

# *Frequently Asked Questions about the Iowa State Checkoff*

## **What is the Iowa State Checkoff?**

The Iowa State Checkoff is a producer funded and managed, state-level promotion, marketing, research and education program for beef and beef products.

## **How is the Iowa State Checkoff program funded?**

The Iowa State Checkoff program is funded through a refundable \$0.50 per head assessment on cattle at each point of ownership transfer in Iowa. Payment of the Iowa State Checkoff is mandatory; however, a refund is optional.

## **When do collections begin?**

Collection of the assessment begins March 1, 2017, and continue until the Iowa Beef Cattle Producers Association (DBA: Iowa Beef Industry Council) notifies cattle collection points to cease collection.

## **Is the Iowa State Checkoff program different from the current National Beef Checkoff Program?**

Yes, the \$0.50/head Iowa State Checkoff program is different and separate from the current national \$1/head beef checkoff. The Iowa State Checkoff program is in addition to and may complement, extend national Beef Checkoff Program efforts, or be used for additional needs of the beef industry.

Unlike the national program, which requires that fifty cents of every dollar collected be sent to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board for programs, the entire Iowa State Checkoff assessment is managed by Iowa cattle producers. Another difference is the Iowa State Checkoff assessment is refundable.

## **Who manages the money collected through the Iowa State Checkoff program?**

An executive committee consisting of five elected Iowa cattle producers, two producers appointed by the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, one appointed livestock market representative, the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture or a designee, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University or designee, serving on the Iowa Beef Industry Council manage funds collected through the Iowa State Checkoff program.

## **How will the money be used?**

The law does not allow checkoff funds to be used for lobbying activities to influence public policy or government affairs. The use of funds may include, but are not limited to marketing & promoting Iowa's beef and beef products; enhancing Iowa's beef industry image; production research; expanding international trade relationships; and providing producer, consumer, and youth educational opportunities in Iowa, the U.S. and/or internationally.

## **I don't live in Iowa, but I sell cattle in Iowa. Do I have to pay the Iowa State Checkoff?**

All cattle sold in Iowa, including out of state cattle sold in Iowa, are subject to the national and state beef checkoff programs. Refunds are available only on the Iowa State Checkoff.

## **Can I request a refund?**

Yes. A producer who has paid an assessment to the mandatory Iowa State Checkoff may obtain a refund of the amount paid by filing an application for refund with the Iowa Beef Industry Council within 90 days after the sale of cattle. The application must be in writing, on a form provided by the Iowa Beef Industry Council for that purpose, and accompanied by proof of payment of the assessment. The current national beef checkoff is not refundable.

**Who is exempt from paying the assessment?**

If a person qualifies for a non-producer exemption in the national program, that person would qualify for a non-producer exemption in the state program, under the following conditions:

1. the person's only share in the proceeds of a sale of cattle or beef is a sales commission, handling fee or other service fee;
2. or the person
  - a. acquired ownership of cattle to facilitate the transfer of ownership of such cattle from the seller to a third party;
  - b. resold such cattle no later than 10 days from the date on which the person acquired ownership; and
  - c. certified, as required by procedures prescribed by the Iowa Beef Industry Council, that the requirements of this provision have been satisfied.

**Is this a government program?**

No. Iowa law governs the creation of state-level commodity checkoff programs. However, since passage of the producer referendum, the program is administered by cattle producers serving on the Iowa Beef Industry Council Executive Committee. The State of Iowa maintains oversight responsibility to ensure the integrity of the program.

**Who collects and remits the assessment?**

Each collection point is responsible for collecting and remitting the assessment. A collection point is any entity, including an individual, which makes payment to a producer for cattle purchased or facilitates transfer of ownership. The assessment will be remitted to the Iowa Beef Industry Council using a new state/national checkoff remittance form. Payment for both the National and State Checkoff Programs can be made with one form and one check (National & State Checkoff payable to: *Iowa Beef Industry Council*), which is due by the 15th of the month following the month in which the assessment is collected. New forms and instructions will be available prior to the start of collections for the Iowa State Checkoff beginning March 1, 2017.

**Where can I get more information about the Iowa State Checkoff?**

For more information about the Iowa State Checkoff, please call 515-296-2305 or email [beef@iabeef.org](mailto:beef@iabeef.org).