

MAR 24 1988

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Regional Office
Cooperative Extension Headquarters
Davis, California 95616

March 21, 1988

TO: County Directors
RE: Beef Referendum Material

SPECIAL NOTE - Please make certain that the attached information and all of that pertaining to the Beef Referendum mailed to you previously reaches the livestock/dairy advisor or other persons who will be responsible for conducting the educational and voting processes.

Some advisors are indicating they have not seen some of the information. We must be fully operational at each county and branch office to fulfill our responsibilities - Education, information and conduct of the voting procedure.

Items attached:

1. Age limitation clarification
2. Suggested news releases
3. Referendum Procedure -
Suggested activities for county agents.

IMPORTANT ITEM

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NOTE NOTE NOTE

Ballot materials are now being mailed to each county. When they arrive - carefully check the contents and number and return the reply card to our office.

Page Two
March 21, 1988
Beef Referendum

We are receiving absentee ballot requests and will begin mailing the ballots on April 1st. The absentee ballots will be returned to your office.

Please call if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Ellis".

Kenneth W. Ellis
Regional Director
North Central Region

KWE:rmam

cc: Greg Findley



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Extension
Service

Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

March 8, 1988

SUBJECT: News Releases for State Beef Referendum Coordinators

TO: State Beef Referendum Coordinators

Enclosed are sample news releases for State and county release. Please modify these as needed.

PLEASE NOTE — We continue to receive questions regarding voter age restrictions. There is no age limitation, however, there was a precedent set in the 1980 Referendum where ASCS would deem a person ineligible to vote if they were too young to understand the certification statement and perform the mechanics of voting. This may help you resolve these questions. This does not include adults who may not be able to read the certification but can understand and perform the mechanics of registering and voting. *PLEASE NOTE*

Questions have also been raised as to the date voting results will be made available. We can say at this time voting results will not be known until sometime after May 24, 1988.

GARY M. WEBER
Program Leader
Animal Science

Enclosures



The Extension Service is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture and
the Federal Partner in the Cooperative Extension System.

March 21, 1988

USDA ISSUES FINAL PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING BEEF REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a final rule governing the procedures for conducting the Beef Referendum as authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.

Referendum voting will be conducted in county Extension offices during normal business hours on May 10, 1988, except in West Virginia which will conduct voting in county Extension offices on May 9, 1988, since May 10, 1988, is a primary election day (State holiday) and all West Virginia county offices are closed.

Producers and importers unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot by writing or visiting (Coordinator Name), Beef Referendum State Extension Coordinator at (list address). Absentee Ballots will be available from April 1 until close of business on April 29, 1988. Absentee ballots must be received in the county Extension office serving the county of voter residence by close of business on May 3, 1988.

All cattle producers who owned or acquired cattle and importers of cattle, beef or beef products during the period of October 1, 1986, through March 31, 1988, are eligible to vote. This also includes 4-H, FFA, and other youth who owned cattle during the signated time period.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will count ballots, determine the eligibility of challenged voters and ballots, and report Referendum results.

March 21, 1988

USDA ISSUES FINAL PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING BEEF REFERENDUM

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Referendum voting will be conducted in the (list county name or names) county Extension office (list address and directions to the office) during normal business hours (list office hours and if you will be open over the noon hour). Voting will be conducted on one day only, May 10, 1988, except in West Virginia which will conduct voting in county Extension offices on May 9, 1988, since May 10, 1988, is a primary election day (State holiday) and all West Virginia county offices are closed.

Producers and importers unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot by writing or visiting (Coordinator Name), Beef Referendum State Extension Coordinator at (list address). Absentee Ballots will be available from April 1 until close of business on April 29, 1988. Absentee ballots must be received in the county Extension office serving the county of voter residence by close of business on May 3, 1988.

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V. REFERENDUM PROCEDURE: SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR COUNTY AGENTS

1. March 21, 1988 to May 10, 1988:

A. Provide public notice of the date, time, and location and general requirements of the Referendum and how and where absentee ballots can be obtained through the use of radio, TV, and newspapers.

