

Dairy Promotion and Research Order Continuance Referendum

A national Order establishing a dairy promotion, research, and nutrition education program was authorized by the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 and was fully implemented on May 1, 1984. The program provides for a 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in the United States and Puerto Rico and marketed commercially by dairy farmers. A board of 36 dairy farmers, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, administers the program.

The Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to Section 116 of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, has called for a referendum among producers during _____ to determine whether the Dairy Promotion and Research Order should be continued. For the program to continue, a majority of producers voting in the referendum must favor keeping the program.

The Referendum Agent has established the referendum period as _____ through _____. The Act requires that a cooperative association that votes on behalf of its members must advise its producer members no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the referendum as to how it will vote. The Referendum Agent has determined that to meet the notice requirement such cooperative must inform its members by _____. A producer member who opposes the cooperative's vote may cast an official individual producer ballot with the member's differing vote.

I. Voting. Voting will be conducted by mail. The Referendum Agent has determined that completed ballots must be postmarked _____ through _____ as specified in the Referendum Order. Incomplete ballots or ballots postmarked earlier or later than the dates specified in the Referendum Order will not be counted.

II. Persons Eligible to Vote. A producer engaged in the production of milk for commercial use during _____ is eligible to vote. In the case of a producer who is other than an individual, the business unit is regarded as the producer. Only one vote is permitted for each dairy farm business unit. A cooperative association may vote on behalf of its producer members. A producer member opposed to the cooperative vote may cast an individual ballot.

III. Instructions for Completing the Ballot.

1. Complete the producer name and farm business name (if applicable) including address.
2. Vote in the space provided.
3. Complete the certification section. A producer who is a member of or under contract to a cooperative should check block (A) and indicate the name and address of the cooperative. A producer who does not market milk through a cooperative should check block (B) and indicate the name and address of the plant to which the producer sells milk. A producer who sells milk directly to consumers should check block (C) and indicate the name and address of the distribution business.
4. Be sure to sign the ballot.
5. Mail the ballot in the return envelope not later than the date specified in the Referendum Order. If you did not obtain a return envelope, mail your ballot to:

Referendum Agent
USDA, AMS, Dairy Programs
Room 2968-S, Mail Stop 0225
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0225

If you have questions or need information, on the referendum, call the Referendum Agent at (202) 720-6909.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0093. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 6 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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