convenient. The breeding programs in Florida have made advanced selections which, currently, are under evaluation to meet this relatively new consumer demand, and I believe these would not meet currently defined standards on size.

Another example where existing quality standards may not readily be met is a new variety that has very recently been made available, currently known as UF914. This is
a hybrid of pummelo with grapefruit that produces fruit larger than the otherwise resembling ordinary grapefruit. It, generally, has higher sugar levels and lower acidity, yet retains the red pigmentation, flavor and aroma of ordinary grapefruit.

A critical important attribute of this particular variety is its extremely low content of furanocoumarins, those chemicals contained in ordinary grapefruit that are responsible for the so-called grapefruit juice effect, and subsequent medical recommendations regarding limited grapefruit consumption. As a consequence of its unique chemical composition, there could be a very substantial demand for fruit of this variety by consumers.

It is now UF policy that new citrus varieties, indeed, whenever practical, all new plant varieties developed, are patented or protected under appropriate conventions to protect intellectual property. New varieties can be made available as
exclusive or general releases. Under the former, negotiations take place according to publicly known UF policies, and license are granted to public or private entities that become responsible for commercialization policies, including decisions in industry-wide production levels, distribution and availability of propagation materials, et cetra. Trademark protection can be sought, as well.

General releases are those absent any exclusivity, though royalty fees will still, most likely, be established. Further details on the UF policy and associated processes can be obtained from the UF IFIS deemed for research, as well as from the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, a nonprofit direct support organization of UF with responsibility for managing plant germplasm and new varieties coming from the breeding program.

In my opinion, it is essential
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that the industry be enabled to utilize the provisions of Marketing Order 905 in the rapidly changing citrus variety landscape, with many more new varieties becoming available than ever before, to support the position of Florida fresh industry and the evolving and fluid marketplace that is currently at hand.

New varieties, by their very nature, will present unique marketing opportunities. But also will, implicitly, present different and unique quality attributes that will likely require visitation of the measures and standards of quality relative to those applied to the current portfolio of varieties. The success of these new varieties, as well as the future of Florida's fresh citrus industry, will be better secured by ensuring that new varieties will be required to meet quality standards. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Dr. Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Gmitter. I'm going to ask USDA employees to ask any questions you have of either Dr. Gmitter or Mr. Hunt, and you may refer to any of the exhibits that we have, including 24 and 25. Ms. Schmaedick, would you begin?

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you, Dr. Gmitter, for your testimony. I'd like to start with just a few clarification of terms of that you used in your testimony. On Page 1, I am not familiar with citrus scion. Could you tell me what that means, or what that is?
A Certainly. Citrus trees are composite organisms. There is a rootstock and a scion. A scion is the fruiting variety. It may be an orange, a mandarin, a pummelo, and it is grafted or budded onto a rootstock, which is a genetically distinct plant. Most fruit crops, many fruit crops are grown in this way; apples, peaches, grapes. There is a rootstock and there is a scion, which is the fruiting variety.

Q Thank you for that clarification. I aware of that technique, $I$ just didn't know the term, so thank you. And I believe the term functional genomics. I think you touched on that later in your testimony. But could you just tell us what that is in layman's terms, please?

A The simple answer is no. But I will give it a shot. In the past 15 years, there's been an explosion in biological sciences, in genome sequencing. The genome is the collection of DNA of any given organism, and breaking it down into the individual four letters of the genetic code. And so, we produce these things for a number of organisms, including many citrus varieties.

So now we have a catalog, a library of all the genes that exist within an orange, within a mandarin, whatever citrus you're looking at. The question then becomes what do these genes actually do. We can
define them based on computer algorithms and complex software. We can identify genes based on the characteristics of the sequences. But there are about 25,000 to 30,000 genes in the genome.

And so the question, then, really becomes which genes are responsible for what attributes, what characteristics, what phenomena, what metabolism, what whatever you want to look at. So that's as close as I can get in layman's terms to what functional genomics is.

Q And there are only 30, 000?
A Yes. Actually fewer. It looks more like 26,000, but it depends on who's counting.

Q I apologize. I'd like to get back to the question of pummelo that I asked earlier. Are you familiar with how the production of pummelos has increased over the past few years? Can you tell me its, sort of, relevance in context to the other types of
citrus fruits that are being grown, and how it's grown over time?

A When I began working here 25 years ago, there was a very limited production of pummelo. Over the years, I cannot tell you the acreage or the rate of increase, but over the years it has become, as I mentioned earlier, an item of general commerce. When I began here, most of the pummelos that were grown in Florida were marketed up the east coast, primarily to Asian food stores, Asian people being most familiar with the pummelo, and it actually being the citrus fruit of choice for most Asians.

Now, in fact, you do see pummelos in Walmart and in the supermarket chain stores, and they're coming from Florida, as well as from California. So it's increased. It hasn't increased nearly as much as the production of mandarins have in the last 10 years, exploding in California, for example. But it has become an item of commerce.

Our breeding program has developed several new pummelo varieties with improved attributes, and there is a growing interest among some in the fresh citrus community to produce these. It's still viewed more as a niche market in many ways, but it's growing.

Q So, in your professional opinion, the pummelo has arrived at the point where it should be officially incorporated into the marketing order's definition of fruit?

A In my opinion, yes. JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hamner, identify yourself, please.

MR. HAMNER: George Hamner. The way we understand commercially viable, though, the committee would have to vote on that. And in all candor, $I$ would say probably not. That the volume of pummelos, although increasing, is probably not to what would be the level we would consider commercially viable. Remember, we're dealing with a document. We're looking well into the future as to when it would be
commercial, and that's why it's there, in my opinion.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, Mr. Hamner. Is it not also true that, in order to be able to regulate a pummelo variety, it must first be officially included in the definition of fruit of which varieties --

MR. HAMNER: Yes, I think that's the importance of what Dr. Gmitter is saying. Is that he recognizes, as has made us recognize, it is a variety or category unto itself, where we used to think of it as a grapefruit.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. And let's see, Mr. Hunt, I had a question for you. Are you aware of any growers in the production area that only produce pummelos?

MR. HUNT: That are only producing pummelos? No I am not.

## MS. SCHMAEDICK: Dr. Gmitter?

DR. GMITTER: No I am not.
MR. HAMNER: There's one named Dr.
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Benimerito in the Indian River District.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: He only produces

MR. HAMNER: Yes. He only produces pummelos on a 40-acre grove. Sells them in Miami and to the Asian groups and potential around the country. He's the only one I know of.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Would you spell his name for us?

MR. HAMNER: Oh, man. It's spells
like it's sounds. He's Filipino. It's Dr. B-e-n-i-m-e-r-i-t-o,

Benimerito.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Do it again.
MR. HAMNER: Dr., D-r. B-e-n-i-m-e-r-i-t-o.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So all of that, that Benimerito is all just his last name.

MR. HAMNER: It's one word. That's his last name, and $I$, we call him Beni, so I have no idea what his real first name is.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, then, thank you.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And this individual doesn't produce any of the other citrus fruit?

MR. HAMNER: No he does not.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: To your knowledge, is this individual aware of the proposal to potentially regulate pummelos?

MR. HAMNER: Very much so, and he is very in favor of doing this. He's wondered why we're taking so long.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. I'll just ask the question, and whoever has an answer can answer. How about that? Okay. Are there any other, or any hybrid fruit or varieties that are fairly new to the market that are currently competing and not regulated?

MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell. Sugar belle is one that has, is it the sugar belle?

|  | Page 310 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | DR. GMITTER: That's right. |
| 2 | MR. CHADWELL: Is in it's, I would |
| 3 | still say in it's experimental stage, and has |
| 4 | not been classified nor regulated yet. |
| 5 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: And is the -- |
| 6 | MR. CHADWELL: Very limited |
| 7 | quantities have been produced. |
| 8 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Is the sugar |
| 9 | belle a product of one of the current covered |
| 10 | categories? Is it an orange, grapefruit, |
| 11 | tangerine or tangelo? |
| 12 | DR. GMITTER: We released it and |
| 13 | called it a mandarin hybrid. So it's a |
| 14 | tangerine. |
| 15 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. |
| 16 | DR. GMITTER: Tangerine and |
| 17 | mandarin are -- |
| 18 | MS. SCHMAEDICK: Right, right. |
| 19 | DR. GMITTER: -- very confusing |
| 20 | terms, and have different meanings to |
| 21 | different people but, basically, are the same |
| 22 | thing. |

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So, in your professional opinion, because it is part of the tangerine family, the committee would have the authority to recommend that that variety become a regulated variety. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: They could have that, yes.

MR. HAMNER: George Hamner. Yes ma'am, that's what $I$ would think, yes.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. JUDGE CLIFTON: This is very small. How do you spell sugar belle?

