



# GIVE DAIRY FARMERS A VOICE

American Farm Bureau Federation supports dairy farmers being able to vote independently and confidentially during an FMMO approval or referendum process. Our grassroots leaders believe independent producers and cooperative-member dairy farmers should be able to participate in the ballot casting process during the Federal Milk Marketing Order hearing process. Currently, only independent, i.e., non-cooperative-member dairy farmers, may cast an individual ballot. Dairy farmers who are members of a cooperative may not cast an individual ballot unless the cooperative elects to allow all the dairy farmer members to vote independently.

## PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AGREEMENT ACT ON COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION COMPARISON

<p>7 U.S.C. §608 (c)</p> <p>Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act</p> <p>Cooperative association representation</p>	<p>7 U.S.C. §4508</p> <p>Dairy Promotion Program</p> <p>Cooperative association representation</p>	<p><i>Proposed Amended Language to</i></p> <p>7. U.S.C §608 (c)</p> <p>Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act</p> <p>Cooperative association representation</p>
<p>Whenever, pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary is required to determine the approval or disapproval of producers with respect to the issuance of any order, or any term or condition thereof, or the termination thereof, the Secretary shall consider the approval or disapproval by any cooperative association of producers, bona fide engaged in marketing the commodity or product thereof covered by such order, or in rendering services for or advancing the interests of the producers of such commodity, as the approval or disapproval of the producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with, such cooperative association of producers.</p>	<p>Whenever, under the provisions of this subchapter, the Secretary is required to determine the approval or disapproval of producers, the Secretary shall consider the approval or disapproval by any cooperative association of producers, engaged in a bona fide manner in marketing milk or the products thereof, as the approval or disapproval of the producers who are members of or under contract with such cooperative association of producers.</p> <p>If a cooperative association of producers elects to vote on behalf of its members, such cooperative association shall provide each producer, on whose behalf the cooperative association is expressing approval or disapproval, a</p>	<p>Whenever, pursuant to the provisions of this section, the Secretary is required to determine the approval or disapproval of producers with respect to the issuance of any order, or any term or condition thereof, or the termination thereof, the Secretary shall consider the approval or disapproval by any cooperative association of producers, engaged in a bona fide manner in marketing the commodity or product thereof covered by such order, or in rendering services for or advancing the interests of the producers of such commodity, as the approval or disapproval of the producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with, such cooperative association of producers.</p>

description of the question presented in the referendum together with a statement of the manner in which the cooperative association intends to cast its vote on behalf of the membership. Such information shall inform the producer of procedures to follow to cast an individual ballot should the producer so choose within the period of time established by the Secretary for casting ballots. Such notification shall be made at least thirty days prior to the referendum and shall include an official ballot. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Secretary and the vote of the cooperative association shall be adjusted to reflect such individual votes.

*If a cooperative association of producers elects to vote on behalf of its members, such cooperative association shall provide each producer, on whose behalf the cooperative association is expressing approval or disapproval, a description of the question presented in the referendum together with a statement of the manner in which the cooperative association intends to cast its vote on behalf of the membership. Such information shall inform the producer of procedures to follow to cast an individual ballot should the producer so choose within the period of time established by the Secretary for casting ballots. Such notification shall be made at least thirty days prior to the referendum and shall include an official ballot. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Secretary and the vote of the cooperative association shall be adjusted to reflect such individual votes.*

**For more information contact:**

---

**John Newton**  
[jnewton@fb.org](mailto:jnewton@fb.org)

**Michael Nepveux**  
[michaeln@fb.org](mailto:michaeln@fb.org)

**Scott Bennett**  
[scottb@fb.org](mailto:scottb@fb.org)