



NORTH CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

USDA has mailed ballots to over 6,000 eligible producers nationwide; you may have one or more of these in your mailbox. I have received numerous phone calls from growers who have questions about this packet. I felt it might be helpful to send an educational email to the current and past board members and other grower stakeholders to provide clarity. If you or others have additional questions, feel free to call me. I am happy to discuss this in more detail, but I wanted to answer some common questions.

- Packets were mailed to producers who paid national peanut assessments in 2022. USDA developed and mailed this material, which likely explains some of the wording in the packet.
- Growers are asked to vote whether they agree to continue the [Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order](#).
 - This order includes an assessment rate of \$3.55 per ton for Segregation 1 peanuts and \$1.25 per ton for lower quality Segregation 2 and 3 peanuts.
 - That order also established and maintains the National Peanut Board. [Click here](#) to view the National Peanut Board Strategic Plan through 2025.
- This order differs from the NC General Statutes, which allows the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association to hold a state referendum.
 - The North Carolina referendum vote will be in 2025. For that vote, producers will go to their County Extension office.
- The National Peanut Board uses the assessment dollars to carry out effective promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information on peanuts.
 - Per the order you are voting on, 20% of those assessments can be allotted to production research.
 - The National Peanut Board's policy is to allocate all research money available back to the states. They conduct an annual review of the funds collected from each state, and the allocation is computed based on a three-year rolling average.
 - In my three years in this role, North Carolina has averaged approximately \$153,000 annually for peanut production/breeding research. We typically add a percentage of our state budget to fund research projects in our state adequately.

The April 2 National Peanut Board newsletter, [News in a Nutshell](#), also includes information regarding the voting period.

If you are mailing your ballot – it must be postmarked by April 19, 2024.

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