



# U.S. Food Waste Challenge

Reduce, Recover, Recycle

**Organization(s):**

Federal Marketing Order 987 administered by the California Date Administrative Committee

**City, State:** Dates produced or packed in Riverside County, California

**Website:** [www.datesaregreat.com](http://www.datesaregreat.com)

**What are the reduction, recovery or recycling activities?**

The date marketing order (7 CFR 987) establishes quality regulations in the form of minimum grade and size standards. Dates must be inspected and must meet these minimum requirements prior to shipment to normal market outlets. The purpose of these regulations is to provide product uniformity and consistency in the marketplace and to ensure consumers of a good quality product.

Dates that do not meet the minimum quality requirements may be used for making for non-table syrup, alcohol, or brandy, or disposed of as livestock feed. In addition, dates may be exempted from marketing order regulations if they are sold by producers at roadside stands, certified farmer's markets, or through shipments by parcel post or express. The marketing order also permits dates to be donated to needy persons, prisoners, or native Americans on reservations. These outlets and uses for dates help to reduce or prevent potential food waste.

