### 18 NORTH LEEDS LANTERN

#### BEEF PRODUCERS VOTE "NO"

Toronto - Seventy-two of producers cent participated in Ontario's beef cattle marketing vote said "no" to the establishment of producer-controlled marketing commission.

significant percentage Ontario beef cattle producers has voted to maintain all of their marketing options, including direct-to-packer sales. I now urge all the members of Ontario's beef industry to work together achieve and change their improvements for industry," Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, Jack Riddell, said.

Twenty-one per cent of the voters voted "yes" to the ballot's second question, which asked should a marketing commission, if formed, work towards a marketing plan with the authority to manage supply and determine price.

The mail-in vote, which had a deadline April 14, 1989, gave Ontario's beef cattle producers an opportunity to express their opinion on the future of their marketing system, as recommended by the Beef Marketing Task Force, said Riddell. Nearly 20,000 beef cattle producers cast

valid ballots. "As the next step," Riddell said, "I'm going to discuss with the industry, the other recommendations of the Beef Marketing Task Force."

Riddell noted that more than 9,000 producers attended information meetings across the province. An information package and the questions, both prepared by a committee made up of representatives Ontario from Cattlemen's Association, Ontario Beef Producers for Change Inc. and ministry staff, were sent out to beef producers.

The questions asked on the ballott were:

1. Are you in favour of the producer-controlled proposed marketing commission which would regulate the sale of all beef cattle in Ontario?

2. Are you in favour of the above proposed producer-controlled marketing commission working towards national beef cattle marketing plan with the authority to manage supply and determine price?



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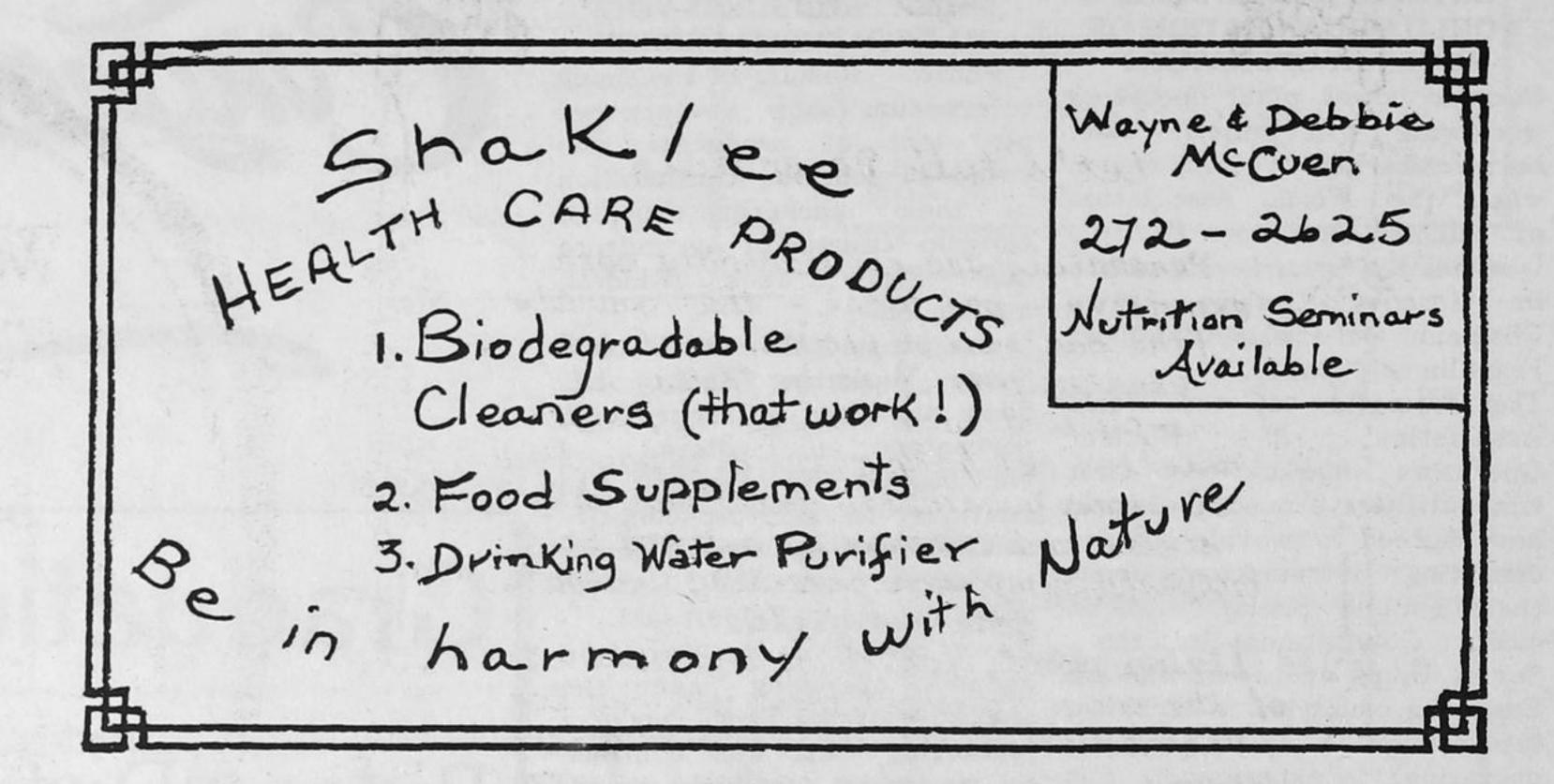
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## WESTPORT OFFICE (613) 273-2852



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