

MYTHS *and* FACTS *about the* OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF

MYTH: The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff is a \$1 tax on every head of cattle.

FACT: No, the \$1 is an assessment that is paid at point of sell and is refundable to the seller by written request.

MYTH: The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff referendum is unusual because producers under the age of 18 can vote.

FACT: False. The 1988 federal Beef Checkoff referendum, allowed all individuals who would be required to pay the assessment regardless of age to vote. The same has been allowed in the 15 subsequent state level checkoffs, like Texas.

MYTH: Cow/calf producers are the only individuals who have to pay the beef checkoff.

FACT: False. Any and all producers, including feed yards and packers, who sell cattle are required to pay the beef checkoff. In fact, importers are also required to pay the assessment.

MYTH: Corporations and non-Oklahomans may vote in the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff.

FACT: If a beef producer sells their cattle in Oklahoma, they should have a say in this vote. That is why the eligible voters include the many family ranches that are legal entities, like LLCs, and ranchers who live outside the state borders but conduct their business (the selling of cattle) within Oklahoma.

MYTH: The Oklahoma Beef Council lacks financial accountability.

FACT: False. The Oklahoma Beef Council has implemented greater controls and processes to safeguard and protect the finances of the council. The Council employs an independent third-party accounting firm that has a five-step review process; as well as an audit/risk committee which includes an independent, outside financial advisor to the committee that monitors and reviews the internal controls and potential risks to the council.

MYTH: The assessment will go to the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

FACT: No, the assessment, which is refundable, will go to the Oklahoma Beef Council, which has a board comprised of Oklahoma representatives who are appointed by the following: American Farmers and Ranchers, Oklahoma Dairy Producers Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma CattleWomen Inc., Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association and the Chairman of the Oklahoma Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

For more information about the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff and the referendum
please visit OklahomaBeefCheckoff.com;
contact a Ballot Committee representative at 405-235-4391
or text OKBEEF to 41411.