DR. GMITTER: S-u-g-a-r second word belle. Here's your chance for French, B-e-1-1-e.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you. DR. GMITTER: You're welcome. MS. SCHMAEDICK: And I believe this question would be more directed toward either Mr. Chadwell or Mr. Hamner. In your opinion, could assessment collected under the marketing order potentially be used to develop
hybrids, specifically, through research and development programs?

MR. HAMNER: Yes ma'am, I do believe that would be considered, could be considered.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Are there any programs currently?

MR. HAMNER: No ma'am, because we are, the Department of Citrus is funding the development for the industry right now. But if that failed, $I$ guess the CAC could pick up the ball if we needed to.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Do you believe that that would be supported by producers and handlers regulated --

MR. HAMNER: Yes ma'am. The original New Varieties Development Management Corporation was started through Florida Citrus Packers and funded by fresh fruit growers, transferred to the, the funding has gone to the DOC, and it's still funded through fresh fruit funds. And, as a fresh fruit items, yes
ma'am, it would be very supported. You heard Frank Hunt's testimony about the future. And he's just, as a grower to himself, it's very much across the board.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. I'm not sure if this particular issue is relevant in the citrus industry, but Dr. Gmitter you earlier said that the hybrid process, I guess, involves genetic mapping and, I guess, manipulation, perhaps, of the genetics to create hybrids. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: Genetic mapping is a tool.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Oh, I'm sorry.
DR. GMITTER: That's okay.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: I'm not very technical in this area.

DR. GMITTER: That's all right. Of the varieties that we've produced up until this point in time that have been made available for release, these have all been developed using traditional plant breeding
approaches, including crossing a male and a female parent, as well as the selection of naturally occurring mutations. Which has been the history of citrus genetic improvement for several millennia.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So, I guess my question is, and I think you touched on this in your testimony. In the process of developing these hybrids, you mentioned that there are patents that go along with that. DR. GMITTER: Yes.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So then, how does that work within the industry in terms of how would one get a license to produce a new fruit? And is that costly? Would it be a burden on small entities, for example, small producers that want to produce a new fruit? DR. GMITTER: Do you want to give it a shot?

MR. HAMNER: Sure. We have,
George Hamner. We have, within the industry, through New Varieties Development Management

Corporation, that's part of its purpose. Is to set up licensing and handling the coordination of development of the plant material from the seed through people like Dr. Gmitter, and into the hands of small growers.

You heard earlier today about fast track, where we have tier one, tier two, tier three. That is the process. It's in place, and we have agreed funding on, already, on paper for the licensing. Where we actually make royalty payments to the people involved, and move through the system accordingly. And every grower has a shot at doing this.

So, the system does exist, and it is to the benefit of small growers because of the way it's set up. More so even than big growers, frankly.

DR. GMITTER: If I might elaborate. The University of Florida position begins with an invitation to negotiate which goes out to all. And the process is open and transparent for who may be licensed,
ultimately, for any given cultivar. And, up until this point in time, the process has resulted in licenses being granted, not directly from the University of Florida, but from Florida Foundation Seed Producers, this direct support organization that was listed earlier.

Licenses have been granted for the two varieties, thus far, that have been licensed to the New Varieties Development Management Corporation.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So these new varieties are as accessible to small producers as they would be to large producers?

DR. GMITTER: Absolutely.
MR. HAMNER: Yes, provided you sign up in the beginning, when they're first offered. There is a process you have to follow, not matter what your size.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And if you miss that window, what happens? Does it become more expensive?

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MR. HAMNER: You just, you don't do, you can pick up in tier three later on. Further down the road, you can pick up, you can pick up the material that is available to everyone after a period of time anyway. You just miss out on the early experimentation, and maybe the early start of a process.

DR. GMITTER: The process was designed to incentivize growers who are interested to come forward.

MR. HAMNER: Right.
DR. GMITTER: There's a nominal fee to enter tier one, $\$ 50$, and you're entitled to up to 30 trees. And that tier one status gives you tier two statues, a lower royalty rate, should you decide to go commercial. If you miss the window, you still have a chance to get in as tier three at a higher fee. And it's also important to say that these royalty rates were negotiated painstakingly between the University of Florida, Florida Foundation Seed Producers,
and the industry at large.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: And Mr. Hunt, in your opinion, at that tier three level does the royalty expense, would that prohibit a small producer from deciding to grow that new hybrid?

MR. HUNT: No, I don't think so. You have to understand that this has been an evolving process that is intellectual property, or the breeding of new varieties has become something that, globally, is being licensed and patented and controlled by private entities, by public entities, by, you know, it's a very evolving thing.

And, once upon a time, it was a 25-30 year process to get a new variety. And times have changed. The industry's changed. It was imperative that we were able to get these varieties out, get them evaluated. And, truthfully, until you got them in the hands of a commercial grower, the breeders couldn't give you a variety with a guarantee to it.

They didn't know.
And they could research it on
small plantings in various conditions. But once it got out into the industry, it may or may not perform. So, what we've developed here is, with the realization that they were going to be released with patents. There were going to be royalties attached to them. Then we formed the NVDMC to represent the industry. And this was done, really, at initiative of the Florida Citrus Packers.

The NVDMC, then, has negotiated and worked with Florida Foundation of Seed. Florida Foundation of Seed, though you can't legally be given a preference, they have given preference to us, and we have gotten varieties and worked with them, and it's made these varieties available.

The three-tier process was designed to say okay, we have a variety that looks like it's got potential. It's got characteristics that we're really interested
in. Fred's got three trees. Maybe it works, maybe it doesn't work. And so, we want to get those varieties out into a commercial setting.

So that what we're trying to do is incentivize growers in that tier one to take these trees, grow them out, see what various cultural practices, various environmental settings, soils and so forth would produce. And if it looks good, we'll go commercial with it, tier two. But you're giving those growers that were in tier one a little bit of a head start into tier two.

The grower that's in tier three, and in some cases it may be the small grower that says you know, I really can't afford to experiment here. I'm going to just ride this one out. They have the opportunity to be in tier one, but they can ride it out, wait and see okay, yeah, this is going to be a winner. I'm in tier two.

The royalty at that level is
somewhat higher, but it's not prohibitive to
that grower being able to enter at that level. And then he's getting something that's proven. MS. SCHMAEDICK: Right, so it's kind of a trade off on the cost benefit analysis.

MR. HAMNER: Right.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: Do you take the risk at the early stage, and may not have the return. Or do you wait until it's proven.

MR. HAMNER: Exactly.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: Is that what you're saying?

MR. HAMNER: Exactly.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: Okay, thank you. And, this question has been asked several times, but could anyone of you tell me what is the general grower level of enthusiasm within the industry for the development of hybrids? Do you think it's widely supported? Anybody? MR. HAMNER: Yes ma'am. It's very highly supported.

MR. HUNT: I think so. And, in
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fact, in the current environment we're in, there's some angst over why we don't have something faster.

MR. HAMNER: Actually, they're taking a little too long.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I see.
MR. HAMNER: We dropped from 30 years, and we're looking for six months.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I see.
DR. GMITTER: Our breeding program has been supported, not only by NVDMC over time, but also through another taxing mechanism within the industry for more than 15 years now. So, it's been a long-term investment, a long-term interest on behalf of all segments of the industry.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. Those are my questions for now, thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Before I ask for more questions from USDA, do any of you want to add anything at this point?

MR. HAMNER: No.
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JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, then other questions from USDA employees first? Mr. McFetridge.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Marc McFetridge, USDA. To be honest, I've never eaten a pummelo. Just a quick question. I know you said that it was very popular with the Asian population. Is pummelo native to Florida, or is that a species that's been brought over from the Pacific Rim or Asia?

DR. GMITTER: There are no citrus that are native to Florida. Citrus originated in the old world in Southeast Asia. Primarily in between China and Northeastern Indian, and we used to Indochina Southeast Asia.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Thank you. I didn't know that. Dr. Gmitter, I have a quick question for clarification. Your testimony, on Page 3, the top part of it you're talking about the scientific names for pummelo and for the other one, I'm sorry, I can't even come close to pronouncing it correctly. So, is the Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
notice of hearing, is that incorrect for the scientific names for pummelos? You have it here for citrus maxima and in the transcript it's C. gradu --

DR. GMITTER: C. grandis.
MR. MCFETRIDGE: Grandis.
DR. GMITTER: You know, citrus taxonomists come and go, and names come and go.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Okay.
DR. GMITTER: The currently most widely recognized binomial name, which is the two names, the Latins names for pummelo is citrus maxima, and that has been the case for, perhaps, the last 15 years. In scientific circles, that's the name that's expected to appear in journal articles, refereed journal articles and so on. Citrus grandis was widely used, and still you can find it. But, citrus maxima is the preferred.

The second one, poncirus trifoliata, many times spell check will
convert trifoliata to trifoliate. And I don't know if that's the case in this situation or not. But the official name of that species is poncirus trifoliata, with an a at the end.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Okay. So, based on your professional opinion, to basically made the order as accurate as possible, the pummelo probably should be switched over from the citrus grandis to citrus maxima?

