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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service



BALLOT

Designated Auction Market Referendum (The Tobacco Inspection Act 7 U.S.C. 511-511q)

Greetings Tobacco Producer,

With all the changes that have occurred as a result of the buyout legislation, the fact remains that any tobacco sold at auction on a designated market will require mandatory grading. Growers will be charged a fee for grading services. This referendum will allow growers to terminate the designation of all remaining auction markets and eliminate the mandatory grading fee. Voluntary grading services will be available for a fee if requested. Only producers that sold tobacco at auction during the 2004/05 marketing season are eligible to vote.

A YES vote will discontinue the mandatory grading and grading fees on designated auction markets.

A NO vote will continue the mandatory grading and grading fees on designated auction markets.

Please cast your vote, print and sign your name, and then return this completed ballot in the supplied postage paid return envelope so that it is postmarked no later than May 13, 2005 or received no later than May 20, 2005. Votes will then be tabulated and the results published before the beginning of the 2005/06 marketing season. Ballots without a printed name, signature by the producer named on the ballot or a legal fiduciary, or legible vote indication will not be valid ballots.

Designated Auction Market Referendum Ballot

DO YOU FAVOR TERMINATION OF MANDATORY GRADING AND GRADING FEES AT DESIGNATED AUCTION MARKETS?

YES

NO

Signature of Producer: _____
By signing this ballot, I certify that I am a producer and sold tobacco at auction during the 2004/2005 marketing season

Name of Producer: (Please Print) _____

Phone Number of Producer: _____

Ballots should be completed and mailed back in the enclosed postage paid envelope between May 9, 2005 and May 13, 2005. Ballots postmarked after May 13, 2005 or received after May 20, 2005 will not be counted.