

WEB-SITE ORGANIZATION:

From the INFO homepage, after user clicks on the “SLF Surveys” button, they are directed to a SLF Surveys “MAIN MENU” page – this is a page listing, one to a line, each survey, giving the Survey Name, and its Start and End Dates, along with a click-able button labeled with the Survey Number. The header text directs the user to click on the button of the survey they wish to access (view/participate), upon which they are taken to that survey’s SURVEY page. The (individual survey’s) SURVEY page is where all the action is. All the elements relating that that survey are listed there, including the radio-style buttons the user ‘presses’ to select the option to vote on. Following are some explanations of the elements of that page, starting at the top:

TERMINOLOGY:

Survey Number & Name – Simply a numerical identifier (surveys are numbered starting with 1, 2, 3, ...) and a very brief descriptive title for the survey. A more detailed description of the survey, including any relevant text (such as the whys, whats, other survey details) is given further down on the page in the “Survey Description” area. These elements begin in the top left part of the page.

Navigation Bar – In the upper right of page is a set of 4 links (to other pages):

- 1) HOME – takes user to the main SLF Home Page (www dot Saddle Lake Farms dot com)
- 2) INFO – takes user to the SLF Info homepage.
 - a. TECH DETAILS: Basically, there are 2 different technologies involved on our web site, with good arguments for each, and for moving everything to one or the other, but each argument has some fundamental caveats. The original technology, upon which the majority of the site is still based, is Static Html. This means that every page is individually created, and any and all changes have to be made manually, which is very labor intensive. I have gotten around this by creating an extensive set of programs that create these individual web pages. The new technology allows for Server-side programming – that is, every page that is sent to user is first massaged on host/server side with programming (which I write, put in place on server, and let it do the grunt work of creating all that html !!!). Not only for labor considerations, but functionally, many things are simply not possible without such server-side programming. Photo Central would be ‘possible’, but not practical, whereas this Survey System would be impossible.
 - b. With that said, the main (traditional) home page (SLF dot com) is the gateway to the old technology, static-html pages, and the Info page (SLF dot info) is the gateway to the new technology, dynamically-created (via server-side programming) web pages.
 - c. This INFO homepage (or just “INFO page”), being the “home” page for this part of our website, is basically a menu to the various applications using the new technology. Right now just Photo Central and SLF Surveys
 - d. INFO page also has link to the traditional (and main) home page (SLF dot com)
- 3) Surveys – takes user to the SLF Survey Menu Page. This is the page that lists the surveys, row after row, for user to click on to get back to a page like this one. The SLF Survey Menu Page (that this link takes you to) is also the same page you get to if you click on “SLF Surveys” button from the SLF INFO Page (www dot SLF dot info).

- 4) Log Out – Same as clicking INFO (takes user to SLF INFO page), but – additionally – logs the user out so that if they were to try to go back into either Photo Central or SLF Surveys (the only 2 buttons on the SLF INFO page now, other than link back to main home page), then they would have to go through login processing again.
- 5) Lastly, just below this navigational set, is a label showing the username logged-in with.

Visible/Invisible – Has to do with whether or not the tally of votes (for that question) is shown to individual users. If a survey Question is VISIBLE, its vote tally is always shown, else the tally is only shown if the survey has ended. A survey has ended if its End Date is not “NONE” (i.e., an actual date), and that date has already passed. Again, administrators (board, webmaster) can always view the tallies. And ANY user can view a question’s tally once the survey is ended, regardless of this setting.

Mutable/Immutable – Has to do with whether or not a user is allowed to change their vote once cast. If a survey question is MUTABLE, then an individual user can change (an already cast vote) if the survey has not yet ended (administrators can NEVER change their vote, as they can’t vote in the first place!). Regardless of this setting, a vote can never be changed once a survey has ended. Note that to change your vote is NOT to get another vote (just one vote per lot/username per question), just changes vote already cast.

Both of the above survey settings are shown at the top left of the page showing the survey questions, and apply to each question of the survey. The next 2 settings also apply to each question of the survey, and are also shown near the above 2 settings on the survey question page.

Start Date – Is the date the survey starts. “NONE” is allowed, and means there is no Start Date, in which case it is considered that, just like God, it has always been started. Some things depend on whether the survey has already started or not, and NONE means that, yes, it already has. In particular, you cannot vote until a survey has started. For all intents and purposes, NONE is effectively same as a Start Date=1/1/1900.

End Date – Is the date the survey ends. “NONE” is allowed, and means there is no End Date, in which case it is considered that it will never end. Some things depend on whether the survey has already ended or not, and NONE means that, no, it has not (and never will). In particular, you cannot vote after a survey has ended, and you can always view the questions tallies after a survey’s End Date.

Survey Description & Contact Data – A more detailed description (than the above Survey Name/Title) where you can list in detail (up to 1000 chars, including spaces) anything important to give the user an understanding of the survey (purpose, issues involved, etc). And Contact Data is just that – contact info for follow-up if user has questions/concerns/comments beyond what they have gleaned from the page.

SUBMIT – Button. Hopefully this is pretty intuitive – just to be pressed when user has made their selections (voted on each question they care to) and wishes to register them (like dropping ballot in box!!)

And Finally, the QUESTIONS – Each question (in this survey – and there can be one or more questions, no limit, for each survey) is listed here one after the other down the page, with a statement of the question and radio-button (with text by it) for each option (voting choice for that question). An example might be:

What is your favorite month?

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Of course, the above is non-functional (don't try to click on those radio-buttons; they're just circles!!), but this gives you the idea. The system will only allow 1 choice to be selected (out of all the options for a particular question). If there are more than 3 options (for a question), then the statement of that question will appear on the line above the options, else it will be listed to the right of the options.

So once you make your selection (for each of the questions on this survey to which you wish to respond), then click the SUBMIT button, and your votes will be immediately tallied with the rest (previous votes by other voters) and your screen will be refreshed with:

- 1 - Statement of how you voted
- 2 - Whether or not you can vote/change vote (and why)
- 3 - Tally of all votes (if circumstances allow you to see this tally – explains why if can't be seen)

You can also see a “refresh” of the above 3 things by just hitting the SUBMIT button without voting. This allows you to see changes in the survey tally that may have occurred since you just now went to this page. What this actually does (as it does when you actually vote) is to read the Database (where all votes are kept) and display the most current info (tally) to your screen. So if others are voting about the same time you are, just hitting SUBMIT, assures that your screen is displaying the most current vote count.