

**§ 1220.624**

business day after the end of the request for referendum period. If the COC or designee is unable to determine whether a person was a producer during the representative period, the COC or designee may require the person challenged to submit records such as sales documents or similar documents to verify producer status during the representative period.

(e) *Appeal.* A person declared to be ineligible by the COC or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, may file an appeal at the county FSA office within 3 business days after notification by the county FSA office of its decision. Such person may be required to provide documentation such as sales documents or similar documents in order to demonstrate eligibility. An appeal shall be determined by the COC or designee as soon as practicable, but in all cases not later than the 18th business day after the last day of the Request for Referendum period. The determination of the COC or designee on an appeal shall be final.

(f) *Resolved challenges.* A challenge shall be determined to have been resolved if the determination of the COC or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, is not appealed within the time allowed for appeal or there has been a determination by the COC or designee after an appeal. After the challenge has been resolved, the county FSA office shall write either "eligible" or "ineligible" in the space provided on Form LS-51-2.

**§ 1220.624 Canvassing**

Canvassing of Forms LS-51-1 and LS-51-2 shall take place as soon as possible after the opening of county FSA offices on the 19th business day following the Request for Referendum period. Such canvassing shall be under the supervision of the CED or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, who shall make a determination as to the number of valid or invalid requests for a referendum.

(a) Invalid requests for a referendum. An invalid request for a referendum may include the following:

(1) Form LS-51-1 is not signed and/or all required information has not been provided;

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(2) Form LS-51-1 returned in person or by facsimile was not received by the last business day of the Request for Referendum period;

(3) Form LS-51-1 returned by mail was not postmarked by the last business day of the Request for Referendum period;

(4) Form LS-51-1 returned by mail was not received in the county FSA office by the 10th business day after the Request for Referendum period;

(5) Form LS-51-1 is mutilated or marked in such a way that any required information on the form is illegible; and/or

(6) Form LS-51-1 not returned to the appropriate county FSA office.

(b) Any Form LS-51-1 determined invalid shall not be considered as a request for a referendum.

**§ 1220.625 Counting requests.**

The requests for a referendum shall be counted by the COC or designee on the 19th business day after the last business day of the Request for Referendum period. Requests for a referendum shall be counted as follows:

(a) Total number of producers registering to request a referendum;

(b) Number of eligible producers requesting a referendum;

(c) Number of challenged producers deemed ineligible;

(d) Number of challenged producers; and

(e) Number of invalid requests for a referendum.

**§ 1220.626 Public review.**

The public may witness the counting from an area designated by the FSA County Executive Director (CED) or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, but may not interfere with the process.

**§ 1220.627 FSA county office report.**

The county FSA office report shall be certified as accurate and complete by the CED or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS. Such report shall include, the information listed in §§ 1220.624 and 1220.625. The county FSA office shall notify the FSA State office of the results of the Request for Referendum on a form provided by the Administrator, FSA. Each county FSA