DR. GMITTER: That is my suggestion, yes.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: All right. And just double checking the hearing, the notice of the hearing. It looks like the spell check did transfer it over to an "e" instead of an "a." Thank you. On Page 4, Dr. Gmitter, you talked about the so-called grapefruit effect. Could you just elaborate on that for us? DR. GMITTER: Certainly. There is this family of chemicals called furanocoumarins that are found in grapefruit. These chemicals interact with an enzyme
produced in the liver, in the human liver. This enzyme is involved in the metabolism of pharmaceutical drugs, things such as statins, for example, blood pressure medications, birth control pills, depression medications.

These enzymes break down the medicines into smaller molecules. They metabolize. And so, as pharmaceutical companies and the medical community are trying to determine what the dosages should be for people, they're assuming that these enzymes are functioning within a certain normal range of activity. So the drugs are being broken down.

Furanocoumarins inhibit the activities of these enzymes. So what happens with certain specific pharmaceuticals, not all meds, is that rather than being metabolized, they remain unmetabolized and are absorbed in the bloodstream at higher concentrations. So the concentration of the medicines in the human bloodstream is higher than what was
calculated and anticipated.
Therefore, the medical community, generally, recommends people who are taking certain statins, not all statins, certain blood pressure medications, if you're on these medicines, you should not drink grapefruit juice, you should not eat grapefruit. I think it's important to state that there are few or no documented cases of any harm occurring to people as a consequence of this.

It's also important to state that there is variation among human beings, among individuals, in terms of the suppression of enzyme activity or, in fact, even their own native level of these enzymes. Grapefruit juice was the first food in which such potentially significant interactions were discovered. So it became, if you will, the poster child for food medical interactions, and it's received negative notoriety as a consequence of that.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Based on this
grapefruit effect, do you see that this could have some type of, I guess, affect on resulting in the decline in grapefruit juice consumption, too?

DR. GMITTER: It clearly has. If we look at our population who enjoy grapefruit, generally, they're older people. Younger people aren't particularly fond of that sour bitter fruit like some of the old timers are. The older people, generally, are more likely to be on blood pressure meds, on statins, and so on. And so, you do have this, there has been, certainly, an impact on the market for grapefruit and grapefruit products.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Thank you. I
just have another quick question for Mr. Hunt. In your testimony, you talked about the top two tangerine varieties are not Sunburst or Honey. I was wondering if you'd just elaborate what are the two top varieties now?

MR. HUNT: What I was referring to is what was being propagated in the nurseries,
so what are growers now planting going forward. And so, though the Sunburst was very popular in the early '90's and through the '90's and up until recent years, sunburst today are not being propagated in the nurseries and planted. And growers today are looking towards some of the new varieties that have come in more recently such as the Tango and the U.S. Early Pride.

MR. MCFETRIDGE: Okay, thank you. That's all the question $I$ have.

## JUDGE CLIFTON: What other

 questions do USDA employees have, of any of the people sitting at what I'm calling the board table? Ms. Schmaedick.MS. SCHMAEDICK: I have another question for Dr. Gmitter. Would you mind looking at the definition of fruit in the notice? $0 h$, you might not have it.

DR. GMITTER: I don't have that.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: That's okay. I'll just elaborate on my question.

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DR. GMITTER: Okay, I'm looking at copy.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So, in the current definition of fruit, we have Temple oranges, tangelos and Honey tangerines listed as, I believe you referred to them as categories. In the proposed changed definition, Temple oranges, tangelos and tangerines are removed. And my question is, I'll break it down into a series.

In the removal of Temple oranges, based on your professional opinion, are Temple oranges then classified along with the Paragraph A which would be citrus sinensis, Osbeck, commonly called oranges?

DR. GMITTER: Absolutely not.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: No. Where do they go, then?

DR. GMITTER: They are, based on our best information, they would be classified under what we call the tangors, which are hybrids of citrus reticulata, mandarin or Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
tangerines, with sweet oranges. That they were ever called Temple oranges is a misnomer. And citrus history is full of misnomers. There are Satsuma oranges, as well, which really are not oranges at all, but are mandarin types. So the use of the word orange there is an historical misnomer commonly used. MS. SCHMAEDICK: So this, in effect, is a correction in that it's not its own category, but this Temple orange, which is, I guess, a common name is, technically, a fruit that would fall in the category of tangerines or mandarin. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: It would fall in the category of tangors.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Tangors. Do we have a --

DR. GMITTER: Which is under --
MR. HUNT: Citrus hybrids.
DR. GMITTER: -- citrus hybrids.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: I see, okay.
DR. GMITTER: You see the last
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
sentence there? In addition, citrus hybrids include tangelo, tangor, citrus reticulata $x$ citrus sinensis.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you.
MR. HUNT: And Temple oranges.
DR. GMITTER: And Temple oranges. MS. SCHMAEDICK: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So then, is it also correct that tangelos, are tangelos a hybrid, as well?

DR. GMITTER: Tangelos, yes, are hybrid of citrus reticulata by citrus paradisi or citrus maxima. Hybrids of tangerines with grapefruits or with pummelos.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Okay, thank you. And then Honey tangerines, now would they be captured in c) citrus reticulata, Paragraph C DR. GMITTER: Yes and no. They look like tangerines. They peel. We call them Honey tangerines. The varietal name, actually is Murcott. Based on molecular evidence that's been generated in recent
years, we know, also, that the Honey tangerine, like Temple, is a hybrid that originated between some mandarin and some sweet orange. When one makes hybrids, one generates a diverse family of individuals. So that's why they don't look like each other, necessarily.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I understand.
DR. GMITTER: Similar, but not the same.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And in the proposed language, again I just want to clarify that the proposal is to include a new category which would be pummelo, and it would remove these hybrids, Temple oranges, tangelos, Honey tangerines, which would be captured under a new Paragraph E. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: Yes, as I read it.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Just so the record is clear, a new paragraph what letter?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: D, as in David.

JUDGE CLIFTON: D, as in David. Thank you.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: The other question $I$ have for you is regarding, just a moment, I need to find my copy of the notice. In the proposed Paragraph C, which reads citrus hybrids that are hybrids between or among one or more of the four fruits a through d of this section. I just want to make sure that this is, technically, correct, in that Paragraph A refers to oranges, $B$ refers to grapefruit, $C$ refers to tangerines or mandarins, $D$ refers to pummelo, and that all the hybrids that we're discussing today have a parent of one of the four above mentioned categories. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: All that we've been discussing today, yes, that's correct.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And, in your professional experience, are there other hybrids that are being developed that do not include one of the four categories mentioned?

DR. GMITTER: Well, Paragraph E lists one or more of the four fruits a through d of this section, and the following, and it lists a whole range of other species, lemons, limes, kumquats, and the various hybrids of tangors and tangelos. As a plant breeder, I look at the whole collection as the pallet with which we work.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So, in your professional opinion, the way that Paragraph $E$ is proposed, that would meet the industry's needs in terms of establishing authority to regulate future hybrids as they develop.

DR. GMITTER: Yes. It's actually a fairly broad collection of other parents that may or may not, actually, be utilized in the process. So it's broad, and it should encompass --

MS. SCHMAEDICK: And is my understanding that of the two parents that are needed to create a hybrid, at least I think it's limited to two, can it be more than two?

DR. GMITTER: We can get very complicated.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Okay.
DR. GMITTER: Yes, there can be more than two. In some cases, we have created what we call somatic hybrids.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Oh.
DR. GMITTER: Most hybrids we talk about are sexual hybrids, male and female. We're able, through some tissue culture technology, to create somatic hybrids, where we are fusing cells of two different types, and creating a new type, which then, in and of itself, can be used as a male or a female parent to make the crosses.

So, in reality, some of the new hybrids that are coming out that are seedless have been developed through this technological approach. So, it is possible to have, there's never more than one mother and one father. But the father and/or the mother can be more complicated than just itself alone.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: So with that information, the way I interpret this proposed definition is that at least one of the parents were, a faction of one of the parents needs to be, in layman's terms, an orange, a grapefruit, tangerine or mandarin or a pummelo. Is that correct?

DR. GMITTER: That's right, for the varieties that are grown and produced in Florida. If we begin to talk about lemons, then we start to look at other parental combinations to create lemons and limes. But, with the varieties that are commonly grown here in Florida, and that are regulated, it's one of those four or, potentially, several guys or ladies.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Okay, thank you. I want to turn your attention to the proposed definition of variety. Specifically, there's a new Paragraph $F$ that is being proposed, and I want to, specifically, look at the phrase that comes at the end of that paragraph. It
says that in order to add any hybrid variety to citrus fruit to be regulated under this provision, such variety must exhibit similar characteristics and be subject to cultural practices common to existing regulated varieties.

In your professional opinion, will that language work with the future development of hybrids for this industry?

