



## **AMS Christmas Tree Promotion Board**

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Deadline to submit nominations: June 16, 2014**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting nominations for eligible industry members to serve on the Christmas Tree Promotion Board for a 2, 3 or 4-year term of office beginning upon appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. This Board will administer a national research and promotion program for fresh-cut Christmas trees with oversight by USDA. The Board will meet throughout the year to review marketing and research activities and make recommendations to USDA regarding its programs. The national program will be funded by assessments on U.S. producers and importers that cut and sell or import fresh cut Christmas trees for the holiday market. The purpose of the program is to increase the demand for fresh-cut Christmas trees.

**Are you interested in serving or do you know someone who may be qualified to serve?**

The Board will be composed of 12 members. Eleven members will represent three U.S. geographical regions and one member will represent importing countries. Five seats will be filled by producers from Region #1, the Western Region (states from the Pacific Ocean east to the Rocky Mountains); two seats will be filled by producers from Region #2, the Central region (states east of the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes); four seats will be filled by producers from Region #3, the Eastern region (States east of the Great Lakes); and one seat will be filled by an importer. To be eligible, nominees must have cut and sold or imported at least 500 Christmas trees during the 2013 harvest season. Interested candidates may nominate themselves by completing the attached Background Information Form included in this package. Background Information Forms are due to USDA by June 16, 2014, to ensure your name is submitted to the Secretary for consideration.

**Board member duties include:**

- Participate in Board meetings throughout the year, either in person or via teleconference
- Periodically meet with designated work groups, either in person or via teleconference
- Have the ability to work effectively within a group setting

\*Members of the Board will be reimbursed by the Board for reasonable travel and associated lodging expenses as approved by the Board.

**If you can answer yes to any of the following questions, you may be eligible:**

*You are actively working within the Christmas tree industry and your company or business entity:*

- Cuts and sells for the holiday market 500 or more fresh-cut Christmas trees annually
- Imports 500 or more fresh-cut Christmas trees annually into the United States
- You are not registered as a lobbyist with the Federal or state government<sup>1</sup>

If you meet the eligibility requirements specified above and would like to serve on the Board, please complete and submit the enclosed Background Information Form either by mail to: USDA, Attention

Patricia Petrella, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 1406-S, Stop 0244, Washington, DC 20250-0244; or FAX to [202-205-2800](tel:202-205-2800); or email to [Patricia.Petrella@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Patricia.Petrella@ams.usda.gov).

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You may also

visit: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FVResearchandPromotionChristmasTrees> for a copy of the Background Information Form, or contact Patricia Petrella, USDA Marketing Specialist by phone at [301-334-2891](tel:301-334-2891) or by email, for more information.

<sup>1</sup>Executive Order No. 13490, 18 June 2010, prohibits an individual who is registered with the Federal government or with a state government as a lobbyist from serving on a Federal advisory committee.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:866-632-9992) (Toll-free Customer Service), [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:800-877-8339) (Local or Federal relay), [\(866\) 377-8642](tel:866-377-8642) (Relay voice users).