



**Ohio
Cattlemen's
Association**

2011 Policy

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**Ohio Cattlemen's
Association**

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2011 Ohio Cattlemen's Association Policy Index

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AGRICULTURE POLICY

1. GENERAL POLICY

AP 1.1

1997/Amended 2007

OCA Agricultural Policy Statement

This statement will guide the Ohio Cattlemen's Association actions on behalf of the cattle industry in influencing the Farm Bills and other government policy relating to agriculture. Under this statement, OCA's priorities are to:

1. Achieve a reduction in federal spending and the deficit,
2. Minimize direct federal involvement in agriculture, and begin a phase-out of commodity programs,
3. Preserve the right of individual choice in the management of land, water and other resources, and
4. Provide an opportunity to compete in foreign markets, and
5. Farm Policy which favors one producer or commodity over another will be opposed.

Natural Resource Policy

Government policy should enhance the individual's right of free choice in land use, soil conservation, water conservation, energy use and development as long as the individual minimizes accepted soil loss limits, that are based upon sound science. State laws and individual private rights should be preeminent in the use of water and other natural resources.

Marketing Policy

Policy Objective: National agricultural policy should be oriented to a free, private enterprise competitive market system.

Criteria: Farm policy should be discouraged which:

1. Guarantees profit, or
2. Restricts the operation of the competitive marketplace.

Private enterprise alternatives in marketing and risk management should be developed and encouraged as the preferred alternative to government programming.

Commodity Programs Policy

Policy Objective: Government farm commodity programs influence, change and distort the price and supply of beef cattle. The impact can be indirect, as when grain prices are affected by a government program or direct, as when a dairy payment program results in dairy cattle slaughter or retention. Any government programs which would have a substantial negative effect on cattlemen need to be opposed and prevented. Commodity programs need to be studied and supported in those areas where they work toward market orientation.

Criteria: Any commodity program must include thorough consideration of the impact of subsidies and guarantees for given commodities on other commodity sectors and on domestic and foreign markets, before the program is adopted.

Recognizing the high degree of government intervention in agriculture and the potential economic disruption of an immediate end to commodity programs, OCA supports a transition or phase-out period for programs that may be eliminated.

It is not in the national, farm or individual producer interest to vest the government with authority to:

1. Set prices,
2. Underwrite inefficient production, or
3. Manipulate domestic supply, demand, cost or price.

The principal focus of government farm policy should be to promote a free market, private enterprise farm economy. Every effort should be made to develop an integrated domestic-foreign trade policy which encourages:

1. Reciprocity,
2. Comparative advantage,
3. Elimination of unfair trade restrictions and movement toward private enterprise and free markets.

OCA strongly opposes direct cash payments to any segment of the livestock industry for the purpose of offsetting low market prices except for:

1. Payments made for natural disasters.
2. Efforts to establish commodity/revenue insurance programs in lieu of emergency disaster programs.

AP 1.2

2001/Renewed 2006/Amended 2011

Federal Checkoff

WHEREAS, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of today's beef checkoff dollar.

WHEREAS, additional checkoff funding is needed to continue promotion efforts and ensure beef is competitive in domestic and international markets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports a nationwide effort to increase the federal beef checkoff an additional dollar to a total of \$2.00 per head.

AP 1.3

2008

Federal Beef Checkoff Improvements

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Program has for twenty years planned, carried out and evaluated effective and successful beef demand building strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Program is consistently supported by more than 70% of beef producers; and

WHEREAS, there has been no modifications to the Beef Act and/or Order since the program was adopted in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association has consistently supported the Beef Checkoff Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the following modifications to the Beef Checkoff Program:

1. There should be a validation process to provide beef producers the opportunity to petition for a referendum on continuing the Beef Checkoff Program.
2. There should be a process to provide beef producers the opportunity to petition for a referendum on increasing the Beef Checkoff.

AP 1.4

2001/Renewed 2006/Amended 2011

State Checkoff

WHEREAS, Ohio's population is nearly 11.5 million, and there are many beef promotional opportunities.

WHEREAS, due to the decline in Ohio cattle numbers, the state's checkoff dollars are trending downward.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports a voluntary \$0.50 state increase on top of the federal \$1.00 per head.

AP 1.5

2007

Biosecurity

WHEREAS, securing the health and safety of agriculture from terrorist groups and other negative influences is a serious concern, and

WHEREAS, protecting our agricultural industry for a stable, self-sufficient food source for U.S. consumers is vital and should not be taken for granted,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports new initiatives concerning acts of terrorism against livestock to:

1. Strengthen the penalties for anyone involved in terrorist activities affecting the agricultural industry;
2. Provide increased coordination of local, state, and federal officials to more effectively monitor and respond to these threats, and
3. Give producers increased protections against false and derogatory statements or ballot issues that would damage

or endanger a producer's livelihood, product, property, or diminish livestock production practices.

AP 1.6

2007

Ethical and Humane Disposal of Horses

WHEREAS, it is important to have ethical and humane means to dispose of horses, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports every effort to ensure horses are treated humanely throughout their lifetime, and

WHEREAS, without a means to dispose of horses there will ultimately be a detrimental effect to the welfare of horses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports the right of horse owners to ethically and humanely dispose of horses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA shall oppose legislation that could potentially hinder future efforts to dispose of horses.

