



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** AMERICAN PECAN COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND INDUSTRY

**FROM:** ALEXANDER OTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE:** USDA ASSISTANCE UPDATE

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

As announced by the APC on August 28, 2018, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced details of actions the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will take to assist the industry in response to trade damage from the recent “unjustified tariff retaliation” from other countries.

The following is an update on the dollars that will assist the pecan industry, as well as information on how to become a certified USDA vendor to take part in the Food Purchase & Distribution Program.

The Secretary has announced that the pecan industry will receive specifically \$16,000,000 under the Food Purchase and Distribution Program. This figure was earlier reported as \$11,800,000. The program will be facilitated through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). You can view vendor information on the AMS website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food/becoming-approved>.

This email also contains two additional USDA files that specifically address how to partake in the program. It is important that you follow the steps that USDA provides and become a registered vendor. In doing so, your company will then be well prepared to submit your bid in a timely manner without the worry of missing essential deadlines. USDA is also providing informational webinars.

A list of these webinars, in addition to information on webinar registration, can be found at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/new-vendor-training-usda-web-based-supply-chain-management>.

Applications for this program are due by November 2, 2018, or until funding is exhausted. The American Pecan Council will continue to update the industry on the trade situation and as information becomes available. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Council office at (817) 916-0020.