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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Regional Office
Cooperative Extension Headquarters
Davis, California 95616

*Send information
Dairy list & Beef list
to*

March 2, 1988

TO: County Directors

RE: Beef Referendum Update

Attached is the latest information received from USDA concerning the Beef Referendum. Several pages with amended instruction are included. Please replace the corrected pages in the original document we forwarded earlier.

All of the materials needed in the voting process for forwarding have not been received. We will forward those materials as soon as they are received from USDA.

We are beginning to receive requests for absentee ballots and these are being categorized by county with lists being prepared. We will be mailing the Absentee Ballots by April 1st and honoring requests through April 29th.

Do not hesitate to contact our office (myself or Rose Mary Miller) if you should have any questions regarding the referendum or material.

Sincerely,

Ken Ellis

Kenneth W. Ellis
Regional Director

KWE:rmam

Attachments

cc: L. Lewis
Regional Directors
D. McMartin
Animal Science Ext. Unit
Vet. Ext. Unit



February 19, 1988

FEB 24

SUBJECT: Beef Referendum Update

TO: State Coordinators for the Beef Referendum

By this time, you should have received copies of the "Beef Referendum Instructions for State Extension Coordinators", and "Beef Referendum Instructions for County Extension Agents". If you have not, let me know as soon as possible!

Enclosed are several amended pages for the instructions which you received earlier. There are seven pages with amendments, and a new Index for the agent instructions (pages 5,6,7,8,11,13,14, and Index) and two pages with amendments for the coordinator instructions (page 4,10). These should replace the corresponding pages in the documents which you received earlier.

Also enclosed is a description of the recommended ballot distribution process, and a summary of the estimated number of voters by county and total for your State. The summary indicates the estimated number of ballots and related materials your counties should receive. Study this material carefully.

Recently, several issues have developed regarding Extension's role in conducting the Beef Referendum.

1. The Final Rule for the Beef Promotion and Research Program: Procedures for Conduct of Referendum will not be published until early April. The final document specifies the time period for having absentee ballots available as April 1 until close of business April 29, 1988.

We need to provide notice of this time period to the public in mid-March, despite the fact that the Final Rule will not be published until early April. If we do not, voters will not have adequate time to write for an absentee ballot.

2. Several States are preparing postcards which are preaddressed to the State Coordinator and are intended to be used for requesting absentee ballots. This is an excellent idea. These should not be postage fees paid. They could assist county agents and staff, as well as the State Coordinator efficiently deal with the absentee vote issue. The cards should have an area designated for producer or importer name, address, phone and county of residence.
3. AMS received several requests that the State coordinators preaddress the envelopes which producers will use to send their absentee ballots to their county Extension office.

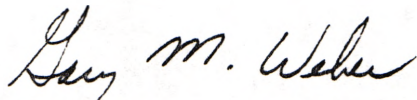


The Final Rule, to be published in the Federal Register, will specify that the State Coordinators MUST preaddress the return envelopes.

4. It is possible an absentee voter may call the Extension office to determine if their absentee ballot arrived by close of business, May 3, 1988. If the ballot arrived late or not at all, the producer/importer can vote in-person.
5. If a county Extension office needs to conduct voting at another location in the county due to parking or other limitations, voters must still be permitted to vote in the Extension office if they desire. This is due to the stipulations in the Federal Register document.
6. If a county has two or more Extension offices, voting must be conducted in all offices.
7. The Beef Board has asked that county offices be open over the noon hour for voting. The proposed rule states voting will be conducted in county Extension offices during normal business hours. We do not feel we can mandate Extension offices to stay open over the noon hour if they are normally closed, as this is often a function of the county government policy. Offices should stay open as needed to allow voters an opportunity to vote. This may require that offices remain open over the noon hour as well as somewhat later than normal if voters are waiting to vote and the office is scheduled to close.
8. County Extension offices in urban areas need to be advised that many doctors, lawyers, and others in urban areas are involved in beef cattle production through custom feeding situations, etc. These individuals, as well as cattle and beef/beef-product importers will be voting in the Referendum.

We will be sending more information regarding the Referendum as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have questions and/or comments regarding aspects of the Referendum voting procedure, (202) 447-2677, DIALCOM AGS076.



GARY WEBER
Program Leader
Animal Science

Enclosures