**2024 North Carolina Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum**

# Voting Details

**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Polling Places:** County Extension Centers

**Eligibility:** Any North Carolina resident who can claim ownership of cattle, either beef or dairy. An owner must sign an affidavit sheet claiming age, ownership, and residency.

**Age:** Any cattle owner at least 18 years of age on October 30, 2024.

**Ballot Specifics:** “Yes” indicates a vote in favor of continuing the state assessment program.

“No” indicates a vote against continuing the state assessment program.

**Ownership Challenges:** A producer’s age, residency, and ownership status can be challenged.

**Voting Procedures**

1. There will be only one day to vote, plus absentee voting.
2. The polls will be open during regular business hours of each extension office.
3. The voting will only occur at each county extension office.
4. Voters may need to present their driver’s license for proof of residency.
5. Voters must be at least 18 years of age by October 30, 2024, to vote.
6. Voters will need to sign an affidavit attesting to residency (**Voter Registration Sheet**).
7. All **Ballots** will be placed in a ballot box.
8. Should you have any questions about the referendum, please call the office of the N. C. Cattlemen’s Association at (919) 552-9111.
9. After the voting ends, and not later than the next day, county extension personnel will count and tally the votes as to ‘yes’ or ‘no’.
   1. Total vote count will need to be recorded on the **County Official Report Form** and emailed by 5:00 p.m. to Dale Monks’ assistant Karla Frizzelle at klfrizze@ncsu.edu.
   2. Original ballots, sign-up sheets, and the county official report form will be mailed to the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, N. C. State University, Campus Box 7602, Raleigh, NC 27695-7602.
10. A panel of representatives from the N. C. Farm Bureau, the N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the N. C. Cooperative Extension Service, and the N. C. Cattlemen’s Association may convene the day after the voting to receive and tally the county results. Any disputes concerning a margin of victory will have to wait until the return of the official ballots to the NCCA office. The referendum will require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

**Absentee Mail in Ballot Voting Procedure**

Absentee voting begins October 1, 2024.

A producer in your county who wants to use the absentee process should obtain the **Absentee Signature Label** and **Ballot** from your office.

The voter should insert the marked ballot in an envelope, seal the envelope, and place the signed signature label across the back to ensure it is sealed closed.

The voter must return the envelope to the county extension center prior to the deadline of 5:00 p.m. on October 30th.

The voter may choose to place the sealed ballot envelope in another envelope, and then mail it to the county extension center.

**It is important that there is only one ballot per signed label, as the signed label substitutes for the Voter Registration Sheet.**

If the voter wishes to maintain complete anonymity, they may place the ballot in an envelope, seal it, place that envelope in a second one, and seal the second envelope with the label.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the county Extension center in the county in which a producer would vote if voting on the referendum date.  No ballots received after the deadline will be included in the results.

**\*Agents should notify Kim Burdge (**[**kim@ncattle.com**](mailto:kim@ncattle.com)**) in advance to secure Absentee Signature Labels.**