

HJ 52 MT Cattle Industry Study: Background Paper

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE
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The national Beef Checkoff is a \$1-per-head assessment of cattle sales intended to promote research and marketing of American beef.

Montana does not have an independent state-level assessment focused on marketing Montana beef, though it does have a few commodity assessments that function in a similar manner.

NATIONAL BEEF CHECKOFF

The national Beef Checkoff program was established by the Beef Research and Information Act as a part of the 1985 Farm Bill. It assesses \$1-per-head (or equivalent) of cattle sold in the United States to fund research and marketing for the consumption of beef products. Of that assessment, 50¢ goes toward national research, education, and promotion, while the other 50¢ is retained in the state in which the money was collected to promote the Checkoff program and fund state-level programs.

The national Beef Checkoff is managed by the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) subject to US Department of Agriculture oversight, while state-level programs are managed by "qualified state beef councils" (QSBC); in Montana, the program is managed by the Montana Beef Council. (A state without a QSBC does not retain the 50¢ per dollar; instead, the entirety of the \$1 goes to the CBB.)

Many states have also implemented independent state-level assessment programs in addition to the national Beef Checkoff. In those cases, the \$1 checkoff assessment is collected, and an additional state-levied assessment is collected and wholly retained within the state.

MONTANA COMMODITY ASSESSMENTS

Montana does not have an independent state-level assessment program for beef. However, Montana statute does allow the Department of Agriculture to create, by rule, an assessment for any commodity advisory committee associated with a research and marketing program ([80-11-515 MCA](#)): *"In order to protect and foster the health, prosperity, and general welfare of the people of Montana, it is declared to be the public policy of this state to encourage and promote intensive, scientific, and practical research into all phases of agricultural commodity culture, production, marketing, and use and into the development of markets for commodities grown or produced in Montana"* ([80-11-502 MCA](#)).

[Assessments](#) associated with research and marketing programs exist for [wheat and barley](#) (80-11-206 MCA), [pulse crops](#) (80-11-1004 MCA), [alfalfa seed](#) (80-11-307 MCA), [potatoes](#), and [hemp](#). A cherry assessment was implemented in 2005, but was eliminated in 2017.