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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ODA Certifies Ohio Beef Marketing Program Referendum Results**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Oct. 12, 2012) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today certified the results of the 2012 Ohio Beef Marketing Program Referendum. The referendum, seeking to increase the state checkoff on cattle from \$1 to \$2, did not receive enough favorable votes to pass.

674 votes were certified. 47 percent of producers representing 51 percent of the marketed cattle sold by all participants voted in favor of the increase. 53 percent of producers representing 49 percent of marketed cattle sold by all participants voted against the increase. Producers were able to vote by absentee ballot, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association office, and at OSU Extension offices.

The provisions of the Ohio Beef Marketing Program are defined in section 924 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has the authority through section 924 to oversee state commodity checkoff programs, including making sure funds are being properly spent, overseeing referendums, conducting voting, and helping to establish new programs.

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