DR. GMITTER: I think it should work, given that the word similar is being used there. Were identical there, I would say no, that's restrictive and it's going to not result in outcomes that we're all looking for. But similar, yes, it works, in my opinion.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, and just for the record, what might be some of the subtle differences that could be seen? For example, earlier today we heard about new varieties that might be entering into the market that have a shorter growing season. Would that be a subtle difference in the cultural practices, or could you explain?

DR. GMITTER: No, I think what was being referred to is a shorter period of time when the fruit might actually be harvested, not necessarily a shorter growing season. With perennial planting, it's always there, and I think that's what was being referred to was the --

MR. HAMNER: I think what -Melissa here I think you've worn us out.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I've worn myself out.

JUDGE CLIFTON: It's not just the reporter, it's the rest of us. Talk into that, if you will.

MR. HAMNER: Okay, the similar has to do with the production practices. When you grow oranges you'd have certain spray programs with grapefruit, certain spray programs. In any given grove there's never identical programs, they're always similar, there are different chemicals people use. And I think

|  | Page 340 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | that that's what the implication here is, is |
| 2 | that you will be in a program similar to what |
| 3 | you were doing if you were growing that |
| 4 | category or that variety, et cetera, that's |
| 5 | all. It's pretty comprehensive and it's |
| 6 | pretty, there's never an identical. You could |
| 7 | use one chemical or another chemical, but in |
| 8 | the end it's a similar program, that's what I |
| 9 | think this intended here. |
| 10 | EXAMINATION |
| 11 | BY MS. SCHMAEDICK: |
| 12 | Q Thank you. |
| 13 | A Coward. |
| 14 | Q So, to sum it up in layman's |
| 15 | terms, if it's grown like an orange? |
| 16 | A It's going to be grown like an |
| 17 | orange it's going to be called an orange, or |
| 18 | some, a hybrid or an orange, yes. |
| 19 | Q And it still should be covered by |
| 20 | the program? |
| 21 | A Yes, we think it's covered. |
| 22 | Q Okay. |
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MR. GMITTER: I'm sorry, I gave a specific example with this UF-914, which is a hybrid of Pummelo with grapefruit. It's very grapefruit like, it's similar to grapefruit, yet it's, if you saw it.

MR. HAMNER: We grow it, we use similar programs for growing it.

MR. GMITTER: Yeah, the production would be the same. It's similar but not identical to grapefruit.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Excellent, thank you. And one last question for Mr. Chadwell. In the definition of variety there are fairly significant rearranging almost of the way varieties of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and mandarins are presented. Can you give me the reason behind why this rearranging occurred? Maybe Mr. Hamner?

MR. HAMNER: Dr. Gmitter can correct me if in layman's terms this is too simplistic. But the reality starts with hybrids working backwards, rather than from
the fruit varieties or the past working forward. We try to simplify the list and then capture it in the part where we have hybrids because that's what the hybrids are based on, and that, with the rearranging was necessary to make the hybrid paragraph work. If that makes sense.

JUDGE CLIFTON: And just for the record, the person who just gave us that testimony was Hamner, not Chadwell.

MR. HAMNER: Right, I'm George Hamner.

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q So, a follow up question, for example, under paragraph eight, oranges, number two, you have Valencia, Lue Gim Gong and similar late maturing oranges or the Valencia type, so that's a fairly comprehensive description.

A Which paragraph, where are we?
Q I'm sorry, section 905.5.
A I've got it, I'm with you, okay.
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| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Q So, is that a fairly comprehensive |
| 2 | description of a number of varieties that fall |
| 3 | -- |
| 4 | A Yes. |
| 5 | Q -- into that definition? |
| 6 | A Yes, yes, for that very reason, |
| 7 | yes. |
| 8 | Q Is there a listing of the specific |
| 9 | varieties somewhere? |
| 10 | A I think it's yet to be determined. |
| 11 | Q Okay. |
| 12 | A That's why we had to write this |
| 13 | the way we did, underneath it. |
| 14 | Q Thank you. I have no further |
| 15 | questions, thank you. |
| 16 | JUDGE CLIFTON: Are there other |
| 17 | questions from USDA employees? Are there |
| 18 | questions from anyone? I see none. I'm going |
| 19 | to turn to Exhibit 24, which has the Hunt |
| 20 | Brothers letterhead. Is there any objection |
| 21 | to Exhibit 24 being admitted into evidence? |
| 22 | There is none, Exhibit 24 is admitted into |
|  | Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433 |

evidence. I have Dr. Gmitter's testimony, that's Exhibit 25. Is there any objection to Exhibit 25 being admitted into evidence? There is none. Exhibit 25 is admitted into evidence. Who is next?
(Whereupon, Exhibits 24 and 25 were received into evidence.)

MR. HAMNER: Your Honor, we have two other presenters, it's 5:00 o'clock, we can get these done in an hour. It's kind of a, in my mind it's a regurgitation of some of the stuff we've already done and I don't know how it, the staff feels about it. They both live here, but we would like to try and get done tonight because I think it's much simpler if we can keep this, if they can read quickly and we'll see how they go.

JUDGE CLIFTON: I don't --
MR. HAMNER: I know you don't like the word quickly.

JUDGE CLIFTON: The only person
here who could read quickly and make it work is Hunt.

MR. HAMNER: He did good.
JUDGE CLIFTON: He did good.
MR. HAMNER: All right, Frank, would you read these other two? Quentin Roe is up and then Larry Black.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, I'd like to take, I'm sorry, but I'm going to eat into your one hour. Let's take a ten minute stretch break, and during that $I$ want us to advise the personnel who has to stay here with us until six that we need them to stay here with until six. And I want the sound man to advise that we will not need the equipment tomorrow, which means we have to finish tonight.

MR. HAMNER: Yes, that's right. JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, thanks.

MR. HAMNER: If that's okay, if not we need to make other arrangements.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Please be ready to
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TESTIMONY BY QUENTIN ROE
THE WITNESS: My name is Quentin Roe, I reside at 829 State Road 540 West in Winterhaven, Florida. I am President of William G. Roe and Sons, Inc., a family owned shipper of Florida citrus, currently in our 85th year in operation. William G. Roe and Sons, Inc. is a large shipper by the SBA definition.

I personally own 25 acres of grove in Polk County, Florida. I am on the executive committee of both Florida Citrus Packers, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, and the board of directors of the New Varieties Development and Management Corporation. I served on the Florida Citrus Commission for one term, and currently serve as a shipper member of the Citrus Administrative Committee, known as the committee.

We have combined the second proposal and the seventh proposal together, as Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
they both address intrastate regulation of fresh Florida citrus shipments.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, just to make sure that gets typed right, please spell intrastate.

THE WITNESS: I-n-t-r-a-s-t-a-t-e.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you.
THE WITNESS: The production area of Florida is defined as Section 905.7, production area. Production area means that portion of the State of Florida, which is bounded by the Suwanee River, the Georgia border, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico. Production area boundaries are also the boundaries used in the Florida citrus industry to define the intrastate regulation area.

Proposal number two revises Section 905.9, handle or ship, to read as follows, means handle or ships mean to sell, transport, deliver, pack, prepare for market, grade, or in any other way to place fruit in
the current of commerce within the production are, or between any point in the production area and any point outside thereof. This proposal would authorize the regulation of intrastate shipments, even though it is not being proposed to do so at this time.

Currently, grade and size for intrastate shipments are regulated by the Florida Citrus Commission under the Florida Department of Citrus rules, chapter 20. The order currently regulated interstate and export fresh citrus. The inclusion of intrastate regulation of fresh shipments would authorize all fresh Florida citrus regulation to be under the order. This proposal has industry support and does not conflict with the existing state regulations. In the last 16 months the committee has reviewed and considered this proposal. It has been discussed by industry organizations and two members of the Florida Department of Citrus 601 Committee, where on the committee's rule
sub-committee, and at no time has the inclusion of intrastate regulation been an issue within our industry.

Proposal number seven revises Section 905.52, issuance of regulations, to read as follows, A, whenever the secretary shall find from the recommendations and reports of the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the shipment of any variety would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so limit the shipment of such variety during a specified period or periods. Such regulations may, one, limit the shipments of any grade or size or both of any variety, in any manner, as may be prescribed, and any such limitation may provide the shipments of any variety grown in regulation area two, shall be limited to grades and sizes different from the grade and size limitations applicable to shipments of the same varieties grown in regulation area one. Provided that whenever
any such grade or size limitation restricts the shipment of a portion of a specified grade or size of a variety, the quantity of such grade or size that may be shipped by a handler during a particular week, shall be established as a percentage of the total shipments of such variety by such handler, in such prior period established by the committee, with the approval of the secretary in which he shipped such variety. Clear? Okay.

