



Agricultural Marketing Service

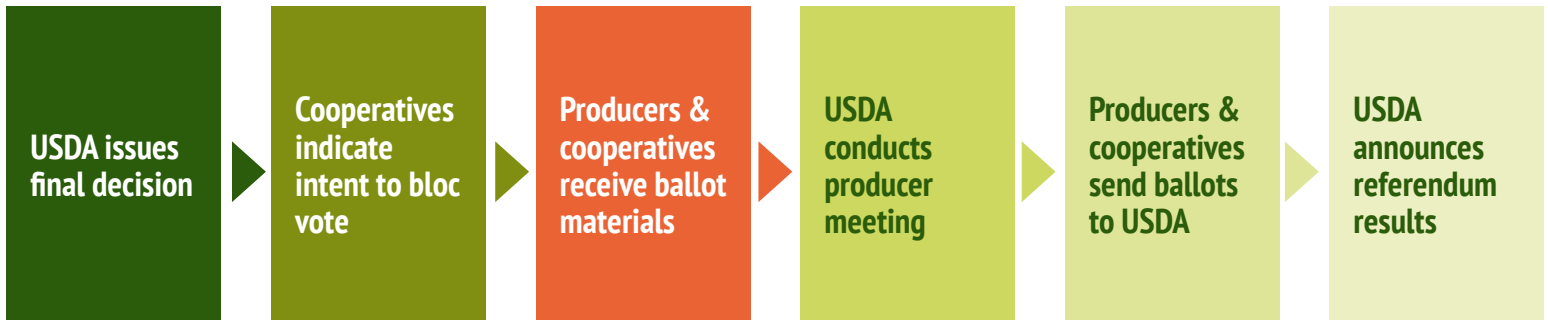
CALIFORNIA FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER FINAL DECISION

HOW DO I VOTE?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service administers the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) program as authorized by Congress under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Federal orders regulate beverage milk handlers based on the location of their beverage milk sales. Producers are not regulated by the federal orders, but benefit from the regulatory provisions by selling milk to regulated handlers.

The 10 existing FMMOs regulate over 64 percent of milk produced in the United States. USDA, based on the evidentiary record, has proposed that a California FMMO be established. The California FMMO becomes effective only if at least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in the referendum, or the eligible producers who supplied more than two-thirds of the milk represented in the referendum, vote in favor of the proposed California FMMO. This handout outlines the producer referendum process and how eligible producers can participate.

VOTING PROCESS



How do I know whether I am eligible to vote?

- ▶ Producers who marketed milk in the proposed California marketing area during May 2017 are eligible to vote in the referendum.

What materials can I expect to receive in the mail?

- ▶ A description of the terms of the proposed California FMMO.
- ▶ Details on how to cast your ballot and the deadline for when the completed ballot must be postmarked.
- ▶ Where to access the full Final Decision on the California FMMO; and
- ▶ A prepaid business reply envelope.

What else do I need to know about voting on the California FMMO?

- ▶ If your qualified Cooperative elects to bloc vote, individual cooperative members will receive information on the proposed California FMMO, but **will not receive a ballot**.
- ▶ If you are a producer outside of California, you may be eligible to receive a ballot if you marketed milk in California during May 2017.
- ▶ You will receive only one ballot per farm, or one ballot per farm with identical ownership.
- ▶ If you believe you are eligible to vote and do not receive a ballot, email Californiainfo@ams.usda.gov to request one.
- ▶ Ballots must be postmarked by: **May 5, 2018**.

How might my ballot become disqualified?

- ▶ If it is not signed; **OR**
- ▶ If it is not postmarked by the deadline; **OR**
- ▶ If USDA determines that you would not be considered a producer on the proposed California FMMO.

How do I get a copy of the proposed California FMMO?

- ▶ Producers who wish to receive a paper copy of USDA's Final Decision on a California FMMO may send an email to Californiainfo@ams.usda.gov, or call (202) 720-4392.

How does the California FMMO get approved?

- ▶ To be approved in a referendum, at least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in the referendum, or the eligible producers who supplied more than two-thirds of the milk represented in the referendum, must vote in favor of the proposed California FMMO.

How will USDA announce the results of the vote?

- ▶ USDA will announce approval or disapproval of the proposed California FMMO through either a Final Rule or Termination of Proceeding published in the Federal Register.

For more information, visit www.ams.usda.gov/caorder or
contact Californiainfo@ams.usda.gov / (202) 720-4392