AP 1.7

2007

Ethanol Growth

WHEREAS, ethanol production offers opportunities and considerations for all segments of the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable, high quality feedstuffs is crucial to the profitability of the beef industry, and

WHEREAS, Ohio's ethanol production is expanding rapidly with new co-products coming on line,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association partners with the appropriate entities to educate producers on issues arising from ethanol's growth, such as managing nitrogen, sulfur and phosphorus and increasing the use of Distillers Dried Grains (ddgs) in rations, finding additional ways for cow-calf producers to utilize ddgs and methods for storing ddgs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA supports a transition to a market based approach for the production and usage of ethanol.

AP 1.8

2011

State National Two-Hat Structure

WHEREAS, the Federation's national-state partnership with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association has provided greater efficiencies, synergies and the prospects of greater financial returns to beef producers.

WHEREAS, it is important for the Federation to have a framework for independent decision making and have no involvement in influencing government policy or action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the current national structure and the enhancements to its independence provided for within the Federation Charter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Ohio Cattlemen's Association strongly supports maintaining the two-hat structure between checkoff and policy organizations to continue the efficiencies such structure provide, while preserving their separate purposes and the appropriate firewalls between funds.

2. FEDERAL FARM PROGRAMS

AP 2.1

1994/Renewed 2007

Federal Farm Program

WHEREAS, government programs on specific commodities all have side effects - to wit: economic effects.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association ask for full preliminary impact studies by USDA on any new farm legislation relating to side effects on other segments of agriculture.

AP 2.2

2001/Renewed 2006/Amended 2011

Loans to Young Cattlemen

WHEREAS, there is a need for young cattlemen in Ohio and there is a large amount of idle ground. (Example reclaimed mining ground and over-grown property.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA supports legislation making state and federal grants and/or low interest loans for the development of improved pasture available to cattlemen under the age of 50.

3. HAYING AND GRAZING

AP 3.1

1997/Renewed 2007

Haying and Grazing

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association oppose haying and grazing on diverted federal farm program acreage which is being diverted as a result of a direct payment be it cash or payment in kind. In the case of drought or other emergency situation specified by the Secretary of Agriculture, haying and grazing will be allowed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA oppose haying and grazing on diverted federal farm program acreage which is being diverted as a result of a condition of contract and no direct payment is being made. In the case of drought or other emergency situation specified by the Secretary of Agriculture, haying and grazing will be allowed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any monies received for diverted acreage must be reimbursed to USDA if approved for emergency haying and grazing.

AP 3.2

2001/Renewed 2011

Grazing Land Conservation Initiative

WHEREAS, beef producers utilize large amounts of grazing land.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA supports the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative and given that funds come to Ohio, OCA recommends that a steering committee be established and that OCA have a member on it.

BEEF SAFETY

1. GENERAL

BS 1.1

1994/Amended 2001/Renewed 2006/Amended 2011 Tampering of Show Animals

BE IT RESOLVED, the OCA strongly condemns the tampering of show cattle and recommends the strongest possible penalties be sought for those individuals who unethically pursue illegal means of misrepresenting their cattle.

BS 1.2

1997/Amended 2003/Amended 2008 Interstate Shipment of Beef

WHEREAS, Ohio's state meat inspection program meets or exceeds the USDA federal inspection program requirements.

WHEREAS, federally inspected meat plants are eligible for interstate shipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all of Ohio's state inspected meat plants be eligible for interstate shipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports federal legislation that allows interstate shipment of beef.

BS 1.3

2003/Renewed 2008 Food Irradiation

WHEREAS, irradiation has been approved for beef.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association promotes irradiation in more consumer friendly terms such as cold pasteurization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association assists where possible to build consumer awareness and acceptance of this important food safety tool.

CATTLE HEALTH AND WELL BEING

1. GENERAL

CH 1.1

1999/Renewed 2009 Interstate Shipment of Cattle

WHEREAS, Ohio is a brucellosis and tuberculosis free state and the interstate shipment of cattle is a common practice;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports extending the validity of health papers for the interstate shipment of cattle from 30 to 45 days;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association directs the Ohio Department of Agriculture to conduct discussions between neighboring states in drafting and accepting a unified interstate regulation for shipment of cattle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association recommends that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) work with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to develop regionalization and/or harmonization in the movement of

cattle across the border specifically regarding health regulations.

CH 1.2

2001/Renewed 2011

Large Animal Veterinarians

WHEREAS, Ohio suffers from a shortage of large animal veterinarians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA actively supports college enrollment policies and other activities that encourage future large animal practices.

CH 1.3

2007

Disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) Cattle not to be used In the Commercial Food Supply

WHEREAS, with current technology and transportation methods it is not possible to manage and handle disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle in a humane manner, and

WHEREAS, disabled cattle may have current infectious diseases and because of stress and unsanitary conditions are susceptible to additional bacterial diseases and bacterial contamination of their hide and carcass, and

WHEREAS, our current live animal inspection methods are not sensitive enough to differentiate diseased disabled cattle from nondiseased disabled cattle, thus increasing the possibility of introducing pathogens into our meat supply,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports policies to prohibit the slaughter of disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle for the commercial food supply.

CH 1.4

2007

Animal Identification Premises Registration

WHEREAS, the registration of livestock premises is phase I of the National Animal Identification System designed to aid in traceback for disease control purposes,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports legislation and/or regulation.

