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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(NR93-008)

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LIVESTOCK SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW CHECK-OFF PROGRAMS

For immediate release, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1993

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo., Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, has announced that the panel will hold a public hearing next week to review producer-funded livestock research and promotion programs.

The hearing will be held Wednesday, Feb. 24, in Room 1300, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Currently, livestock-related check-off programs are carried out for beef, dairy, egg and pork products. These nation-wide programs, commonly referred to as "check-offs", are funded solely by payments assessed on the amount of livestock products marketed by producers and, in the case of beef and pork, importers. These payments fund programs for research and product promotion, including advertising campaigns designed to increase consumption of the products.

Approximately \$340 million are raised annually to finance the research and promotion programs for livestock-related products. The bulk of the funds are raised in the dairy program, which provided a total assessment of nearly \$217 million in 1992.

Witnesses expected to testify at the hearing will include representatives from the boards that supervise the programs and from producer groups. For further information, contact Tim DeCoster of the Subcommittee staff at 202-225-1867.

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NOTE: The Committee has available copies of the just-released Congressional Research Service (CRS) issue brief, IB91085, entitled **Agricultural Issues in the 103rd Congress**, by Jean M. Rawson. Mail requests to Jim Davis, 1301 LHOB, Washington, DC 20515. For more expeditious delivery, you may fax requests to 202-225-3158.