Two, limit the shipment of any variety by establishing and maintaining only in terms of grades or sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity. Three, limit the shipment of total quantity of any variety by prohibiting the shipment thereof, provided that no such prohibition shall apply to exports or be effective during any fiscal period with respect to any variety other than for one period, not exceeding five days during the week in which Thanksgiving day occurs, and for not more than two periods not exceeding a
total of fourteen days during the period December 20th to January 20th, both dates inclusive.

Four, establish, prescribe and fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, marking, parentheses, including labels and stamps, end parentheses, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment, or other handling of fruit, provided that such regulation shall not authorize the use of any container or marking which are prohibited under Florida statutes and regulations effective thereunder.

Five, provide that any or all requirement effective pursuant paragraphs $A$, parentheses A, parentheses one, parentheses two, parentheses three and parentheses four, this section applicable to the handling of fruit may be different for the handling of fruit within production area, the handling of fruit for export, or the handling of fruit
between the production area and any point outside thereof within the United States. Provided that such requirements shall not authorize the handling of fruit in any way that is prohibited under Florida statutes and regulations effective thereunder.

B, prior to the beginning of any such regulations the secretary shall notify the committee of the regulation issued by him, and the committee shall notify all handlers by mailing a copy thereunder to each handler who has filed his name with said committee for this purpose.

MR. HILL: Can we stop for one moment, Your Honor? I noticed that it was section five is the last section that's actually changed the regulation as it currently sits.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So, what we just read, $B$, really doesn't have to have underlining because it's not new?

MR. HILL: B, C and D, are all the
Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. same.

JUDGE CLIFTON: So that's good, so we still need you to read it, but it's not as important because it's not a change. But go back and read me again this $B$.

THE WITNESS: This will B, nonunderlined. Prior to beginning of any such regulations the secretary shall notify the committee of the regulation issued by him. And the committee shall notify all handlers by mailing a copy thereof to each handler who has filed his address with said committee for this purpose. C, not underlined, whenever the secretary finds from the recommendations and the reports of the committee, or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended or terminated with respect to any of the shipments of fruit in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so modify, suspend or terminate such regulation. If the secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not
tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis, and in like manner, the secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

D, not underlined, whenever any variety is regulated pursuant to paragraph, parentheses $A$, parentheses three, of this section, no such regulation shall be deemed to limit the right of any person to sell, contract to sell or export such variety, but no handler shall otherwise ship any fruit of such variety which was prepared for market during the effective period of such regulation.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, now before you continue, does everyone who knows agree that those last three sections are, include no change?

MR. HAMNER: I believe it's straight of the current order.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank
you Mr. Hamner. All right, now you may resume.

THE WITNESS: This proposal to regulate containers and establish quality standards for the production area intrastate shipments would give intrastate regulatory authority to the committee. The order does not have the authority to regulate export containers in part five of Section 905.52, if the container is not prohibited under Chapter 601. Currently, the regulation of pack and containers for intrastate, interstate and export shipments are under the authority of Chapter 20, approved by the Florida Citrus Commission, and inspected for compliance by the Division of Fruit and Vegetables.

The pack and containers are standardized and not marked specific, even though different containers are used in different markets. Currently, recommendations for changes to pack and container are developed by the fresh industry and presented
to the Florida Citrus Commission for their approval. It should be noted that moving forward with new varieties and hybrids, the fresh segment of our industry needs to keep the flexibility of current, flexibility to establish minimum grade, size, pack and container regulations for the different markets.

The industry mandates inspection, each lot of citrus packed for the fresh market, and this will continue so there would be no impact on this, on inspection. Compliance has not been a problem within the fresh industry, and these proposed changes should not have any adverse impact on compliance, of compliance.

The committee has determined that all fresh Florida citrus regulations should be under the authority of the order, as the fresh segment of the Florida citrus industry continues to contract, and has less association with the process segment of the
industry. Also, intrastate fresh markets are regulated under Chapter 20.35, and are currently regulated at different quality standards then interstate or export shipments regulated under the order.

Intrastate markets have been recognized by our industry as unique, in part as they are located within the production area, and that much of the fruit is sold locally by fruit stands and gift fruit shippers. Much of this fruit is handpicked by the consumer, and they know it is fresher and they accept a lower external quality. It should be noted that internal quality is maintained at the highest U.S. number one standard. Also, a much greater percentage of this fruit is sold in bins, ten box containers, as mentioned above fruit in these containers are used by fruit stands so that consumer, so that the consumer, so the consumer may choose their own fruit versus fruit packed in cartons or bagged.

The proposals to regulate intrastate shipments, proposal number two, and the proposal, proposal number seven, to regulate containers and intrastate shipments separately from interstate and export shipments, would have no immediate impact on growers, handlers or consumers. The industry is currently regulating intrastate shipment in containers through state regulations.

However, the fresh Florida citrus industry has determined having the federal authority in place would ensure quality standards remain if the state authority is dropped.

This authority will not be implemented unless state regulations are no longer in effect. The proposed amendments do include regulating intrastate shipments, containers and different quality standards within the production area would not have an adverse effect on small businesses if approved. Adding the authority to regulate intrastate shipments would have no direct cost
to the industry. If implement at current intrastate shipment level the committee would collect grower assessments from shippers on the approximately two million cartons, additional cartons of fresh Florida citrus, which are shipped to intrastate markets on approximately six percent, or approximately six percent of Florida's fresh citrus shipments.

However, the net cost to the industry may be negligible, or could even be lower, as these costs would shift from the state to the order. As presented earlier in testimony, the industry supports these proposals as it authorizes all fresh fruit regulation for Florida citrus to be authorized under the order for the Florida fresh citrus grower and shipper, if the Florida citrus industry chooses to move in that direction in the future. As stated earlier, it is another tool for the Florida citrus fresh fruit grower to have in their toolbox. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Well done, Mr. Roe. What questions does anyone from USDA have for Mr. Roe? Ms. Schmaedick?

EXAMINATION
BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you, Mr. Roe, for your testimony. One of the questions $I$ have for you is can you provide examples of where pack and container regulations might need to be different for different markets? Do you have an example that you can give to us?

A No, ma'am.
Q As far as marking, one of the proposed changes is to include labels and stamps as a form of marking on containers. Could you provide me with more specific examples of what those might be like, labels and stamps, why would they be used or what would they look like?

A Let me defer to Mr. Chadwell.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Chadwell?
MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell.

These were just the stickers. JUDGE CLIFTON: Microphone. MR. CHADWELL: Referring to just the type of identification that we put on the fruit, marking, when we mark each fruit with labeling and stickers, so we're just covering the bases, not such much as what's being done, we just make sure that this authority was there as we, as our industry changes, and with new varieties and looking forward to how we promote them, advertise them and identify them. We wanted to make sure that they may have different containers and may be different marking requirements and labeling pieces of fruit for better identification. So, we just wanted to be inclusive that this language was there moving forward if we so need in the promotion and marketing and identifying fruit for the customers, as these are going to be new varieties.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you for that clarification. So, currently you don't
have a situation where, for example you have an export market that needs a particular type of container and it is different from something you would use for your domestic market?

MR. CHADWELL: Not currently.
MS. SCHMAEDICK: But, if I'm understanding you correctly, there is that potential?

MR. CHADWELL: There is a potential, and now knowing what the future holds we just tried to cover the bases. As marketing changes and the word is changing, so to speak, we just want to make sure there was an authority, if needed, that we could rely upon, or come to use.

MR. HAMNER: Melissa, this is
George Hamner. I think what, we have different markets with different containers and markings now, but it's not regulated, it's by choice of shipper, customer, et cetera. Into the future there was a consideration
given that maybe with new varieties, if we do advertising, we may want an XYZ sticker to go on a tangerine by requirement to go to that tangerine for identity if we have different things. At present we do not have a regulation like that. So that's why that, looking into the future, we were trying to get this done.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you. In reviewing the proposed changes to the definition of handler, or handled, excuse me, it would be Section 905.9 of the order, $I$ understand that the term consigned will be removed. Can you tell me if that activity, the act of consignment, would be captured in the revised definition of to handle?

THE WITNESS: I'm going to defer to Mr. Chadwell.

MR. CHADWELL: What section is that?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: 905.9, the definition that is currently in the CFR, it
includes the term to sell or consign under the act of handle of ship. Is that something that is, is that a term that is outdated and are you upgrading the definition?

MR. CHADWELL: Melissa, it's too late to give, catch a curve or --

MS. SCHMAEDICK: I apologize.
MR. HAMNER: Consigned is left out.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Yes, is that on purpose?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Hamner, just so we know who you are. MR. HAMNER: George Hamner. Within industry norm I don't think, probably it would be considered outdated, but the reality, because handling fruit, buying, flooring, selling, $I$ mean all of it gets lumped together now to us. I mean, consigned would just be one entity, and so to me if they, if you pulled it out its probably, that's what $I$ would have assumed. I didn't
realize it.
MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell. I don't remember ever discussing consigned, so it may have just slipped through the cracks and not be there, because that was never in any of our discussions at all, we never discussed consigned. So, that, if it's omitted, that word would have been omitted inadvertently.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Thank you, I believe that concludes my questions for proposal to seven. Thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, and do you have any for proposal seven.

