

## Chairman's Message

As we look back on 2008 – and ahead to 2009 and beyond – there is no doubt that, as growers and as an industry, we are operating in challenging times. There is also no doubt that, as an organization, Sunkist is prepared to meet those challenges.

Over the past year, Sunkist has taken impressive steps in defining our future. We have reinvigorated our brand, streamlined our operations, realigned our sales structure, expanded our customer base, reduced our costs and increased our revenues. These efforts are ongoing and the results are obvious in the continued strengthening of our cooperative.

We owe much of this success to the leadership and guidance of President and CEO Tim Lindgren, who retired October 31, 2008 after two and one half years of exceptional service. Working with our board, he and his management team implemented the strategies that allow us to capitalize on opportunities that better position us in the global marketplace. The result is better service – both to you as member-owners and to our customers – at significantly reduced costs.

The substantial reduction in your fresh fruit assessment and the elimination of the 13th assessment and the five cents per carton Product Delivery Rights charge from the Citrus Juice & Oil business are just some of the tangible results of our success in offering greater value to our growers. There is much more to come as we continue to better utilize our resources and more effectively manage our brand in the global market.

On November 1, 2008, Russ Hanlin succeeded Tim Lindgren as President and CEO of Sunkist. Russ is a Sunkist veteran with experience in every aspect of our sales and marketing operations. He understands production issues, operational issues and the Sunkist/FGS system. The leadership transition was seamless – the result of hard work and strategic planning. With Russ Hanlin, as we were with Tim Lindgren, we are fortunate once again to have the right person at the right time, ready to serve.

Tim Lindgren had the vision and the expertise to move Sunkist forward. We thank him for his dedication and devotion as well as the pragmatic business direction he brought to our organization. And one of his most significant accomplishments in 2008 was building one of the strongest and most experienced management teams in Sunkist history. He is leaving Sunkist in good shape and in good hands.



**Nicholas L. Bozick**  
*Chairman of the Board*  
*Sunkist Growers*



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