

Jan '88

Beef Referendum Facts

1. Date

The Beef Board has requested that the Secretary of Agriculture set May 10, 1988, as the date of the referendum.

2. Location

Registration and voting will occur on the same day at the county extension office in the county in which an eligible individual resides or an eligible business has its headquarters.

3. Time

Registration and voting will take place during the normal business hours of each county extension office.

4. Eligibility

Any individual or business owning cattle, or importing cattle or beef, during the representative period (to be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture) will be eligible to vote and will be entitled to cast only one vote.

5. Registration

All eligible voters will register by completing a registration form and certifying that they, or the business they represent, were a producer during the representative period.

In person -- Eligible voters desiring to vote in person will register and vote on the same day at the county extension office. Prior to receiving their registration form and ballot, they will be required to list their name on the voter registration list.

Absentee -- Eligible voters desiring to vote by absentee ballot must request the combined absentee registration and ballot by mail from the State Extension Service office. This request must be made in writing during a specified time to be announced by the Secretary of Agriculture.

6. Voting

In-person -- Voting will be by secret ballot under the supervision of the county extension agent or his/her designee.

Absentee -- Ballots must be returned to the county extension office in which the voter resides or the business has its headquarters by close of business, 5 days before the date of the referendum. Upon receipt of the absentee ballot, the county extension agent will place the voter's name on the voter registration list.

7. Vote Counting

Valid votes will be counted on the tenth business day following the referendum date by ASCS county employees. The delay in vote counting is to provide the opportunity for challenges of voter eligibility.

8. Challenges of Voter Eligibility

A person or business' eligibility to vote may be challenged by any person. Names of all challenged voters must be submitted to the county ASCS office no later than close of business on the second business day following the referendum date.

The ASCS county committee will determine the eligibility of challenged voters and notify them within five business days. Challenged voters will have three days within which to appeal the determination. The ASCS county committee will determine the validity of the appeal no later than the ninth business day following the referendum date.

9. Report of Results

Results of the referendum vote will be transmitted from the county ASCS office, through the state office, to USDA where they will be reported by press release and publication in the Federal Register.

10. Continuation of Checkoff

The checkoff will continue if a simple majority of those voting vote "yes".