MS. SCHMAEDICK: No, Your Honor, I'm finished, thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right. Say it again, Ms Varela.

EXAMINATION
BY MS. VARELA:
Q Jenny Varela, USDA. Mr. Roe, I hopefully just have a couple quick questions
for you so you can finish up. I want to ask you some questions regarding your time you served on the commission, just to get an idea of how they function. We have already established that there is really a small percentage of fruit that is sold as fresh. I would imagine that fruit sold within the state that is fresh is an even smaller percentage. Would you say that that makes their fresh regulations kind of not the most important item of discussion with the commission, do they tend to focus on other issues first?

A Oftentimes that is true.
Q And in your opinion if, if they did decide to do away with regulations is that something, now that it's in the rules that they can make decisions on, they could decide one day through a vote to just get rid of the regulation, correct? It wouldn't have to go through the legislature anymore?

A I believe that is correct. JUDGE CLIFTON: Before you ask Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
your next question, who else said that's correct?

MR. HAMNER: Sorry, George Hamner, that is correct.

BY MS. VARELA:
Q So, do you see making this type of decision to add the authority to the order now as a way of kind eliminating the time it would take to add it later? I think you said early in your testimony that we've talked about this for about 16 months. So do you as an active member of the industry thing it's important to have this in place before the commission takes a step like that, if they ever do?

A I think that's a prudent move for the fresh food industry in Florida.

Q Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Does anyone else from USDA have questions for Mr. Roe? Does anyone else in the room have questions for Mr. Roe? Mr. Roe, do you agree with Ms. Varela's assumption that the intrastate sales of citrus
may in fact have even a smaller percentage of fresh fruit? Do you have any basis of measuring one way of the other on that?

THE WITNESS: Intrastate is fruit that's just sold within the State of Florida, that's a much smaller volume of fruit than is sold throughout the rest of the country and the rest of the world.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, would the proportion of fresh fruit be any different from the interstate and export sales?

THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I understand the question.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, let's assume just for a minute that, $I$ don't know, 80 percent of the citrus that goes out of Florida to other states or internationally is processed, assume that, 80 percent of it is processed and 20 percent of it is fresh.

THE WITNESS: Okay.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Do you have any reason to believe that percentages would be
any different for intrastate sales?
THE WITNESS: I think this is an apple and orange question, okay. All the processed fruit sold in the state is processed in the state, so it's not shipped out of the state to process.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: So, all the fruit that leave the state as fruit is fresh fruit. You do not have any processed fruit that leaves the state as fruit, it leaves the state as a manufactured product. So I still might not understand your question.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes.
MR. HAMNER: Your Honor, let me, can I try and answer?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, would you please, Mr. Hamner.

MR. HAMNER: This is George Hamner. I think what you're looking for is this proportion between what was intrastate versus interstate.

JUDGE CLIFTON: What I thought Ms. Varela asked him to assume, what I thought she asked him to assume is that the proportion of sales that are fresh might even be lower for the intrastate sales.

MR. HAMNER: Right, if you looked at sales as one entity now and forget about interstate and intrastate for a moment as a number, 100, and interstate is 80 percent and intrastate would be 20 percent, for instance. Whether this rule goes through or not, the proportion that is intrastate, which is very small, versus what goes interstate, will stay the same. I mean the intrastate shipments, just because of population, delivery, et cetera, is a very small portion of fresh fruit sales, and it stays proportionate each year. JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you for that. And I may have totally misunderstood Ms. Varela's question and what she wanted him to assume.

MR. HAMNER: It sounded like to me Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
what she wanted was, is within the commission is that intrastate sales is even less of an item that they look at and talk about, versus the other fresh fruit sales, it's even lower. If fresh fruit sales is a lower entity or lower picture in the Department of Citrus versus processed product, then intrastate would be even smaller.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Is that what you were alluding to, Ms. Varela?

MS. VARELA: Correct.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you all. Mr. Chadwell?

MR. CHADWELL: Arthur Chadwell. Not to belabor the point, but it would be two million cartons historically for, it means a million boxes, which when we have 170 million box productions it's very minuscule and is not, and is not even on the radar for the Department of Citrus.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Very helpful all of you, thank you. All right, what other
questions for Mr. Roe? Are there any objections to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 26? There are none. Exhibit 26 is admitted into evidence. Thank you, Mr. Roe. And the next witness, you may approach. I'm going to mark the document that is entitled Larry Black testimony as Exhibit 27. And I'll swear you in seated. Would you raise your right hand, please. Please state and spell your name.
(Whereupon, Exhibit No.
26 was received into evidence.)
(Whereupon, Exhibit No.
27 was marked for
identification.)
Whereupon,
NORMAN LARRY BLACK, JR., called as a witness herein, after having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

THE WITNESS: Norman Larry Black, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.

Jr. N-o-r-m-a-n, Larry, L-a-r-r-y, Black, B-l-a-c-k, junior.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, you may proceed.

TESTIMONY BY NORMAN LARRY BLACK, JR.
THE WITNESS: Good afternoon, my name is Larry Black, $I$ reside at 1860 Pinnacle Drive, Lakeland, Florida. I'm a small grower producing oranges, tangerines and grapefruit on 220 acres. I'm also the General Manager of Peace River Packing Company, which has been in our family for 85 years and is located in Ft. Meade, Florida.

## Peace River Packing Company grows,

 harvests and packs Florida citrus from our family's 2,000 acres of groves and also for outside growers. Peace River Packing would be considered a large shipper according to the SBA definition. I'm a shipper member of the committee, a board member of Florida Citrus Mutual, the Florida Citrus Packers and the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.Incorporated.
Proposal nine would amend Section 905.7 to provide for the registration of handlers, which would aid the committee in compliance and increase communication by keeping shippers better informed of provisions of the order. The revision to Section 905.7, handler, handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person, except for a common contract carrier transporting fruit for another person, who as owner, agent or otherwise, handles fruit in fresh form, causes fruit to be handled, each handler shall be registered with the committee pursuant to rules recommended by the committee and approved by the secretary. The State of Florida Department of Citrus, Chapter 601, Florida Statues, Florida Citrus Code 601.4, requires each packing house or shipper that prepares Florida citrus for fresh market in Florida to register annually with the Florida Department of Agriculture through the division
of fruit and vegetables.
In addition, Section 601.56,
Florida Statutes, or the Florida Citrus Code, requires Florida citrus shippers, as a citrus fruit dealer in Florida, be approved by the Department of Citrus for a citrus fruit dealers license. What the committee is proposing would not replace these requirements as authorized by the Florida Citrus Code. The committee's propose this amendment to strengthen the order's compliance with shippers.

Section 905.53, inspection and certification of the order, requires each shipper to have each lot of citrus inspected by the Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Fruit and Vegetables, also known as the division. The division certifies that the lot of fruit means all applicable requirements of the order as recommended by the committee and approved by the secretary. Florida Department of Citrus rules, chapter
20.4, describes the information required to be entered on the manifest, who it issues the manifest, and certificate of inspection. The inspector certifies on the manifest all the pertinent information for that lot of citrus. This includes certifying the lot meets the regulatory requirements of the order, which refers to minimum grade and size as authorized by the secretary. Each shipper and inspector has a copy of the most current CAC regulation bulletin, which are updated each time the committee recommends and the secretary approves a regulation change.

A copy of the manifest goes with each certified lot of citrus shipped to regulated markets. The committee contracts annually with the division to furnish the committee, by month, each shippers regulated shipments, both interstate and export, and that's inter, i-n-t-e-r, state and export. And these shipments are used to calculate each shippers assessment. It is also from the
manifest that we get the entire grade and size information for each regulated shipment.

The committee has not experienced major compliance issues in the past, but is always looking for ways to improve compliance of the orders regulations and the collection of assessments. Each season the committee conducts a review of the CAC compliance plan, known as the compliance plan, and the CAC internal control policies, known as internal controls, and updates if needed, both to improve it's compliance procedures. Upon the committee's approval of the compliance plan is forwarded to the USDA for their review and approval. The internal controls are approved and forwarded to the USDA.

Both the compliance plan and internal controls are implemented by the committee's management throughout the season as each plan mandates. There are procedures in both the compliance plan and internal controls to ensure handlers are fully informed
of any violations and are given time to take corrective actions. In the very limited cases of minimum grade and size regulation violations, the majority of the reported violations have been less than a pallet, which would be equivalent to 54 cartons of citrus. In the past, most of the violations have been clerical errors by the shipper's shipping department. In the last few seasons, with most shippers using bar coding systems for loading trucks or containers, these violations have all but been eliminated.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Have all but been eliminated, so almost?

