



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Extension
Service

Agriculture

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SUBJECT: Final Beef Referendum Information

TO: State Beef Referendum Coordinators, County Agents and other
Interested Individuals

As you are aware, the Beef Referendum was passed by a wide majority of beef and dairy producers, importers, and exporters. Enclosed is a news release for State and county use.

All ballots and related materials may be disposed of at this time. State Beef Referendum Coordinators should retain the Absentee Voter requests which they received. There could be some challenges regarding the use of Absentee ballots. This is very unlikely, however, retain this information for six months, then destroy.

It has been a distinct pleasure for me to work with all of you on this important activity for the Cooperative Extension System. Extension conducted the Referendum in a very professional and objective manner. I have received very positive remarks regarding Extension's activities in this regard.

I will look forward to working with many of you in the future as we prepare to conduct the Swine Referendum in September.

GARY M. WEBER
Program Leader
Animal Science

Enclosure



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

NEWS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE RELEASE, STATE AND COUNTY WIDE
THE BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY SUPPORTS THE PROMOTION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

On May 27, 1988 the USDA announced the results of the National Beef Referendum which was conducted May 10th in county Extension offices, (May 9th in West Virginia).

Kenneth A. Giles, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Inspection Services said 256,505 valid ballots were cast, with 78.9 percent supporting the continuation of the Beef Promotion and Research Order, 21.1 percent opposed. Ballots were cast in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service conducted the Referendum with the assistance of the Cooperative Extension System and the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conversation Service.

Since the majority of producers and importers supported the program the Cattlemen's Beef Board will continue to collect assessments of \$1 per head on all cattle sold in the United States and an equivalent amount on all imported cattle, beef and beef products.

The Checkoff will collect more than 70 million dollars each year.

The assessments are utilized to finance promotion, research and consumer education programs.

Since the Beef promotion and Research Order Act of 1985 does not provide for refunds after passage of the Referendum, producers and importers will no longer be entitled to refunds on cattle sold after May 27, 1988.

However, cattle producers and importers who paid assessments on cattle sold from October 1, 1986, through May 27, 1988 are eligible for a one time refund if they requested a refund within 60 days of the sale date, i.e.,

the date the assessment was levied. The Cattlemen's Beef Board expects to issue these refunds in late August, following its processing of refund requests.

A reevaluation of the Order can be conducted if a petition is submitted to USDA, signed by at least 10 percent of eligible producers. Unless a petition is filed, the Checkoff program will continue at the \$1 per head rate indefinitely. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the use of Checkoff funds by the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

State-by-State Beef Referendum Results

STATE	YES VOTES	NO VOTES	TOTAL
Alabama	4,393	667	5,060
Alaska	2	1	3
Arizona	1,254	123	1,377
Arkansas	4,769	497	5,266
California	6,094	379	6,473
Colorado	5,511	1,663	7,174
Connecticut	72	63	135
Delaware	28	8	36
Florida	3,880	206	4,086
Georgia	4,328	569	4,897
Hawaii	53	4	57
Idaho	3,540	550	4,090
Illinois	6,120	1,288	7,408
Indiana	4,833	1,605	6,438
Iowa	7,474	3,428	10,902
Kansas	12,754	4,107	16,861
Kentucky	8,211	1,209	9,420
Louisiana	1,992	120	2,112
Maine	64	25	89
Maryland	430	106	536
Massachusetts	49	30	79
Michigan	2,398	418	2,816
Minnesota	3,092	1,443	4,535
Mississippi	3,754	451	4,205
Missouri	8,035	3,097	11,132
Montana	7,731	2,519	10,250
Nebraska	8,629	5,517	14,146
Nevada	773	231	1,004
New Hampshire	46	27	73
New Jersey	69	41	110
New Mexico	3,168	696	3,864
New York	1,012	670	1,682
North Carolina	1,940	130	2,070
North Dakota	4,877	1,978	6,855
Ohio	2,858	512	3,370
Oklahoma	9,502	3,338	12,840
Oregon	4,411	408	4,819
Pennsylvania	2,925	1,624	4,549
Rhode Island	7	0	7
South Carolina	1,568	213	1,781
South Dakota	7,256	3,627	10,883
Tennessee	6,131	1,081	7,212
Texas	32,181	4,400	36,581
Utah	2,044	161	2,205
Vermont	145	141	286
Virginia	2,910	994	3,904
Washington	2,519	188	2,707
Washington, D.C.	1	0	1
West Virginia	1,479	541	2,020
Wisconsin	1,823	2,009	3,832
Wyoming	3,273	994	4,267
TOTALS	202,408	54,097	256,505
PERCENTAGE	78.91%	21.09%	