B. An absentee ballot can be acquired from the State Coordinator ONLY by written request or in person, April 1, 1988 until close of business April 29, 1988.

C. Provide training for any Extension personnel assisting with the Referendum.

2. May 1, 1988: the county Extension agent or designee should:

A. Review and study applicable instructions and information.

B. Receive, and maintain security for a supply of all forms required to conduct the Referendum at the county office. Advise State Coordinator of receipt of forms.

C. Receive one copy of all forms to be used in the conduct of the Referendum at the county Extension office to be used as a backup to make copies as necessary.

D. Notify State Coordinator if required Referendum forms have not been received at least 10 workdays prior to the date of the Referendum.

E. Acquire or prepare secure ballot boxes. Clearly mark all boxes with the words "Ballot Box" and County Name.

F. Review "Beef Referendum Instruction for County Agents," Section VII part 3. "Duplication of Ballots" and part 4. "Emergency Ballots for In-Person Voting", and be prepared in case of a shortage of "Beef Referendum" forms or envelopes.

3. April 1, 1988 until close of business May 3, 1988:

A. Receive and securely maintain all absentee ballot and registration forms mailed to the county office. Handle all envelopes received from absentee voters marked "Beef Referendum" as indicated in "Beef Referendum Instructions For County Agents," Section V. REFERENDUM PROCEDURE, page 3, part 3.

** A. There is a possibility absentee ballots received in county offices may not have the voter name written on the envelope. ASCS has determined these absentee ballots will be invalid as instructions were not followed correctly.

4. May 3, 1988: absentees ballots received after May 3, 1988 must be marked with date, time of arrival and "LATE" clearly printed on the envelope. then placed in the ballot box. Also, record the name of the absentee voter

on the "Voter Registration List", form LS 40-3 and print "LATE" next to the name.

5. The day prior to the Referendum, May 9, 1988 the county Extension agent or designee should:

A. Prepare secure ballot boxes and extra boxes in case of a large number of votes are cast. Clearly mark all boxes with the words "Ballot Box" and county name. County Extension offices serving more than one county will need separate ballot boxes and corresponding registration forms for each county served.

B. Be prepared to make additional copies of the ballot and registration if the supply of forms run out. Review section VII, part 3. "Duplication of Ballots" and part 4. "Emergency Ballots for In-Person Voting" (pages 9-11).

C. Acquire an adequate supply of pencils or pens for completing registration forms and ballots.

D. Provide "refresher" training for any Extension personnel assisting with the Referendum.

6. May 10, 1988:

A. Begin voting at normal office hours.

B. Plan on being present at all times during voting.

C. Arrange the ballot box (boxes) in an accessible location, but within the agent's view at all times.

D. Provide a voting area which will offer voter privacy so as to maintain confidentiality of voting.

E. Require all persons desiring to vote to enter their names on Form LS-40-3, "Voter Registration List", for the county in which they reside, BEFORE GIVING THEM REGISTRATION FORMS, BALLOTS, and ENVELOPES.

F. Display the "Voter Registration List", form LS 40-3, containing the names of absentee voters.

G. Provide each voter with a Form LS-40-2, registration form/envelope, a Form LS-40 ballot, and a Form LS-40-1 envelope marked "Beef Ballot."

H. Instruct voters to read all instructions carefully.

I. Assist voters as necessary and make certain that at least one copy of the Beef Promotion and Research Order is available for review.

7. May 11, 1988:

A. Deliver to the county ASCS office serving the county of voter residence (or offices if a county Extension office serves several counties) the following:

i. The sealed ballot box or boxes containing all absentee/in person ballots.

ii. Completed Forms LS 40-3, "Voter Registration List"

iii. Completed Forms LS 39-3, "Absentee Voter Registration List" and any "County Unknown Absentee Voter Request List" received from the State Coordinator.

iv. List of any names of challenge voters received during the Referendum.

B. Advise ASCS county office if no ballots were cast.

C. Participate with ASCS Committee or representative in checking completed Forms LS-40-2 and LS-39 against Form LS-40-3, "Voter Registration List", and Forms LS-39-3, "Absentee Voter Request List."