CH 1.5

2007

Animal Identification for Disease Traceback

WHEREAS, a national work group of livestock producers, state/federal animal health officials, and others have developed a comprehensive "United States Animal Identification Plan" (USAIP) to rapidly track movement of animals within 48 hours of a confirmation of a disease outbreak that threatens animal health, and

WHEREAS, USDA is developing a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) based in part on the USAIP, and

WHEREAS, implementation of the NAIS has begun through cooperative agreements with state animal health officials to initiate premises registration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association believes the Ohio Department of Agriculture should be the lead state agency that manages and supervises any identification plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA suggests any animal identification plan be implemented in phases, beginning with registration of

animal premises.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA believes strongly that any national animal identification program be designed to (a) minimize costs to producers; (b) optimize the role of the private sector to administer the program; and (c) protect the confidentiality of individual animal owner records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports state and federal legislation to limit animal owners' liability exposure that may arise under a private or public animal identification program.

2. ANIMAL CARE

CH 2.1

1997/Renewed 2007

Animal Care

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have long been concerned with the welfare of livestock, recognizing that good animal health, care, production, and handling practices are essential to efficient and profitable production,

BE IT RESOLVED, that for reasons of clarification, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association recognize the following definitions:

Animal Welfare — the reasonable care of all animals, i.e. good animal husbandry practices.

Animal Rights — a position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights similar to humans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association monitor the animal rights issue if it develops in the courts and in Congress and take appropriate action when necessary.

CH 2.2

2004/Amended 2009

Dispensation of Non-Ambulatory Animals

WHEREAS, following the single case of BSE identified in the U.S. on December 23, 2003, the USDA announced additional safeguards to further enhance U.S. protection systems against BSE.

WHEREAS, as part of this USDA action all downer cattle were banned from the human food chain.

AND WHEREAS, meat from non-ambulatory animals is considered to be adulterated product.

THEREFORD BE IT RESOLVED, that Ohio Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and appropriate government agencies to develop clarity on the dispensation of non-ambulatory animals and permit the use of those cattle for personal consumption and exempt processors from liability.

CH 2.3

2007

Non-Ambulatory Livestock

WHEREAS, livestock producers are vitally interested in the well-being of the animals in their charge, and

WHEREAS, producers make every effort to obtain veterinary care for animals that are sick or injured, and

WHEREAS, despite all precautions, some animals may become non-ambulatory,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association shall work with USDA-APHIS and other appropriate partners, such as the rendering industry and livestock markets, to develop incen-

tives to facilitate the surveillance of non-ambulatory animals for BSE and other important diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA will also work with these partners to ensure the financially and environmentally sound disposal of such animals.

3. DISEASES

CH 3.1

2000/Renewed 2010

Brucellosis Vaccination

WHEREAS, neighboring states require calftood vaccination.

WHEREAS, the RB51 vaccine doesn't show titer to Brucellosis Test.

WHEREAS, other U.S. states currently have a 4-12 month vaccination window.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association recommends Brucellosis vaccination be given between 4-12 months.

4. DRUGS AND BIOLOGICS

CH 4.1

1997/Renewed 2007

Regulation and Use of Biologicals

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture regulates the manufacturing of animal biologicals,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association work to maintain regulatory authority of animal biologicals within the United States Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA urge the United States Department of Agriculture to negotiate agreements of understanding with states to continue state regulation of interstate biological manufacturing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA oppose any changes of laws or regulations which would restrict the present access and/or availability of animal biologicals, except when the changes are supported by clear scientific evidence done on relevant species.

CH 4.2

1997/Amended 2007

Animal, Medications, Biologic & Feed Additives Part I

WHEREAS, the use of pharmaceuticals is approved for adequate and economical agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, feed additives, growth promotants, medications and parasiticides are necessary tools for the efficient production of livestock; and

WHEREAS, unnecessary delays in approval of new products deprive the livestock industry and consumers of this increased efficiency of production; and

WHEREAS, the continued regulatory pressure upon proven products already in use threatens their future use and influences consumer perception of beef,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association continue its support for a clear, logical and scientifically sound procedure for clearance of new products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA take any responsible action necessary to prevent the restriction of proven available products until such time as scientific evidence and sound judgment proves the product unsafe for use in food animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA insist that FDA follow proper rule making regulatory changes affecting the cattle industry.

Part II

WHEREAS, the determination of whether or not a given substance is allowed to be fed or otherwise administered to food-producing animals should be based on appropriate scientific investigation and tests, rather than on the degree of refinement of the detection devices and procedures utilized — which is the case under “zero tolerance” provisions; and

WHEREAS, OCA supports the concept of setting safe and realistic residue tolerance levels determined by appropriate scientific investigation and tests; and

WHEREAS, OCA believes that animal medications and feed additives can be used by the beef industry in producing safe and wholesome meat products for the consuming public,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA shall aggressively work with the Congress for proper food safety legislation which will require Food and Drug Administration tolerance levels which will more reasonably guide regulatory policy.

Part III

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association has repeatedly recognized the responsibility of industry members in the proper use of all livestock pharmaceuticals, medications and feed additives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association reaffirms its policy urging all livestock producers to closely follow veterinary instructions and withdrawal times to demonstrate conclusively to both Government agencies and consumers that all pharmaceuticals, medications and feed additives administered or fed to meat animals have been used in conformity with dosage directions, requirements and withdrawal periods.

Part IV

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration has proposed regulations affecting mixers of medicated feeds; and

WHEREAS, the basic concept behind regulating medicated feed production is to prevent residues in animal products; and

WHEREAS, the livestock mixer-feeder has the responsibility to keep unsafe residues out of the animal products he produces; and

WHEREAS, FDA proposes to regulate mixer-feeders on the same basis as commercial feed mills selling feed into commerce,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association aggressively:

1. Insist that FDA recognize that livestock mixer-feeders are in the business of producing food animals, not selling feed for further distribution like commercial feed manufacturers;
2. Continue to support a simplified medicated feeds regulatory system for mixer-feeders which is separate and apart from the regulatory system governing commercial feed manufacturers;
3. Pursue food safety legislation which would eliminate FDA’s double regulation which requires approval of the same conditions of the use twice, once by the drug manufacturer and again by the user of the drug in feed;
4. Support the National Mixer Feeder Association objective to

represent mixer-feeders of all animal species in a united effort to aggressively pursue a simplified FDA regulatory system for mixer-feeders which treats all mixer-feeders equally and is separate and apart from the regulatory system governing commercial feed manufacturers.

5. FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

CH 5.1

1994/Amended 1998/Renewed 2003/Amended 2008 Scrapie

WHEREAS, scrapie is a serious health problem in the sheep industry.

WHEREAS, scrapie may have a possible link to BSE in cattle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports all efforts and educational programs for elimination of scrapie in the United States.

CH 5.2

2003/Amended 2008

Diseases – Emergency Management Planning

WHEREAS, the livestock and meat industry and the consuming public live under the continuous threat of catastrophic disease outbreaks, and

WHEREAS, rapid diagnosis of foreign animal diseases, prompt movement restrictions, implementation of federal, state and local emergency management plans and indemnity program action can often forestall outbreaks of epidemic or quasi-epidemic proportions, and

WHEREAS, in the past when special problems or outbreaks have occurred, the necessary action has been funded by "robbing" existing budgeted disease control and eradication projects, resulting in costly interruptions of these programs, and

WHEREAS, it is important to have access to appropriate levels of commodity credit corporation (CCC) funds in a timely fashion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to urge:

1. USDA-APHIS to aggressively monitor foreign animal disease risk globally focused by USDA and Customs Service to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into the U.S.
2. Development of rapid diagnostic tools coupled with adequate capacity for confirmation by contagious organisms and isolation of suspect foreign animal disease such as FMD.
3. NCBA and OCA to assist where appropriate, to coordinate the development of comprehensive federal, state and local emergency response plans, including the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and State counterparts.
4. Identification of adequate CCC funds and development of a system to promptly determine the level of indemnity and expedite the disbursement of funds.
5. OCA to help secure funding at the state level to fill any voids in federal funding for ongoing disease monitoring and surveillance programs, response plans and indemnity programs as needed.

CH 5.3

2007

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association believes that protection of human health and the safety of the human food supply is of the highest priority; and consumers' perceptions regarding meat safety issues can have a devastating effect on the beef industry in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the recent Harvard University School of Public Health BSE risk analysis documents that the existing USDA and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations designed to prevent both the introduction of BSE or the

amplification and spread of the disease have dramatically reduced the risk of BSE in the U.S, and

WHEREAS, the Harvard study indicates continued efforts to prevent the introduction of BSE coupled with enforcement of the FDA feed restrictions will continue to effectively prevent the emergence and potential spread of BSE,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports aggressive actions on the part of USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Customs Service to prevent the introduction of beef, beef products, animal feeds and feed ingredients that could transmit the BSE agent from countries with, or suspected of having BSE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports FDA fully enforcing the existing feed restrictions designed to prevent the potential amplification and spread of BSE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA recommends all beef and dairy producers request their feed suppliers provide them with a written statement stipulating that all feed and feed ingredients currently being delivered and all future feed and feed ingredient deliveries will be in compliance with FDA feed restrictions designed to prevent BSE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports increased research funding from the public and private sectors with the objective to continue to provide the American consumer with beef of the highest quality, consistency, safety and wholesomeness.

BE IT RESOLVED, OCA urges USDA-APHIS place as a high priority the acquisition of "BSE Free and Low Risk Status" from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, APHIS ensure that only USDA approved laboratories conduct testing for BSE and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

6. JOHNE'S DISEASE

CH 6.1

1998/Renewed 2003/Amended 2008

Johne's Disease

WHEREAS, Johne's Disease has long been a problem in the dairy industry and is becoming more of a problem in the beef industry,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages participation and education of all industry stakeholders about Johne's disease and further funding of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's voluntary surveillance and management practices for prevention, control, and elimination of the disease and certification of herds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that language used to describe the certification status of herds tested for Johne's Disease, be standardized for all states.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

1. GENERAL

IM 1.1

1997/Amended 2007

Free Trade Agreements

WHEREAS, there is a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and a Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) between the United States, and applicable trading partners that is supported by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association monitor and undertake all means possible to enforce NAFTA and CAFTA provisions relating to strong regulatory enforcement for animal health, environment, and food safety standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA monitor North American and Central American trade flows to assure that trade is fair and equitable in accordance with trade regulations and that economic analysis of trade/impacts on this beef industry be continued and timely, accurate and consistent data published.

IM 1.2

1997/Renewed 2007

MAP Funding

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is in favor of adequate funding of the Market Access Program, or any successor program, and is strongly in favor of making funds available for export promotions of value-added products.

IM 1.3

2003/Renewed 2008

WTO Negotiations

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is supportive of the World Trade Organization (WTO) process for international trade negotiations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports trade negotiations that are multi-lateral negotiations that take place within the WTO, where increased access to United States markets by other countries is only achieved if the United States receives greater access to beef importing countries.

IM 1.4

2006/Renewed 2011

Trade Promotion Authority

BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCA strongly supports the passage of trade promotion authority through the U.S. Congress.

