

Testimony of Marc McFetridge, Agricultural Economist from the U.S. Department
of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs,
Economic Analysis and Program Planning Branch

Prepared for the Hearing on Proposed Amendment of Marketing Agreement and Order
No. 930

My name is Marc McFetridge. I have worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 2006. I worked for the Marketing Order Administration Branch from July 2006 through December 2009. From December 2009 to the present I have worked for the Economic Analysis and Program Planning Branch as an agricultural economist where my duties include preparing economic and statistical analyses which are used by government officials to help administer Federal programs for fruit and vegetable programs. A large part of my work is related to Federal marketing order issues.

I received a Bachelor's degree in agricultural business management in 2001 from Oregon State University and a Masters degree in agricultural and resource economics in 2004 from Oregon State University.

Concerning the various proposed amendments, the department is taking a neutral position. For this hearing on tart cherries, I have prepared a report titled "U.S. Tart Cherry Crop Statistics, Graphs, and Tables." The data source is the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), USDA. The purpose of this report is to introduce U.S. government data and other relevant information into the hearing record. These data and

graphs are intended to be used by all parties involved in the hearing, in discussing and analyzing the merits of the various proposed amendments.

In the report, graphs and tables are shown for the U.S. and the seven major producing states. The graph on page three shows that total U.S. bearing acres reached a high point of 50,050 acres in 1987 but bearing acres has declined almost 29 percent since. The graph on page five shows that the U.S. tart cherry yield has fluctuated between a low of 1,660 pounds per acres to a high of 10,100 pounds per acre. The graph on page seven shows that the U.S. tart cherry production has fluctuated between a low of 62.5 million pounds to a high of 395.6 million pounds. The graph on page nine shows that the prices received by tart cherry growers has fluctuated between a low of six cents per pound to a high of forty-seven cents per pound. The graph on page eleven shows that the U.S. tart cherry value of productions has fluctuated between a low of \$18,456,000 to a high of \$88,082,000. A graph depicting the inverse relationship between fluctuations in production and changes in price is shown on page 13.