

Want to double the tax that you pay on cattle? If not, vote NO on the new state Checkoff tax.

You already pay \$1 every time you sell a cow, to fund the national “Checkoff.” That may not sound like a lot, but it added up to **over \$11 million taken out of the pockets of Texas farmers and ranchers last year.**

When the Checkoff was adopted years ago, cattle owners were told that it was for their benefit. But is it? The money is used for ads such as “Beef. It’s What for Dinner,” which promote sales of *any* beef – whether it comes from Texas, California, Mexico, or China. That doesn’t get **you** more for **your** animals!

It’s the meat packers and the retailers who really benefit from the Checkoff. But farmers and ranchers like you are forced to pay the bill.

In June, you will have the opportunity to vote on whether you want to establish a state Checkoff ***in addition to*** the existing federal program. This would effectively **double** the tax you have to pay on your cattle every time you make a sale.

VOTE NO TO THE CHECKOFF!

Refundable? You may hear that the new state Checkoff will be refundable. But you will have to get a specific form, fill it out, make copies of your receipts, and mail all of that within 60 days for each and every sale. Do you have time to deal with that?

If the big businesses want even more advertising, they can create a truly voluntary program where people can choose to be involved based on whether it benefits them. **We don’t need more taxes.**

WHEN: June 2, 2014 – June 6, 2014

WHO: You can vote in the referendum if you owned cattle any time in Texas in the year preceding the vote (June 6, 2013 – June 6, 2014).

WHERE: In-person voting will be at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices. A list of offices is available at <http://counties.agrilife.org>

BY MAIL: If you cannot make it to an Extension Office during the voting period, you can also request a ballot by mail. Contact Lance Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture, at Lance.Williams@texasagriculture.gov or 512-463-3285, between May 19 and June 2 to request a mail-in ballot.

**For more information, go to www.FarmAndRanchFreedom.org/Tx-Beef-Checkoff
info@FarmAndRanchFreedom.org | 254-697-2661**