THE WITNESS: Exactly, they're very minimal and clerical in nature. Collection of the committees assessments should be enhanced, could be enhanced by using the registration of shippers as a tool to ensure compliance with the assessment provision of the order.

It must be noted, the committee Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
recommends an assessment fee to cover it's expenses in the administration of the order and as approved by the secretary. Shipper collect the assessment fee from their growers, so shippers should remit those assessments in a timely manner. The committee has not experienced many late or uncollectible assessments, but feel this proposal could aid in the collection of assessments. The committee does outline in the compliance plan a detailed time line for the collection of those assessments, which ensure due process for the shipper to comply with the committees collection of past due assessments.

The committee will develop a shipper registration form, which would include contact information along with other pertinent information deemed necessary for the operation of the order. A notice and comment period would be provided for the industry to comment on the registration form. The information from the shipper registration form will
provide valuable contact information, be beneficial in communication, and assist in the compliance provisions of the order. Since this is an administrative proposal, the cost to the order and shippers will be negligible and will require limited time by the shipper to complete the registration form. This proposal is not controversial and there is support within the industry.

In closing, there are a few main points that should be noted. First, this is another tool Florida citrus growers that market their fruit in the fresh channel of trade would have available as our industry works to meet challenges that lie ahead. This would provide more efficient communication with shippers, the committee would continue to review and update our compliance plan and internal controls annually to ensure shippers are afforded due process in the handling of order violations, and also strengthen the compliance provisions of the order. And last,
there is support within our industry for this proposal.

In closing, the Florida citrus growers producing fruit for the fresh market have supported the order for 74 years, and the proposed amendment will afford the committee more options in the administration of the order. Mr. Chadwell will give an overview of how the committee would implement this proposal.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Do you, Mr. Chadwell, want to add anything before I invite questions?

MR. CHADWELL: I think it might help, because I think it's going to clarify a few things.

JUDGE CLIFTON: You may proceed, and you may stay there.

MR. CHADWELL: I will come up there because I've got a few things to hand out.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, then Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. let's go off record. Now, should Mr. Black remain seated?

MR. CHADWELL: He can be dismissed.

JUDGE CLIFTON: He can step down? MR. CHADWELL: Yes.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, thank you so much, Mr. Black. Please stay because you may have questions after Mr. Chadwell speaks, thank you. And let's go off record while Mr. Chadwell distributes what he's got. (Off the record.)

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, we're back on record, it's 5:56, and Mr. Black, I'm aware that in four minutes you have to slip away and $I$ understand that. So, if we don't get to ask you questions it's okay. All right, you remain sworn, and would you again state and spell your name. Whereupon,

ARTHUR B. CHADWELL, recalled as a witness herein, having been
previously sworn, testified as follows:
THE WITNESS: Arthur Chadwell, A-
r-t-h-u-r, C-h-a-d-w-e-l-l.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, you may proceed.

MR. HILL: Your Honor, if we could, we'd like to ask him just a few questions before he --

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, let me interrupt you Mr. Chadwell and do you want to begin? Ms. Schmaedick, you may ask questions that you have for Mr. Black.

## EXAMINATION

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you, Mr. Black for your testimony, and I'll say I can appreciate needing to pick up your child, so I will be brief.

A Thank you.
Q I understand that you're a small grower, and I believe that you may be the only small grower who has testified today, so I

Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
appreciate you taking time to answer questions. In your capacity as a small grower do you support all of these proposals?

A I do.
Q Not just number nine that you testified to?

A I do, I'm aware and have been involved in the process and feel the industry is well aware of the proposals. They've been vetted within the industry and they're good for our future.

Q And have you interacted with other small growers or small handlers?

A Yes.
Q And in your opinion do they also support, specifically, the small grower entities?

A Specifically the grower component, I've interacted with other small growers and all are in full support that I've interacted with.

Q Do you anticipate any negative or Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
increase in costs as a result of these proposed amendments?

A I believe the changes that are proposed will make the CAC more efficient and will actually lower cost for the industry going forward.

Q And in your opinion, in general has the marketing order provided you support as a small grower entity, has it been beneficial to you?

A Absolutely.
Q Thank you for your time, I have no further questions.

A Thank you.
JUDGE CLIFTON: Thank you, Ms. Schmaedick. Mr. Hill?

MR. HILL: Thank you, Your Honor. JUDGE CLIFTON: That's all? Any other questions of Mr. Black before he leaves? All right, thank you so much Mr. Black, that was important, thank you for doing that while he was still here. Did I admit into evidence?

All right, is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 27, which is Larry Black's testimony? All right, Exhibit 27 is admitted into evidence. Now, Mr. Chadwell, back to you.
(Whereupon, Exhibit No.
27 was received into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: My name is Arthur Chadwell, I reside at 723 Success Avenue, Lakeland, Florida. I am the Manger of the Citrus Administrative Committee, and I have few comments on the registration of shippers. I have included a copy of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services FDACS Division of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Manifest, it is the legal sized document which provides the documentation required by the order, as well as the Florida Department of Citrus rules.

This is a document that provides the committee with shipment information by Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
completed, by documents, the shipment information, well I don't, it's completed by a document of fresh shipments as well as a sample of the sample shipper registration form.

MR. HAMNER: Would you like Kathleen to re-write that?

THE WITNESS: Is there any questions?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Pardon? Just leave it like it is, it's fine.

THE WITNESS: I thought it was important that, this is very much on the administrative side of the committee and that's why I chose to go, to present this additional information that $I$ am most familiar with. It benefits the committee, improves communication amongst, with growers, it aids committee with compliance, those are the two main issues for this. Shipper registration, the shipper registration, and I have included a sample form that we have developed, but
shipper registration will be completed by the shipment. The shipper must have a Florida citrus fruit dealers license, as Mr. Black has presented in his testimony. It would provide the committee with contact information, a physical address for their packing facility, a billing address approved by the manger, and then the committee would post-approve my actions in approving the registrations.

Fresh shipments time frame, to reiterate fresh shipments begin in late September to early October. 95 percent of the fresh shipments occur October through April. The majority of the shippers have completed shipments by late April. Five percent of the fresh shipments occur after, in April through June. And there is approximately anywhere from 60 days to 150 days between seasons.

Due process for shippers, our discussion of this way back in developing this was concerned that, what kind of due process would we have. We have the internal control
policies which are reviewed and approved annually, in their internal controls invoicing policies are in the internal controls. Each season the committee reviews and submits the CAC compliance plan to the secretary for approval. The compliance plan outlines time frames for collection of assessment, and it states in there payments are due 30 days after invoice date, past due, first past due notices are mailed after the 30 days, and second past due notices are certified, or mailed certified mail after 40 days.

In summary, this is going to be an aid to support compliance. It's cost neutral, promotes communications with shippers and is supported by the industry. I also have included just, $I$ thought it would be good for the record that $I$ have included a copy of the manifest, which is the legal document for the, that is for the division of fruit and vegetable, which is authorized under the order as I mentioned earlier, and this contains the
pertinent information required for regulation of shipments. And this document is certified by the division, before we get the information that we use in the collection of assessments, and also if there were a violation of any greater sized regulations. So, I just wanted to show that it's a very detailed document, nothing would change in our registration of shippers that would, that we would still use this document, and so it wouldn't be any change.

The other thing I've included is a regulation bulletin just to show, I just mentioned a time or two, by varieties that are regulated what the minimum grade size and if they're interstate or export. And I just thought it would be good for the record to have the documentation of what we put out as the regulations required by, when recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. So, I'm open to any questions that you may have.

JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, questions for Mr. Chadwell on this part of his testimony? Ms. Schmaedick.

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you Mr. Chadwell for your presentation. Can you tell me, in the development of this proposal was there any research done on other agricultural marketing order programs that have this authority?

A Yes, in the development of this we used the Florida Tomato Committee, yes, the Florida Tomato Committee and their marketing order. So, we were, we didn't try to, we used language that had already been approved in a different marketing order and had been successfully used. So, we went to language that was in an order that had been working for an order and for an industry, that's where we modeled this from.

Q And did you have or enter into any discussions with that industry in terms of the successfulness of that authority?

A In the past year I have talked to Reggie Brown, the manager of the Florida Tomato Committee, and talked to him about it's effectiveness for his industry, and he thought it was a very good tool, and suggested that it would be a good tool for our industry.

Q Do you anticipate a situation where there may be a, well first of all let me ask for clarification, what happens if you have this handler registration authority in effect, what happens if a handler does not pay their assessments?

A That's why I put, if you'll notice that's what, in our, we are approximately a six month industry, and so because we, when we assess a shipper it is on certified, documented shipments. So there is a time lapse, so when we start shipping in October it's almost the end of November, a three to four week time frame before we get the certified numbers. So there's, we're always playing catch up so to speak. And so our
season, as I mentioned earlier, ends in March to April, and so those billings would go out, by then as the shipments are declining the certification process speeds up. But in, our physical year ends July 31, and so we would have, the shipper would have time to, you know, go through our due process. Then we have, with the season starting in last September, October, there is that, almost 150 day time frame from when they last did their shipments, when we could, you know, do the due process on billing, and before they start again. And so because of that length of time frame we feel that, you know, that a shipper would have more than enough due process to pay their assessments, before the beginning of another season.

