

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

February 7, 2025

Bruce Summers  
Administrator  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

Georgia's farmers, growers, and ranchers work tirelessly to feed our State, the country, and the world. For instance, Georgia leads the nation in pecan production, helping make the United States the world's leading producer of pecans.<sup>1</sup> Given current conditions in the domestic pecan industry, exacerbated by the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene last fall, I write to urge that you consider using the authority Congress provided under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to make purchases of domestic pecans in early 2025.

As you know, Section 32 created a mandatory appropriation to support producers of agricultural products under certain conditions.<sup>2</sup> For instance, Section 32 authorizes USDA to buy surplus products, bolstering domestic demand, when prices are low.

In recent years, the oversupply of pecans has resulted in low prices and lower-than-expected grower returns. Specifically, pecan producers in the United States for the last eight years have produced an average of around 300 million pounds per year.<sup>3</sup> In that time, pecan consumption has averaged around 270 million pounds per year, leaving growers with an average surplus of around 30 million pounds annually. According to researchers at the University of Georgia, in 2024, these market dynamics resulted in pecan growers' being "offered shockingly low prices for their crop," which were below the cost of production and "caused them to lose money."<sup>4</sup>

Georgia pecans not only are one of Georgia's most valuable agricultural products, but also are reliably nutritious. According to the University of Georgia, Georgia pecans are a good source of protein and carbohydrates, while also being high in fiber and unsaturated fats.<sup>5</sup> Their nutritious value makes Georgia pecans a worthy candidate for Section 32 purchases.

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I therefore urge you to consider making Section 32 purchases of domestic pecans a priority early this year. Doing so will increase demand for this important Georgia-grown crop and provide recipients, which could include schools, child care centers, or food banks, with a reliable source of protein and carbohydrates. This action will help strengthen the domestic pecan industry as growers work to recover.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/nuts/pecans#:~:text=Extension%2C%202017\).,-Production,Sources](https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/nuts/pecans#:~:text=Extension%2C%202017).,-Production,Sources)

<sup>2</sup> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12193>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pecanreport.com/news/us-pecan-growers-produce-30-million-pound-surplus/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://site.extension.uga.edu/pecan/2024/11/an-explanation-of-current-pecan-prices/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/fruit-vegetable-ornamentals-production/pecans.html#:~:text=Georgia%20is%20the%20nation's%20largest,make%20176%20million%20pecan%20pies.>