



## USDA's Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative

USDA specialty crops marketing orders can help reduce food waste while increasing producer returns by allowing the industry to give fruits and vegetables to secondary markets when items don't meet quality standards but are still edible.

As part of the [Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative](#), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Specialty Crops Program (SCP) encourages all importers of fruits, vegetables and specialty crops to help reduce food loss and waste by registering to donate with food banks and charitable organizations across the United States.

The Florida Citrus Marketing Order and the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Marketing Order offer prime examples of how marketing orders reduce food waste and provide consumers with a supply of consistently high-quality product via secondary markets:

- ✚ Florida Citrus Marketing Order – All distorted, off-sized, blemished and immature Florida citrus fruit are separated for secondary markets. Most of the fruits that fail grade-required standards during sorting are processed into orange and grapefruit juice. About 5% to 10% of such fruit is sold to roadside vendors or donated to local charities and food banks.
- ✚ Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Marketing Order – Potatoes meeting the highest quality standards are called No.1 potatoes – which appear in produce aisles. Meanwhile, No. 2 potatoes are most often sent to restaurants for fresh-cut fries. Of the potatoes that enter the packing shed, 65% fit into the No. 1 or No. 2 category. The remaining 35% are processed mostly into dehydrated potatoes, fries or hash browns.

SCP's [Marketing Order and Agreement Division \(MOAD\)](#) administers 29 federal marketing orders. About half of them have Section 8e import requirements for product imported from other countries. If imported fruit, vegetables or specialty crops fail to meet Section 8e import requirements, the importer of record has options for the proper disposition of the lot. With help from importers, the Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative can turn what might otherwise be millions of tons of wasted food into nutritional fuel for America's communities and economy.

More information about filing for SC-6 exemption certificates for donating product to foodbanks and charitable organizations is available in an [educational video](#) on the USDA-AMS YouTube channel.

You can also call MOAD's customer service line – **1-888-551-3523** – for more details on how marketing orders support the USDA Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative.