IM 1.5

2007

Country of Origin Labeling Impacts

WHEREAS, many serious concerns about mandatory Country of Origin labeling have arisen since the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, and

WHEREAS, there is increasing recognition about the many adverse aspects of Country of Origin labeling including the costs, benefits, and impact of Country of Origin labeling relative to tracking, auditing, verification, and compliance, and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association policy does not support mandatory labeling but remains in support of Country of Origin labeling that is voluntary and industry driven,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA shall, with regard to implementation of mandatory Country of Origin labeling:

1. Request Congressional hearings to investigate the impact of Country of Origin labeling
2. Request USDA hold field hearings to increase awareness about Country of Origin labeling
3. Develop educational and informational messages to inform producers about Country of Origin labeling
4. Work with related groups to communicate this message.

IM 1.6 2007

Opening Canadian Border to Live Cattle

WHEREAS, the safety of the food supply for United States' consumers is of utmost concern to the cattle industry, and
WHEREAS, keeping out foreign animal diseases that could seriously damage the cattle industry is of concern, and
WHEREAS, USDA has developed a list of science-based factors to be used to evaluate the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk from a region or country and to classify a region or country as a minimal BSE risk area,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports USDA in its science-based approach to reestablishing cattle and beef trade with Canada while ensuring the protection of the United States consumer and the United States cattle herd.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA urges USDA to develop a permanent identification system for the importation of live cattle from Canada that is maintainable through harvest.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA urges USDA to develop an orderly market transition plan before additional beef and live cattle classes are eligible for import from Canada.

IM 1.7 2007

BSE Trade Action

WHEREAS, the United States has taken a leadership role in advocating sound science policies for the trade of beef products in global markets based on World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines, and
WHEREAS, several countries immediately closed their borders to the importation of U.S. beef and beef products with no valid scientific basis or consideration of OIE guidelines, as a result of recent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) discoveries, and
WHEREAS, such action has resulted in major disruptions in global beef trade including billions of dollars in lost U.S. beef and beef products exports,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association requests the Administration pursue all available options, including trade action at the World Trade Organization (WTO) or trade

sanctions, to reestablish trade in beef and beef products with all countries based upon sound science and the OIE guidelines.

2. ACCESS AND CREDIT

IM 2.1

1997/Renewed 2007

Government Commodity Programs

WHEREAS, livestock producers sell their products on a free market with no subsidized price support; and

WHEREAS, excessive government price supports or supply control programs for other commodities often have an adverse impact on livestock markets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports efforts in foreign trade negotiations to eliminate unfair farm subsidies in competing countries and believes USDA programs should move toward less government involvement.

LIVE CATTLE MARKETING

1. INDUSTRY STRUCTURE/PRICE DISCOVERY

M 1.1

2001/Renewed 2011

Ohio Brand Beef

WHEREAS, Ohio state inspected packing plants produce only 3 percent of the beef consumed in Ohio.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports an Ohio born, fed, processed and consumed beef production system for this state, under an Ohio Brand Label.

M 1.2

2003/Amended 2008

Packing Plants & Processing Facilities

WHEREAS, there has been a decline in the packing and processing industries in the Eastern Cornbelt causing a decrease in the demand for slaughter cattle.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the efforts to expand the packing and processing industries in the Eastern Cornbelt through economic incentives and statewide training programs to increase the demand for slaughter cattle in the region.

M 1.3

2003/Renewed 2008

Buyer Power Evaluation

WHEREAS, federal review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions has historically been limited to evaluations of impacts to consumers on the "seller-side" of the marketing equation, and WHEREAS, the "buyer-side" impacts (to Ag producers) have not been given the same level of scrutiny.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages federal agencies with responsibility to review agricultural mergers and acquisitions to consider "buyer-side" impacts to agricultural producers, as well as, "seller-side" impacts to consumers.

M 1.4

2003/Amended 2008

Ownership/Control

WHEREAS, the beef industry has made progress in producing a more consistent product, and

WHEREAS, value based pricing procedures link flow of information between beef packers and processors to cattle producers regarding product quality,

WHEREAS, the packer's ability to purchase or manage their supply more than 14 days prior to delivery sustains an adequate supply of consistent, quality product,

WHEREAS, it is important to have numerous risk management tools available to beef producers, WHEREAS, federal legislation dictating ownership/control would be very detrimental to branded programs, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposed federal legislation which would dictate ownership/control of livestock.

M 1.5

2007

Value-Based Marketing

WHEREAS, there has been substantial interest in moving towards a value-based marketing system and strategic alliances,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes any regulations, legislation, or policies that limit methods of marketing cattle.

M 1.6

2003/Amended 2008

Long Term Profitability Opportunities

WHEREAS, the GIPSA Meat and Livestock Marketing Study, a comprehensive study of the use and impacts of alternative marketing arrangements (AMAs) such as forward contracting, packer ownership and marketing agreements, released in 2007, indicated that viable markets exist for all segments of the industry and that cash and spot market sales continue to make up the majority of transactions and AMAs provide significant benefits for all participants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in continuing its efforts to identify opportunities for improving profitability, price discovery, and the cattle marketing system as a whole, and that those efforts be part of an industry led, rational and deliberative process of finding solutions to the challenges facing the beef industry that do not jeopardize free-enterprise and cattle producers' right to conduct their business as they see fit.

M 1.7

2007

Law Enforcement

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages the Justice Department to enforce antitrust laws and ask USDA to enforce current provisions of the P & S Act of 1921 in order to maintain a free and open cattle market.

