

Time Period to Gather Signatures

- An organization or association wanting a referendum on the Beef Checkoff Program will be provided 12 months to gather signatures. The organization or association will notify USDA when the 12-month time period begins and ends.
- An organization or association will be solely responsible for the compilation of signatures and submission to USDA either electronically or via express mail.
- The association or organization will submit the names of producers either via mail or electronic means within 30 days after the 12-month period concludes.
- At the end of the 12-month petition period, the organization or association compiling the signatures that wants to submit the information electronically, they must contact USDA at the number below and USDA will provide a mechanism to submit the information.
- Any individual member of a group, who is an eligible person separate from the group, may request a referendum separately.

Petition Information Required by USDA

- Full name of person or entity represented
- Signature and printed name (signature of parent or guardian of any person signing under the age of 18).
- Complete mailing address
- Daytime Telephone Number (home, business or cell)
- Email address (if available)
- Date petition was signed

Statement of Integrity

USDA recommends that the petition include the following statement of integrity:

My signature signifies that I consent to signing this petition, that I have not been incentivized to sign, coerced into signing, or misguided as to the purpose of my signature on this petition.

Verification

AMS will review submitted signatures to ensure that no producer has been incentivized to sign, coerced into signing, or misguided as to the purpose of the petition.

The signatures will be verified by USDA through statistical sampling using the contact information provided by those submitting petitions. If selected, the producer must be able to provide some type of documentation such as a sales receipt, remittance form, etc., showing that the person signing the petition owned, sold, or purchased cattle during the 12-month period established by the petitioner.

Contact Information

For more information, contact:

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