



March 25, 2019



## Beef Checkoff Referendum Closes Just 16% Participate



In a letter to California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, California Dairy Campaign and California Farmers Union requested an extension in the voting period in the statewide referendum to double the beef checkoff from \$1 to \$2 per head to allow for greater participation among beef and dairy producers. Despite the fact that just

16.2% of eligible beef and dairy producer ballots were received by March 21, CDFA denied the request to extend the voting period. The legislation authorizing the beef checkoff referendum allowed for up to a 60-day voting period.

*The joint CDC & CFU letter calling for an extension stated, Because there is no minimum level of participation required, beef checkoff fees could double even if very few producers vote. We have been contacted by numerous beef and dairy producers who have not received their ballots to vote in the referendum. Many more were completely unaware that this referendum process is occurring and were not planning to participate until our outreach efforts.*

*California dairy producers are entering the fifth year of milk prices well below production costs which is unprecedented in recent memory. California dairy producers already pay more than their fair share into the beef checkoff system due to the number of times that dairy cows are routinely sold and doubling the beef checkoff would create a greater financial burden.*

*The refund provision in the measure is overly cumbersome by requiring beef and dairy producers to request a refund each time a cow is sold. Adding another checkoff fee will increase costs further and we believe it is critical that all producers have the opportunity to vote on this important issue.*

CDFA will continue to count the ballots it receives and will announce the results of the referendum on April 5, 2019. More information can be found online at:

[California Cattle Council Implementation Referendum](#)

or contact the  
California Dairy Campaign Office  
at 209-632-0885.

## Dairy Together Road Show Coming to California Monday, April 29 in Modesto



The **Dairy Together Roadshow** is coming to California and all dairy producers are invited to participate.

California Dairy Campaign  
and California Farmers

Union have been working with dairy producers from around the country to forge solutions to the crisis dairy producers face due to chronically low milk prices that are well below production costs. California Dairy Campaign is supporting a *three-point plan or a three-legged stool approach: fair milk prices, farmer-led inventory management and smart trade policy*. At the Dairy Together Roadshow we will join with dairy producers and leaders from around the country to determine the best way to restore profitability for dairy producers by working together to manage milk inventories to meet market demand. All are invited to join us in Modesto on April 29, 2019.

**The California Dairy Together event is set to take place on  
Monday, April 29 in Modesto  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
3800 Cornucopia**

*Additional details available soon*

The current dairy price crisis is putting family farms out of business. Join together with other farmers from across the country as we address the dairy crisis and begin on a path toward rebuilding a viable dairy economy.

With events planned across the nation, the **Dairy Roadshow** is focused on improving the situation for dairy farmers. Our goal is to share information and present options with as much research base as we are able to compile, present those ideas and engage farmers and policy makers in community conversations.

The Roadshow welcomes farmers of all backgrounds and is being organized by National Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, Holstein Association USA, and state Farmers Union organizations from Wisconsin, New England, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, California, and the Rocky Mountain region. We're focused on policy changes that align with our organizations' core values of family farming, fair economic policies, and thriving rural communities.

We're looking beyond milk labeling, increasing exports, and dairy insurance plans to actual long-term solutions. Join us in identifying actions American

dairy farmers can take to advance our organizing efforts, direct our advocacy and influence policy makers.

## AMMP Application Deadline April 3, 2019 Contact California Dairy Campaign to Apply



California Dairy Campaign is working with dairy producers to fill out applications for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). We meet one-on-one with dairy producers to review their applications and will continue to meet with dairy producers to finalize applications before the April 3, 2019 deadline.

Contact California Dairy Campaign Field Representative Joe Melo at 209-216-7615 for more information about the AMMP application process. AMMP provides funding for up to 100% of the cost of projects up to \$750,000 per project.

### **What is an alternative manure management practice?**

Alternative manure management practices involve handling manure in ways that don't involve using an anaerobic digester. Currently, eligible practices for funding through AMMP include: pasture-based based management; solid separation or conversion from flush to scrape in conjunction with some form of drying or composting of collected manure.

### **Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)**

Applications are due on Tuesday, April 3, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PT. Detailed information including application process, application requirements is available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>

*Dairy producers interested in more information  
about AMMP can contact  
CDC Field Representative Joe Melo at 209-216-7615.  
More details about the AMMP can be found  
online at [CDFA AMMP web site](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/).*

**For More Information  
Contact Executive Director  
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