M 1.8

2007

Animal Identification for Value-Added Marketing

WHEREAS, incentives to individually identify all beef cattle are emerging, such as current and future source verification programs, grid marketing programs, and other methods where individual animals are tracked through the production chain so as to enhance genetic improvement decision making, and

WHEREAS, Beef Quality Assurance and other good management programs that utilize individual animal identification have become more widely adopted across the country,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association support voluntary adoption of individual animal identification programs to support genetic improvement and source and age verification and the standardization of data collection with maintenance and distribution to producers maintained by private enterprise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA supports market-driven voluntary individual animal identification programs and encourages producer involvement in such systems to avoid a government mandated animal identification system.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

1. GENERAL

N&H 1.1

1997/Amended 2007

Animal Agriculture Youth Education

WHEREAS, the increased urbanization of the U.S. population has prevented many people from becoming well acquainted with animal agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the general public is not closely attuned to the origin and nutrient value of their food,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports increased effort in education of youth, beginning with the elementary level, and the general public in regard to the benefits of animals to man, including the positive nutritional values of red meat in the diet and of other animal products such as medicine, gelatin and leather.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA strongly supports the evaluation of primary and secondary curriculums with the intent of including food and fiber production education.

N&H 1.2

1997/Amended 1999/ Renewed 2009

Dietary Recommendation Issues

WHEREAS, government-funded agencies and health organizations continue to issue dietary guidance which encourages low-fat diets; and

WHEREAS, beef — with its high nutrient density — makes an important nutrient contribution to restrictive as well as more conventional diets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association:

1. Encourage the USDA to frequently update and disseminate

factual information from research on the nutrient composition of the various beef cuts, information which includes data on the actual content of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and essential nutrients in cooked beef cuts.

2. Encourage government agencies and health organizations to disseminate information on the actual nutrient content of beef, showing that numerous cuts of beef can be part of recommended low-fat diets;
3. Encourage government agencies and health organizations to recognize and point out, in their information programs, the role of beef and other meats in sound nutrition education programs;
4. Encourage USDA to feature beef and beef products in government programs such as school lunches, prisons, military, and other federally funded institutions;
5. Encourage the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and other industry organizations to continue to effectively work with health professionals and other nutrition information sources, including the news media, and with members of the food industries, in order to gain wider awareness of beefs actual nutrient density and its important role in providing essential nutrients in control diets;
6. Encourage continued research in public institutions on nutrition, diet and health relationships; and
7. Support legislation requiring government agencies to submit proposed diet guidance to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for review and approval prior to its release.

N&H 1.3

1997/Amended 2007

Informative Nutrient Labeling

WHEREAS, the federal government has passed regulatory actions mandating nutrition labels on processed food products and labels on raw meat and poultry products, and

WHEREAS, beef is a highly nutritious product and an important ingredient in modern diets, and

WHEREAS, nutrition labeling of beef products, as regulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture, can benefit both consumers and the beef industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association continues to support nutrition labeling of meat and poultry products that will:

1. Adequately inform consumers of the important nutritive qualities of beef.
2. Distinguish between the various types and levels of fat and other nutritive properties of beef so consumers can make informed decisions.
3. Assure an uninterrupted supply of nutrient dense beef for consumers while maintaining the efficiency of the beef industry.

PRODUCER EDUCATION

1. GENERAL

PE 1.1

1994/Amended 1997/Renewed 2007

Funding for OSU Extension & OARDC

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association hereby reaffirms its long standing support for the OSU Extension and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and

WHEREAS, we encourage local, state, and federal tax support of the OSU Extension and OARDC, and

WHEREAS, the OSU Extension program serves the general public in education and general well being, and

WHEREAS, we believe in the long established partnership between the USDA and the Land Grant College with its agriculture experiment station and extension service concept which has resulted in the most successful out-of-school education and research program in the world, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association strongly endorses the historic grass roots guidance to establish extension and research programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OSU Extension and the OARDC be adequately funded to maintain a high level of research and education.

PE 1.2

1997/Amended 1999/Renewed 2006/Amended 2011

Beef Quality Assurance Product Administration

WHEREAS, the membership of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association has dedicated itself to the improvement of the total quality of the beef produced; and

WHEREAS, the membership believes that maintaining consumer confidence is very important; and

WHEREAS, the membership believes that in order to maintain consumer confidence the industry must exceed minimum requirements for quality; and

WHEREAS, the OCA commends those biological and pharmaceutical companies that have actively progressed with the development of injectable animal health products which achieve the beef industry's total quality management (TQM) goal,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages the membership to adopt the following industry standards when selecting animal health products:

1. To provide a quality, "blemish-free" beef product, products cleared for subcutaneous (Sub Q), intravenous (I.V.) or oral or topical administration are recommended.
2. Products with low dosage rates are recommended.
3. All injectable products will be administered forward of the point of shoulder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Ohio Cattlemen's Association requests that I.M. (Intramuscular) routes of administration be removed from the label of clostridial bacterins and other biologicals and pharmaceuticals that provide Sub Q, I.V. or other routes of administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OCA encourages the entire beef

industry to use only injectable animal health products that have been shown not to cause damage in edible tissue.

PE 1.3

2001/Renewed 2011

Beef Quality Assurance Training

WHEREAS, OCA supports best management practices that eliminate carcass defects and improve beef quality and consistency. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA supports Beef Quality Assurance training for Ohio beef producers.

