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## About the Coalition

The Florida Perishables Trade Coalition is a non-profit association formed in January 2012 to focus the collective experience and efforts of industry leaders from throughout the state to increase trade in perishable products through Florida's airports and seaports. It formally organized in 2012 to expand upon the work and support the efforts of an informal trade coalition which has identified and worked on these issues over the last year.

You are invited to join the FPTC as a founding member to help shape, direct and fund its efforts, to grow perishable trade in Florida ports, by addressing the "cold treatment" issue, reviving Perishable Logistics Workshops, and undertaking new initiatives identified by FPTC members as needed to make agricultural trade grow and prosper in Florida ports. Funding has been committed for a portion of the initial stages of the efforts and a more complete budget and funding process is under discussion.

**Cold Treatment** The objective of the Cold Treatment project is to bring trade and distribution of potentially millions of dollars of perishable products to Florida ports by addressing the "cold treatment" requirements which currently prohibit importation at any Florida airport or seaport. Florida ports will not be eligible to compete for this trade unless federal regulations (7 CFR 319.56-2d), designed to protect US (and primarily Florida's) agriculture industry, are amended to permit importation at those ports. A convincing case for that amendment must be made to both the Florida and US Departments of Agriculture and a final federal rule must be adopted after a public comment period provided by publication of a proposed change in federal regulation. It is expected to take approximately two years to succeed.

Florida's agriculture industry faces serious concerns due to injurious pests and disease that have been, and could be, introduced into the United States with imported perishable products arriving at Florida ports or US ports north of Florida. However, it is believed that Florida ports today can meet the challenge to eliminate these potential threats, including the threat of exotic fruit fly infestation, by adopting protocols and using technology available in today's sophisticated transportation, supply chain and port industries. In fact, in adherence to strict protocols and technology in Florida ports will likely better protect Florida agriculture from the threats it suffers from today, since these products already enter the United States through Northern ports which have not embraced the advanced protocols and technology that Florida ports and trade are willing to adopt..

**Perishable Logistics Workshops** Perishable products entering the United States must efficiently meet the ever-changing requirements enforced at the border by multiple federal agencies (Agriculture, Food & Drug Administration, Customs & Border Protection, et al.) In the past, this burden has been successfully addressed (and new trade brought to Florida ports) by holding educational and training sessions in the production and shipping areas of the exporting countries. The programs have included detailed presentations by the federal agencies, transportation and logistics companies, professional regulatory services providers, airport and seaport personnel, et al. No such "Workshop" programs have been hosted in recent years. Now is the time to revive the Workshops in targeted countries to make trade through Florida airports and seaports grow in volume and success.

# Membership

### Trustee Membership \$25,000.00 annually

- Participation at all meetings with federal and state level officials
- Participation at all meetings with county and local level officials
- Company name prominently displayed on association materials
- Monthly updates/meetings on perishables efforts and business strategy
- Up to ten hours, on a yearly basis, of one on one legal counsel on perishables matters specific to your company
- Ongoing input welcome on regular basis

### Executive Membership \$15,000.00 annually

- Participation at select meetings with federal and state level officials
- Participation at all meetings with county and local level officials
- Company name prominently displayed on association materials
- Monthly updates/meetings on perishables efforts and business strategy
- Up to five hours, on a yearly basis, of one on one legal counsel on perishables matters specific to your company
- Ongoing input welcome on regular basis

#### Director Membership \$5,000.00 annually

- Participation at select meetings with federal and state level officials
- Participation at select meetings with county and local level officials
- Company name prominently displayed on association materials
- Monthly updates/meetings on perishables efforts and business strategy
- Up to two hours, on a yearly basis, of one on one legal counsel on perishables matters specific to your company
- Ongoing input welcome on regular basis

### Corporate Membership \$2,500.00 annually

- Participation at select meetings with state level officials
- Participation at select meetings with county and local level officials
- Company name displayed on association materials
- Monthly updates/meetings on perishables efforts and business strategy
- Input welcome on periodic basis

### Regular Membership \$1,000.00 annually

- Participation at select meetings with county and local level officials
- Quarterly updates/meetings on perishables efforts and business strategy
- Input welcome as requested by board of directors

### **Membership Application**

#### Please print this form, fill in the required information and return it with your dues.

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- \*15% of dues may be used for lobbying efforts and are not tax deductible
- \*Annual dues are not prorated, refundable or transferrable
- Membership period is from January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>