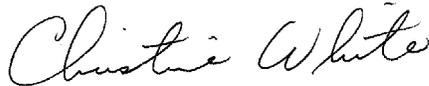


For: IN, KY, OH, and TN State and County Offices

Lease and Transfer of Burley Quota Across County Lines Referendum

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

Congress has now amended Section 319 in the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-224) to clarify that the Secretary may permit the lease and transfer of a burley tobacco quota from 1 farm to another farm within the State if a majority of tobacco producers voting, as opposed to a majority of those that could have voted, will be sufficient to approve such lease and transfer by a Statewide referendum.

The Secretary has called for a referendum of growers to determine whether they favor or oppose the lease and transfer of quota across county lines within the State beginning with the 2001 and subsequent crop years.

The referendum will be conducted by mail ballot during the period October 23 through October 27, 2000.

If more than 50 percent of the producers voting in the State referendum are in favor, lease and transfer of burley quota across county lines within the State will be in effect beginning with the 2001 crop.

B

Purpose

This notice provides instructions for conducting lease and transfer of burley quota across county lines referendum.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>April 1, 2001</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices</p>
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Notice TB-976

2 Action

**A
Conducting
Referendum**

To conduct referendum for lease and transfer of burley quota across county lines within the State, County Offices shall take the following action.

Step	Action
1	Publicize the referendum by all available means.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory referendum supplies• Ensure that supplies are adequate. <p>Note: See National Procedure Checklist Numbers 1811, 1812, and 1813 for information about referendum supplies and forms.</p>
3	Follow 10-TB SCOAP, Part 13 to build the eligibility file and generate MQ-4. Note: To be eligible to vote in the referendum, producers must meet eligibility requirements as provided in 1-PA, Part 2.
4	Revise the “instruction sheet” in Exhibit 1, reproduce, and mail with ballots.
5	Mail ballots by October 18, 2000.
6	Conduct referendum according to 1-PA.
7	Call referendum results into the State Office after completing tabulation no later than 2 p.m. on November 1, 2000.
8	Submit MQ-7 to the State Office by November 3, 2000, according to 1-PA, paragraph 54.

**B
Referendum
Results**

State Offices shall:

- publicize the referendum by all available means
 - call the preliminary referendum results into TPD, at 202-720-4281, no later than 4 p.m. on November 1, 2000
 - submit final referendum results on MQ-8 according to 1-PA, paragraph 77 by November 16, 2000.
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Instructions for Voting in the October 23 through October 27, 2000, Lease and Transfer of Burley Quota Across County Lines Referendum

The following are instructions for voting in the lease and transfer of burley quota across county lines referendum.

Step	Action
1	Place a check mark in the "YES" or "NO" box on the ballot.
2	Place ballot in the enclosed plain envelope.
3	Seal the plain envelope.
4	Place the plain envelope in the self-addressed certification envelope.
5	Seal the certification envelope.
6	Sign the certification on the reverse side of the certification envelope or have your mark witnessed. Ballot will not be counted if certification is not properly signed.
7	Place a stamp on certification envelope. Ballot will not be delivered unless adequate postage is provided.
8	Return the certification envelope containing the sealed plain envelope to (enter address to which ballot is to be returned) by mail or in person.

Returning Ballots

By Mail: If mailed, the certification envelope must be postmarked not later than midnight on October 27, 2000, and received at (enter address to which ballot is to be returned) before the start of canvassing the ballots.

In Person: If returned in person, the certification envelope must be received at (enter address to which ballot is to be returned) by the close of the workday (enter closing time) on October 27, 2000.

Canvassing Ballots

Ballots will be canvassed on November 1, 2000, at (enter time of canvassing ballots). If you have any questions about this referendum, contact the FSA County Office.
