

For: Tobacco State and County Offices

Referenda on Mandatory Grading of Quota Tobacco

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

Bradley Karmen

1 Overview

A

Background

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2002 requires the Secretary to conduct referenda, no later than March 31, 2002, among producers of quota tobacco to determine whether producers favor mandatory grading of tobacco by USDA.

A separate referendum will be conducted among the producers of each kind of quota tobacco. If a majority of the producers voting in a referendum favor the mandatory grading of that kind of tobacco, USDA will ensure that kind of tobacco is graded at the time of sale for the 2002 and subsequent marketing years.

B

Purpose

This notice provides referenda instructions to State and County Offices.

Note: This does not apply to States with nonquota tobacco.

2 Referenda Schedules

A

Burley Tobacco Referendum

The Burley (type 31) Mandatory Grading Referendum period is March 11, 2002, through March 15, 2002.

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<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>August 1, 2002</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>Tobacco State Offices; State Offices relay to applicable County Offices</p>
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2 Referenda Schedules (Continued)

B

Flue-Cured Tobacco Referendum

The Flue-Cured (types 11-14) Mandatory Grading Referendum period is March 11, 2002, through March 15, 2002.

C

Other Tobacco Referenda

The mandatory grading referenda period for Other Tobacco is March 18, 2002, through March 22, 2002, and shall be conducted for the following tobaccos:

- dark air-cured (types 35 and 36)
 - fire-cured (types 21-23)
 - Virginia sun-cured (type 37)
 - cigar (types 42-44, and 53-55).
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3 State Office Action

A

Supplies

State Offices shall:

- inventory the following referendum supplies
- ensure that an adequate supply of the following is available in applicable County Offices for conducting all referenda contained in this notice:
 - MQ-7
 - MQ-8
 - FSA-73
 - opaque envelopes
 - white window envelopes, style 435-D

Note: White window envelopes may be ordered from a GSA supply source. All other supplies are available from the KCAO warehouse.

- distribute ballots to applicable County Offices no later than February 4, 2002.

Note: If ballots have not been received in the State Office by February 1, 2002, notify Ann Wortham at Ann_Wortham@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

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3 State Office Action (Continued)

B
Referenda
Reporting
Schedule

Applicable State Offices shall **FAX preliminary** referenda results to TPD at 202-720-1288 and ship **final results overnight by FedEx** according to the following schedules.

IF...	THEN FAX...
burley tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preliminary referendum results by 4 p.m. on March 20, 2002• final report by March 27, 2002.
flue-cured tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preliminary referendum results by 4 p.m. on March 20, 2002• final report by March 27, 2002.
other tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preliminary referenda results by 4 p.m. on March 27, 2002• final reports by April 3, 2002.

Note: Ship results overnight by FedEx to:

Director, Tobacco and Peanuts Division
Attn: Ann Wortham
FSA, USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 5730 South Building
Washington, DC 20250-0514.

C
Other Activity

State Offices shall:

- publicize the mandatory tobacco grading referenda by all means possible
 - ensure that the provisions of this notice are completed timely and accurately.
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4 County Office Action

**A
Conducting
Referenda on
Burley**

County Offices shall take the following action to conduct the Burley Mandatory Grading Referendum.

Step	Action
1	Publicize the referendum by all means possible.
2	Ensure that referendum supplies are adequate.
3	Generate a list of eligible voters and voter mailing labels according to 10-TB SCOAP, Part 13 not later than February 1, 2002.
4	Mail ballots by March 6, 2002.
5	Conduct referendum according to 1-PA.
6	Communicate preliminary referendum results to the State Office by 2 p.m. on March 20, 2002.
7	Submit 'County Summary of Marketing Quota Ballots' to the State Office by COB March 25, 2002.

**B
Conducting
Referendum on
Flue-Cured**

County Offices shall take the following action to conduct the Flue-Cured Mandatory Grading Referendum.

Step	Action
1	Publicize the referendum by all means possible.
2	Ensure that referendum supplies are adequate.
3	Generate a list of eligible voters and voter mailing labels according to 9-TB SCOAP, Part 13 not later than February 1, 2002.
4	Mail ballots by March 6, 2002.
5	Conduct referendum according to 1-PA.
6	Communicate preliminary referendum results to the State Office by 2 p.m. on March 20, 2002.
7	Submit 'County Summary of Marketing Quota Ballots' to State Offices by COB March 25, 2002.

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4 County Office Action (Continued)

**C
Conducting
Referendum on
Other Tobacco**

County Offices shall take the following action to conduct the mandatory grading referenda for Other Tobacco.

Step	Action
1	Publicize applicable referenda by all means possible.
2	Ensure that referendum supplies are adequate.
3	Generate a list of eligible voters and voter mailing labels according to 1-TB SCOAP, Part 13 not later than February 1, 2002.
4	Mail ballots by March 13, 2002.
5	Conduct referendum according to 1-PA.
6	Communicate preliminary referendum results to the State Office by 2 p.m. on March 27, 2002.
7	Submit 'County Summary of Marketing Quota Ballots' to the State Office by COB April 1, 2002.

Note: A separate referendum will be conducted for each of the following Other tobacco:

- dark air-cured
 - fire-cured
 - Virginia sun-cured
 - cigar (types 42, 43, and 53-55).
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