

TEXAS BEEF CHECKOFF VOTER ELIGIBILITY FACT SHEET

Thank you for voting in the 2014 Texas beef checkoff referendum. Ballots are currently being collected at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Prior to announcing the results of the state checkoff vote, TDA will conduct an eligibility survey to confirm the results of the beef checkoff referendum. The process for validating the results of the referendum is provided below.

VALIDATION OVERVIEW

To validate the results of the referendum, a standard statistical formula is used to determine the sample size of voters who cast ballots. A sample of random voters will then be contacted to determine whether they were eligible to vote in the 2014 beef checkoff referendum.

PREPARE TO BE CONTACTED

Voters of all ages should prepare to be contacted by TDA to provide proof of voter eligibility. Voters who are selected will receive a phone call. While every voter may not be contacted, it's important for producers to proactively prepare for a call so TDA can have a quick and accurate tally of votes.

PROVIDING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

The following documentation can be used to provide proof of voter eligibility:

- Feed receipts
- Bill of sale/auction
- Business records
- Check stubs
- Documents which demonstrate ownership within the designated period (June 6, 2013-June 6, 2014).

Eligibility documentation must be submitted to TDA within seven calendar days (one week) of the date which the voter is contacted. Individuals who refuse to provide documentation supporting their eligibility to vote will be counted as an invalid vote.

SUBMITTING VOTER ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION

Documentation may be submitted to TDA one of three ways.

U.S. Postal Service	Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum Lance Williams PO Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711
Fax	(800) 909-8520
E-mail	Lance.Williams@texasagriculture.gov

VERIFYING VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Once TDA receives the documents showing voter eligibility, there are three possible outcomes for the vote:

- Eligible to vote
- Not eligible to vote
- Invalid/unable to verify eligibility

Ballots which are deemed "Not eligible to vote," or "Invalid/Unable to verify eligibility" will not be counted. Individuals who refuse to provide documentation supporting their eligibility to vote will be counted as an invalid vote.

TALLYING CHECKOFF VOTES

The checkoff vote is counted in a way which ensures adequate representation of both groups. First, TDA will determine a sample size. The sample sizes will be in proportion to the number of "for" and "against" votes, respectively, in the survey. Once the sample size is determined, it will be increased by 10 percent to allow for survey nonresponse. Then the ballots will be randomly selected by TDA using a software program.

After the validation survey is completed, the votes will be recalculated to reflect the actual response.

VOTING RESULTS

If the adjusted vote tally would change the outcome of the referendum, then all of the referendum ballots will be validated. The results of the voter verification tally will then replace the results of the original voting.

If the adjusted vote tally would not change the outcome of the referendum, then the original tally will stand.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the voter eligibility process, the Texas Beef Checkoff or the referendum, contact Lance Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711; call 512-463-3285 or visit TexasAgriculture.gov.

**Content of voter eligibility document is based on official TDA ballot verification procedures.*