

## §717.2

political township, a local voting precinct for purposes of general elections, or a combination of such townships or precincts;

(2) A referendum community may be established by the county committee, if it determines eligible producers will be given a convenient place to vote, which consists of a combination of a community with less than 25 farms on which there are producers eligible to vote, with one or more communities; and

(3) The entire county shall be the referendum community in counties with less than 100 farms on which there are producers eligible to vote unless the county committee, with the approval of the State committee, determines that more than one referendum community is needed in the county.

The county committee shall maintain in the county office, and make available for public inspection, a descriptive list of the referendum communities established for the county for referenda conducted at polling places.

[33 FR 18345, Dec. 11, 1968, as amended by Amdt. 1, 34 FR 12940, Aug. 9, 1969]

### §717.2 Supervision of referenda and prescribed method of balloting.

(a) *Supervision of referenda.* The Deputy Administrator shall be in charge of and responsible for conducting each referendum required by the Act. Each State committee shall be in charge of and responsible for conducting such referendum in its State. Each county committee shall be responsible for the proper holding of such referendum in its county. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Administrator and of each committee to conduct each referendum by secret ballot in a fair, unbiased, and impartial manner in accordance with this part.

(b) *Prescribed method of balloting.* Each referendum held under this part shall be by mail ballot unless the Administrator, FSA, or the Deputy Administrator prescribes that a particular referendum shall be held at polling places.

### §717.3 Voting eligibility.

(a) *Statutory requirements*—(1) *Tobacco quotas proclaimed on an acreage basis under section 312(a) of the Act.* Within 30 days after the proclamation under sec-

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tion 312(a) of the Act of national marketing quotas on an acreage basis for any kind of tobacco for the next 3 succeeding marketing years, there shall be a referendum under section 312(c) of the Act of farmers engaged in the production of the crop of such tobacco harvested immediately prior to the holding of the referendum to determine whether such farmers are in favor of or opposed to such quotas for the 3-year period. If more than one-third of the farmers voting oppose such quotas, the quotas so proclaimed for the 3-year period shall not be in effect: *Provided,* That such referendum result shall not preclude the proclamation of national marketing quotas for such kind of tobacco for the next 3 succeeding marketing years subject to a referendum as required under this paragraph. If the referendum results in approval of quotas for the 3-year period, no further referendum applicable to such quotas shall be held (i) unless a new proclamation during the 3-year period is made pursuant to subdivision (3) of section 312(a) of the Act in which case a referendum shall be held as provided in this paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, or (ii) unless quotas on an acreage-poundage basis are established pursuant to section 317(c) of the Act, in which case a special referendum shall be held as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) *Tobacco quotas proclaimed on an acreage-poundage basis under section 317(c) of the Act.* During the first or second marketing year of the 3-year period for which marketing quotas for any kind of tobacco are in effect on an acreage basis, if the Secretary, under section 317(c) of the Act, determines that marketing quotas on an acreage-poundage basis would result in a more effective program, at the time of the next announcement of the amount of the marketing quota on an acreage basis, the Secretary shall also announce the national acreage allotment and national average yield goal. Within 45 days after such announcement of acreage-poundage quotas there shall be a special referendum under section 317(c) of the Act of farmers engaged in the production of the kind of tobacco of the most recent crop to determine