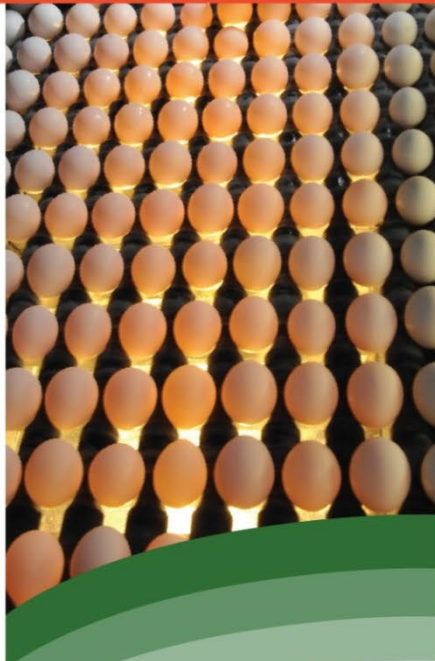




United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses





Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)

Working in partnership with the fruit and vegetable industry, PACA facilitates fair trade practices through education, mediation, arbitration, licensing and enforcement.

PACA provides:

- ✓ A forum to investigate, mediate, arbitrate contract disputes and recover damages when buyers and sellers of produce fail to meet their contractual obligations;
- ✓ A trust which puts sellers of produce in a priority status in the event their buyers become insolvent or file for bankruptcy protection;
- ✓ Provisions to sanction produce sellers that fail to pay obligations or misrepresent the products they are selling;
- ✓ A mechanism to monitor the activities of PACA violators.

PACA Highlights - 2022

- ✓ PACA maintained over 13,000 active licensees;
- ✓ PACA assisted 1,910 callers with produce transactions valued at over \$50.5 million through calls to the PACA “good delivery” line;
- ✓ PACA suspended the licenses of 56 produce firms and imposed sanctions or employment restrictions for failure to pay more than \$5.8 million for multiple shipments of produce;
- ✓ PACA opened 740 new informal reparation complaints involving \$33 million.

PACA Highlights - 2022

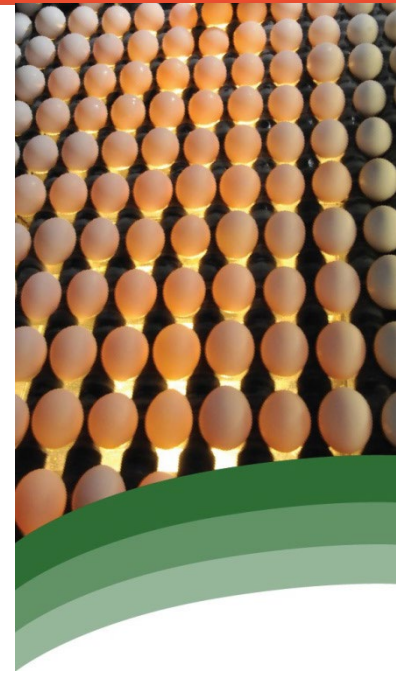
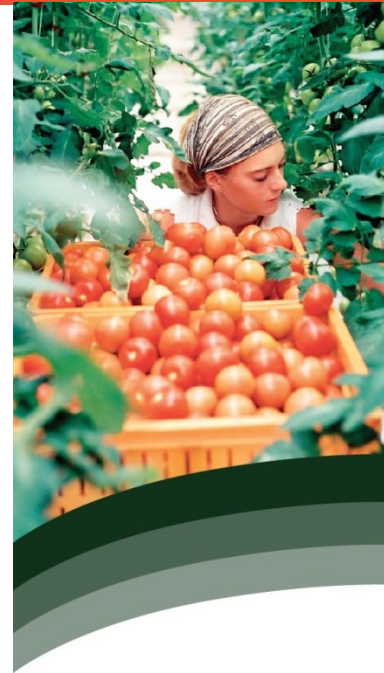
- ✓ PACA had another successful year assisting parties in settling approximately 90 percent of informal complaints within four months;
- ✓ PACA scaled up on hiring during pandemic: 16 new staff;
- ✓ Back to travelling to trade shows, association meetings, and in-person investigations

ePACA

- ✓ The ePACA portal is available 24/7 to apply for or renew a PACA license or to file a PACA complaint online. About 1/3 of PACA licensees are submitting their license applications and renewals through the ePACA portal;
- ✓ ePACA's "PACA Search" function provides real-time information on a company's PACA license status and complaint history, assisting the industry in making informed business decisions;
- ✓ The ePACA mobile app provides access to PACA search capabilities on mobile devices.

PACA Priorities

- ✓ To continue to provide the highest level of customer service;
- ✓ To address the needs and concerns of industry stakeholders;
- ✓ To expand PACA's presence in the industry through outreach efforts;
- ✓ Help get the industry paid timely.



Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act

(PACA)

1-800-495-7222

www.ams.usda.gov/paca