

Beef referendum D-day comes this week

BY SHEILA MILLER
LITITZ — This week is D-Day for the Beef Research and Information Act, commonly called the Beef referendum. The close to 10,000 registered voters in Pennsylvania will cast their ballots, for or against the proposed check-off.

The cattlemen registered represent about one-fifth of the cattlemen in the state. They will be voting from February 19 through 22 on whether or not to establish a beef board.

The research and information program would be funded by an assessment of up to two-tenths of one per cent of the value of cattle

sold by producers. For example, on every \$100 sale value, 20 cents would go toward the program.

The referendum is being conducted by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, but it would be monitored by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

At the end of the cattle chain, the slaughter point, the total value of the assessment on the animal would be deducted and forwarded to the beef board. The only time money is exchanged is at the time of slaughter.

The beef board will be made up of cattlemen

delegates representing each state or geographic area based on its share of U.S. cattle industry.

Under this referendum, cattle for breeding purposes or commercial milk production are exempt from assessments until the time they are slaughtered.

And, farmers can request a refund for their assessment if they show a receipt of payment with their request to the board.

If a farmer simply slaughters his own animal at

a plant but plans to use the meat for himself the animal is not assessed because it has not been sold.

There are mixed emotions among farmers and cattlemen about this referendum. If passed, it will have a long-range effect on the beef industry.

The important thing to keep in mind is to vote, whether pro or con, so that the outcome of the ballot casting will reflect the true sentiments of Pennsylvania cattlemen.




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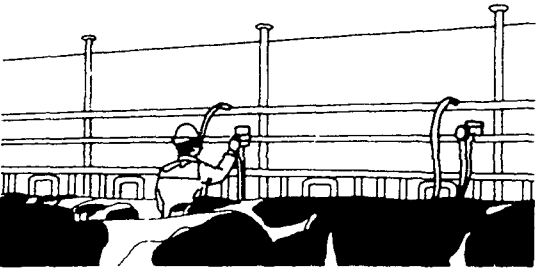


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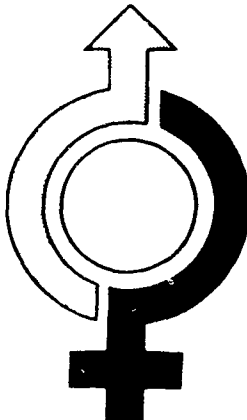


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