PROPERTY RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

1. GENERAL

PR/EM 1.1

1994/Renewed 2007

Natural Resources

Farmers have a major interest in the utilization and conservation of our natural resources. It is primarily on this farmland and in rural Ohio that natural resource needs of the state must be met. THEREFORE, WE:

1. Encourage our members to support and cooperate with the local Soil and Water Conservation District in developing soil conservation and animal waste plans which follow sound conservation management practices on the farm.
2. Believe that all municipal water and sewer projects extending beyond city limits should be publicly developed from at least two alternate plans with the help of the proposed affected landowners.
3. Believe that the small watershed program (P.L. 566) offers the most efficient means of solving many local flooding, drainage, and other water management problems, and thus deserves more federal, state, and local emphasis.
4. Urge that before land is purchased or management agreement signed for state parks and other state owned land, the Department of Natural Resources be required to have a master plan, time schedule, and necessary funds for the development and continued maintenance of such parks.
5. Recommend that Ohio provide Soil and Water Conservation Districts with the authority to supervise the reclamation of the land following the installation of water, sewer, oil and gas lines with the latest conservation approved practices.
6. Recommend legislation establishing a state program of cost sharing through income tax credits for sound soil and water conservation practices and structures which contribute to agricultural pollution abatement by reducing the discharge of soil particles and animal waste into drainage ditches and streams.
7. Believe that local, state and national forests and wildlife areas should be required to cut back trees and brush from, and properly identify, all property lines.
8. Believe declaring a piece of land a wetland immediately diminishes the value of that parcel. Appropriate compensation for the landowner should be made either through tax for-

giveness, purchase at the option of the owner, payment for wildlife habitat, or other means acceptable to the landowner.

PR/EM 1.2

1997/Renewed 2007

Livestock Production and Resource Stewardship

WHEREAS, productive natural resources are vital for the well being not only of the individual farmer, but also for the local, state and national economy and society as a whole. Healthy natural resources provide a healthy watershed and a renewable source of feed for domestic animals and wildlife. Farming sustains open spaces and aesthetic features which contribute to recreational opportunities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association promotes the prudent use of natural resources and offers the following Resource Stewardship recommendations. OCA further recognizes the value and benefit of periodic input and revision to keep the commitment to resource stewardship alive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA shall not be compelled to defend anyone in the beef cattle industry who has clearly acted to abuse grazing, water or air resources. To achieve these goals, the following environmental stewardship code is recognized by the industry:

1. Recognize the environment for its varying and distinct properties.
2. Manage for the whole resource, including climate, soil, topography, plant and animal communities.
3. Realize that natural resources are ever-changing, and management must adapt.
4. Recognize and appreciate the interdependence of ecosystems.
5. Recognize that management practices should be site- and situation-specific, and must be locally designed and applied.
6. Recognize that successful management is an ongoing, long term process and commit to sound stewardship, economic success and business continuity.
7. Strive to develop a management framework that involves family, employees and business associates so that the entire team is committed to common goals.
8. Monitor and document for effective practices.
9. Never knowingly cause or permit abuses that result in permanent damage on public or private land.
10. Develop ways to communicate and share the vast practical experience of other resource stewards.
11. Become involved in organizations that provide an effective way to educate and support individuals.
12. Solicit input from a variety of sources on a regular basis as a means to improve the art and science of resource management.
13. Help develop public and private research projects to enhance the current body of knowledge.
14. Recognize that individual improvement is the basis for any change.
15. Communicate with diverse interests to resolve resource management issues.

PR/EM 1.3

1997/Amended 2007

General Policy for Private Lands and Water

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association holds that:

I. The right of an individual to own property is protected by the Federal and various state constitutions together with rights of life and liberty. Any abridgment of these rights shall be vigorously opposed.

Government policy should enhance the individual right of free choice in land, water, soil, and energy use, development, and conservation and this policy should be carried out by all branches and levels of governments.

Any loss of private lands or water rights including waters arising or claimed on federal lands without specific procedures of due process of law and just compensation (as provided in the V and XIV amendments of the U.S. Constitution) shall be opposed. Agreements involving individual private land and water rights shall be solely a decision of individual private property owners.

The laws and policy of State and local governments and private rights should be paramount in governing the use and ownership of water and natural resources.

The authority of each sovereign state to allocate quantities of water within its jurisdiction shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by governmental action. Rights to use surface and ground water established under state law are private property rights, constitutionally recognized and protected.

II. OCA statement of policy for the protection of vested water rights and water used in accordance with the Federal constitution, various State constitutions, and State laws is as follows:

Wetlands: OCA recognizes the importance of traditional Wetlands in providing fish and wildlife habitat and insuring quality water. OCA supports wetlands management in those traditional areas only when those activities do not infringe upon the rights of individual and the respective states to determine the uses of their land and water resources.

Riparian Areas: OCA opposes regulations by federal or state agencies to fence riparian areas except when the proposed sites are studied in full cooperation with the private livestock operator and where a comprehensive cooperative agreement, with recognition of stock water rights, is voluntarily entered into between the agency and livestock operator or permittee.

III. Cattle production is an efficient and environmentally sound use of renewable natural resources (air, water, soil and vegetation).

1. Successful, sustainable cattle production depends on the prudent management of renewable natural resources with long term productive multiple use benefits.
2. These resources such as air, water, soil, vegetation, forest, and fish are dynamic, resilient renewable resources and respond positively to prudent management.
3. Management practices which best sustain and enhance natural resources are site and situation specific.
4. The most environmentally effective and productive management of natural resources occurs through private ownership and individual management which maximizes flexibility and choice.

PR/EM 1.4
1997/Renewed 2010
Farmland Preservation

WHEREAS, Ohio is a major agricultural state that is dependent upon productive land.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association will communicate with members on the various farmland protection programs that are available. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association will also encourage members to become active at the local level on farmland activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association will organize and direct among other agricultural organizations and government bodies to influence the development of a sound farmland preservation policy in the state of Ohio.

