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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Regional Office
Cooperative Extension Headquarters
Davis, California 95616

April 5, 1988

TO: Livestock and Dairy Advisors

RE: BEEF REFERENDUM FACTS

Attached is a summary of information needed by beef and dairy producers (owners) for registering and voting in the May 10th Beef Check-Off Referendum.

This material may be utilized as is or modified as you wish for informing producers of the referendum and their right to vote. **Please note** - all 4-H Beef and Dairy project members (F.F.A. also) who owned an animal (or animals) during the period of October 1, 1986 through March 31, 1988 are eligible to register and vote. This is a fine opportunity for project leaders to organize a teaching/learning experience.

The Beef Referendum Information Committee will be forwarding information packets to one beef or dairy project leader per club. These leaders will need to share the materials with other leaders in order for all project leaders to be informed of the referendum, their right to vote and how to vote. Any action you can take to ensure that information reaches project members will greatly help. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Ellis
Regional Director

KWE:ss7-6

Enclosure

cc: Greg Findley

BEEF REFERENDUM FACTS

1. Date

The Secretary of Agriculture has 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, partnership or business owning beef and/or dairy cattle, or importing cattle or beef, during the period of October 1, 1986 to March 31, 1988, will be eligible to vote and will be entitled to cast only one vote.

4-H beef and dairy project members who owned a beef or dairy animal during this period are eligible to register and 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 (October 1, 1986 - March 31, 1988).

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.

Absentee ballot request cards are available at County Extension Offices, and some sale yards. Absentee ballot

requests may also be made by forwarding a letter or post card to - Cooperative Extension Headquarters, University of California, Davis 95616. All requests must contain the signature of the potential voter.

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, May 3. 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 May 24 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 the 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 are expected to be made public on May 25th.

10. Continuation of Check-Off

The check-off will continue if a simple majority of those voting vote "yes".

KWE/ss7-7