Q And what would happen if they did not pay those assessments?

A I would anticipate, of course this just give us authority, we would have to write those rules, but my anticipation was that any
marketing order violation, be it a grade size violation and or an assessment, after due process they would have to clear it up before they could be issued a license to operate.

Q So, for clarification, are you saying that they, if they were in violation, having not paid their assessments, that they could potentially not be able to ship outside of the State of Florida?

A I would say so, yes. To me it would be any regulated area, anywhere that we regulate the fruit they would not be able to ship to interstate or export markets.

Q Would they be able to ship within the State of Florida, as long as DOC regulated it?

A Yes, because that is not, we do not regulate that fruit, so yes, that would not be part of it, under the existing law without the intrastate regulation, that's correct. But the DOC has their own collection in the State of Florida, as you would suspect,
have their own due process on this. This was mainly put in, just there again, to have the authority to use as a tool for compliance and not knowing what lies ahead. But we thought it was a good idea, the industry did, to have shipper registration, to just give us one more layer of control on compliance. And also, a more important tool to be able to communicate with those shippers.

Q Within your industry are there currently examples of handler not paying assessments?

A We, the industry has a very good track record on handlers paying assessments, to say it is a problem that's not so. However, in the tough economic times there are, from time to time, shippers that go out of business at the end of the season, and without notice. And so this is, and it's usually at the end of the season, and so there's a lag in getting the certified numbers and all. So, from time to time there are
cases where shippers have gone out of business and left the marketing order with unpaid assessments. But at the same token, by that state, they've left growers, the Department of Citrus, the Department of Agriculture, everybody in, we're not alone. You'll find out that when a shipper, a handler that is in financial trouble, be in financial trouble with everyone, starting with the grower most of the time.

MR. HAMNER: Melissa, can I, this is George Hamner. But when we did this at the committee level it was after we considered intrastate, which is now here, we considered it and we had done increased assessment potential, this was kind of the last thing in line. For the future, if we decide, if the DOC did not exist and we had to have some form or fashion to protect the CAC in collecting assessments that we don't have today. The anticipation would be registration would be like a license, you couldn't ship without it
if you didn't pay your bills. That was in a nutshell. But we haven't written, because that, we haven't gotten to the point of that, we haven't written any of the, that kind of a compliance penalty since it's only authorization to do so.

BY MS. SCHMAEDICK:
Q Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Chadwell, have you found that the, what you describe as a due process that you currently have within your compliance plan, is that effective, the outline of time lines and notices?

A Yes, it's, we've been effective in collecting assessments, except for those cases where they go out of business and close, just close their doors. And then that time, and most of those end up in bankruptcy. But yes, we are successful in collecting, it's just that every now and then you get a shipper that, in most cases these are people that come into the business for a year or two and then
out. As you heard today, most of these businesses have been around for decades. But the cost of getting in the business now we have fewer people coming in, just because of the decline in production and shipments. But every now and then you'll get somebody that starts up, and is not as familiar with the regulations, all regulations not just ours. So, we thought this would be a tool that we could use, and we felt comfortable with the time frame between when we end the season and when we start, that that gave plenty of time for the due process to be served to the handler. Because these, technically the handler is taking the assessment from the grower returns. So it's the grower's money that they are not remitting to us.

Q Thank you, no further questions, thank you.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Mr. Chadwell, do you have anything you'd like to add?

THE WITNESS: No, I guess the only Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
thing is that we were, in discussing this and bringing it forward we were very conscious of the due process to make sure that handlers were afforded the opportunity. And we felt that as we stated within our time frames and the 30 day first notice, then the second notice and by noticing with certified mail, that we were affording ample time to and due process for handlers. And this, and then when the registration would not occur the first day, August 1, it would occur when they were getting ready to ship. So, that adds another 60 days, so we felt that there was going to be ample time if and when we ever had to pull a registration, to clarify that before the beginning of a season.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Are there any questions of Mr. Chadwell on any of these exhibits or this part of his testimony from anyone? Is there any objection to the admission into evidence of Exhibit 28? There is none. Exhibit 29, which is the power


MR. HILL: There is no evidence, 1 through 32, that's fine --

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, you may do that now, do you want to do anything further? MR. HILL: Just to propose that we very much make the proposed changes -necessary to -JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, very good. I'd like to make two comments. One is transcript will be posted on an agricultural marketing service website, the exhibits will be posted, the proposals to correct the transcript should be posted there to if anyone has any proposals to correct the transcript. Those are not made to improve people's grammar, those are not even made to correct a witnesses mis-statement. The only reason for transcript corrections is if the court reporter got it wrong. So, even if it's a bit of a mess, we leave it that way and the people who are putting together the orders know that. And it's not necessary that a persons written
testimony match what was said from the witness stand, rather the person who is making use of it can look at both of them and figure out what to use.

So, there shouldn't be a lot of transcript corrections. But if people's names are spelled wrong and you know the right name you should fix it, or if the court reporter just mistook the word, got it wrong, then we need to fix it. All right, do we know were people would look on the website to find the proceedings from this hearing, what part of the website they will go to?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: This is Melissa Schmaedick. On the marketing order and agreement division website there are specific links to each marketing order program. If one were to click on the marketing order 905, all information will be listed on that particular page.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Excellent, very
good, all right, great. Now, I'll now
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entertain anything further that we need to put on the record before we break down and depart. Ms. Schmaedick?

MS. SCHMAEDICK: Will there be an opportunity to file briefs?

JUDGE CLIFTON: Yes, normally the transcript will take about 30 days before you have it in your hand. You should have the opportunity to consider it and file any corrections and briefs. Some people like to do that as one package, while their writing their brief they're looking for corrections to the transcript. Anything you want to do is fine and any time table is fine, so long as you do it from receipt of the transcript. So, I can set parameters now if you want them, and then for example, let's find out first do you want to make your proposed transcript corrections simultaneously with submitting a brief? First of all, let's find out, who might be submitting briefs? Let's go off record for just a moment.

| 1 | Page 405 (Off the record.) |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. HAMNER: We found out if |
| 3 | you're not, you miss a meeting you get to be |
| 4 | chairman, you volunteer you get to be |
| 5 | something else, so no. |
| 6 | JUDGE CLIFTON: We're back on |
| 7 | record, it's 6:22. So, some of the things |
| 8 | that we might do, for example, is the |
| 9 | transcript is deposited with the hearing |
| 10 | clerk, along with the invoice. The hearing |
| 11 | clerk then keeps the original as the record |
| 12 | copy, and then forwards the copies that the |
| 13 | agricultural marketing service ordered, and |
| 14 | forwards the bill to the agricultural |
| 15 | marketing service. That, the date that the |
| 16 | hearing clerk receives the transcript is |
| 17 | identifiable. So you could measure from that |
| 18 | date and for example say proposals to correct |
| 19 | the transcript would be due 45 days after the |
| 20 | transcript is deposited with the hearing |
| 21 | clerk. |
| 22 | You could also say, and then I |

would expect the government to help there, as well as the industry, then you could either have your briefs due at that same time, or later than that. So, what would you prefer, for example, Mr. Chadwell, since you might be writing one? Do you think 45 days will be enough, consider where you are in the calendar.

MR. CHADWELL: Yes.
JUDGE CLIFTON: I know you're busier at some times than others. MR. CHADWELL: 45 days would be fine.

JUDGE CLIFTON: Okay, now at 45 days, will probably start about 30 days from now, maybe a little shorter.

MR. CHADWELL: You get tier one in
30 days, tier two is 45 days.
JUDGE CLIFTON: All right, then
I'm going to order that proposed transcript corrections, if you have any. Now, you don't have to make immaterial proposals, you don't
have to do misspellings, but it's helpful if its peoples names. So, there don't have to be, you don't have to correct everything in the transcript, but material changes, things that would make a difference in the outcome should be addressed, if the court reporter got it wrong. If the court reporter got it right, but you know its wrong, you should address it in your brief. Such and such was said, that's not true.

All right, so both the proposed transcript corrections and the briefs should be filed with the hearing clerk no later than 45 days after the hearing clerk receives the transcripts from the court reporter. Then what I do is I certify the transcript, which actually means I say what the transcript consists of, what corrections I approve and what the exhibits were. Then I'm done, then it's all up to the agricultural marketing service to take it from there. All right, what else do we need to do? Ms. Schmaedick?


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Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc.
202-234-4433


Neal R. Gross \& Co., Inc. 202-234-4433

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos (Citrus) Grown in Florida

Before: USDA

Date: 04-24-13

Place: Winter Haven, FL
was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

> Meal N Gers -----------------Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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