



Brief answers
to short questions
**Sheila's
Shorts**
By Sheila Miller

Registration problems?

There seems to be a lot of confusion about the beef referendum rules and regulations, not only in the cattlemen circles but also in the governmental agency supposed to be handling the program.

If you still haven't read about the basic information concerning this very important referendum, look for "Straight-talk on Beferendum" in this issue.

In the past week, I've heard a few different questions pop up about who can register to vote in the upcoming referendum. By the way, registration ends on Wednesday, February 6.

To try to get some answers to these important questions, I contacted Dick Penet, the head of Pennsylvania's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

One of the questions that

has been asked by a number of cattlemen is: "If both the husband and wife own cattle, can both register to vote or does the couple get only one vote?"

According to Penet, if the cattle are owned by each spouse independently, then both husband and wife are entitled to vote. But if the cattle are owned by the husband and wife jointly, they have only one vote in the upcoming referendum.

This same policy would apply to parents and children, Penet added. If the children own cattle independently of their parents, the children have voting privileges.

Another question that has surfaced in the last few days is the discrepancy between ASCS rules for community committee elections and the referendum.

When electing community

committeemen, ASCS considers a husband-wife team with joint land ownership as two votes. But, in the referendum rules, for joint cattle ownership, there is only one vote.

When asked what the reasoning was behind this turnabout in policy, Penet said that it's the way the regulations were written.

Some cattlemen expressed concern that their registration applications were not accepted by the county executive director for ASCS — it was being challenged based on the question of eligibility.

Penet explained that each CED has the authority to challenge any registration application, however the ASCS office should accept the application until evidence is submitted to prove or disprove eligibility.

The ASCS office has two weeks in which to challenge any registration between the close of registration and the start of balloting. And, even after a cattleman has voted, ASCS can challenge the ballot if necessary.

In the case where a spouse visits the ASCS office to register for a joint-ownership single ballot, the ASCS director can accept the registration from either the husband or the wife. "As

long as there is sufficient evidence of eligibility, I don't see any reason why it should make a difference who registers," said Penet.

He added that anyone who is having problems registering, or who has a specific question concerning the referendum's rules should contact the ASCS office immediately.

When I asked him how the registration turn out was coming, he pointed out that it was very light.

With such an important issue at stake, I hope the trend changes until next Wednesday.

Can't forget the lambs.

In my January 12 column, I tracked down some information from the Virginia Department of Agriculture on their tel-o-auctions.

The info I got somehow neglected one very important part of our livestock industry — lambs.

Since then, I realized we were running special lamb tel-o-auctions, but we never heard where or when these were being held.

So, I got back on the telephone and called Virginia. This time I was directed to Ed Eller's office.

Ed wasn't in but his secretary, Kitty Cox, handled all of my questions like a pro.

She explained that the lamb tel-o-auctions were held every Friday at 11 a.m. Lambs were sold out of 12 markets.

The Virginia markets included Tazwell, Abington, Harrisonburg, Dublin, Churchville, and Monterey. In Kentucky, lambs came from Lexington, Danville, and Paris. And from West Virginia, they came from Alderson, Elkins, Marlinton, and Riverton.

Now, all of these lambs can be bought by calling one number. Roy Meek, at Dublin, runs the tel-o-auction and sells the lambs. His telephone number is 703/674-5311.

If you call Roy by Thur-

sdays afternoon, he can arrange to have you on a telephone hook-up that can handle 16 buyers. And, if you plan to buy on a regular weekly basis, the VaDA will be glad to put your name on a permanent list so that you are called automatically every Friday.

If you can't get through to Roy, Kitty told me you can call her or her supervisor Ed Eller by dialing 703/628-6261. They'll be able to arrange for the telephone hook-up too.

If you would rather sell lambs than buy them, Ed Eller will be able to fill you in on the consignment details.

New Jersey horse club meets

The Road Apple Gang 4-H Horse Club met on January 15, 1980. Lisa Ozysewski gave a demonstration on "Wind-Sucking & Cribbing". She described the causes and effects of each of them and also possible "cures."

The Club decided to hold another bake sale to help with club expenses. A tentative date of February 9 was set. The Club's last two

bake sales were a success. The next meeting will be on February 5 at the Buttonwood Stables at 6 P.M.

The 1979 harvest employed some 5 million American farm workers. The same harvest, before machines, would have taken 31 million people using 61 million horses and mules, according to Sperry New Holland.

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