PR/EM 1.5
1999/Renewed 2003/Amended 2008
Livestock Composting

WHEREAS, it is difficult to properly dispose of on-farm livestock mortality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association support the producer certification and training process and recommends on-farm composting of cattle as one method of disposal.

PR/EM 1.6
2002/Amended 2007
CAFO Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED, OCA and NCBA support the present 1,000 animal units capacity as the permit level in relation to CAFO permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA vigorously oppose the ratcheting down of permit requirements for smaller Animal Feeding Operations. (AFOs).

PR/EM 1.7
1998/Renewed 2003/Amended 2008
Ohio's Livestock Industry

WHEREAS, a healthy and growing livestock industry contributes greatly to the benefit of Ohio's economy and food production.

WHEREAS, new and expanding livestock operations should have the right to conduct business in any part of the state and the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is a size neutral organization.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the continued growth of an environmentally responsible livestock industry within the state of Ohio.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the proactive efforts of the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the sustainability and growth of an environmentally responsible Ohio livestock industry.

PR/EM 1.8
2010
Climate Change

WHEREAS, EPA's current global warming (climate change) findings are not based on a rigorous scientific analysis; yet would trigger a cascade of future greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations and litigation with sweeping impacts across the entire US economy.

WHEREAS, OCA believes that there is no “scientific consensus” that humans cause or contribute to climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that before the EPA imposes enormous economic burdens on large and small businesses, especially livestock producers, throughout our economy, it is imperative that EPA has a responsibility to regulate based on rigorous scientific analysis, joined with sound economic models.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

PR/EM 2.1

2001/Renewed 2011

Livestock Access to Water

WHEREAS, OCA supports good environmental practices, but has concerns with over-regulation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA cautions support of those federal or state subsidies directed at limiting access of livestock to water. Voluntary participation in such programs could be used as evidence of “normal procedures” in future imposition of mandatory regulations.

PR/EM 2.2

2007

Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Other Programs

WHEREAS, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) was signed into law in 2002, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) within FSRIA was designed to offer federal support for technical and financial assistance to the agricultural community for environmental conservation, and

WHEREAS, EQIP was designed to incorporate local control and stakeholder participation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Office of Management and Budget restricted the amount of Commodity Credit Corporation funds that can be used by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for technical assistance for EQIP which will limit producers access to NRCS technical field representatives, and

WHEREAS, the USDA proposed rule falls short of the 2002 FSRIA and EQIP for locally led conservation and implements less local control and stakeholder involvement than the previous Agriculture Conservation Program, and

WHEREAS, the NRCS has the duty of assisting livestock operations when applying for EQIP funding for upgrading of livestock facilities to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) feedlot rules, and

WHEREAS, some NRCS offices have delayed the EQIP application process, and

WHEREAS, some NRCS offices, the EPA, and its affiliates are not consistent or in agreement on rulings,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA work with Congress and agencies to prevent erosion of federal financial support for locally driven conservation efforts on private lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA maintains a position on the State Technical Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA endeavor to provide direction to these committees in the formulation and implementation

of environmental conservation policies that will affect the livestock industry in the United States to ensure that private property rights and the individual's right of self-determination on his or her own property is preserved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA will work toward the use of EQIP money for all sizes of operations for the best use of the funds available and/or the development of new cost sharing and technical assistance programs that would allow for the participation of all sizes of livestock operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in an effort to promote consistency in rulings on the EQIP program by NRCS and EPA affiliates throughout the U.S., OCA shall request that NRCS work with the EPA to issue a guidance to all such state affiliates setting forth how the law shall be interpreted by those affiliates.

PR/EM 2.3
2005/Renewed 2010
EQIP

WHEREAS, OCA opposes unreasonable penalties associated with cancellation of an EQIP contract.

AND WHEREAS, often, a contract is cancelled when an applicant discovers that the final cost of the contract is much higher than originally anticipated.

BE IT RESOLVED, that NRCS should not require an applicant to sign a contract until the final cost of the contract is known to, and approved by, the applicant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any penalty for cancellation should be disclosed to the applicant prior to signing the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRCS should provide least cost alternatives to applicants when engineering projects for cost share.

PR/EM 2.4
2007
Noise and Air Quality

WHEREAS, air quality, noise, dust, and odor are becoming an issue because of expanding urban development,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, any move on that part of the state or federal government to control odors, noise, and dust from livestock facilities must be coordinated with the development of air control technology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, owners' rights of pre-existing facilities be given due and fair consideration when surrounding land is developed for use other than agricultural production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes any new regulations that pertains to agricultural odors, noise, or air that will hinder in any way the production, preparation, and harvesting of crops and the production of livestock.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA opposes any new regulations that pertain to changing the class and quality of air on pastures and grasslands that inhibit current practices of beef production on these lands.

PR/EM 2.5
2007
Superfund Exemption for Livestock Manure

WHEREAS, livestock manure is a naturally occurring substance

that is used very effectively as a fertilizer for pasture and cropland, and

WHEREAS, classification of livestock manure as a hazardous substance or pollutant under the Superfund law would cause significant harm to all segments of the beef industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association will work diligently to clarify that Congress never intended to regulate livestock manure under the Superfund laws.

3. PROPERTY RIGHTS

PR/EM 3.1

2009/New

Line Fences

WHEREAS, the state of Ohio enacted in 2008 a new state law regarding line fence and

WHEREAS, many improvements were made

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the current law.

PR/EM 3.2

1994/Renewed 2007

Highway Signing

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes the right of the state or local government from removing farm signs from private property without permission.

PR/EM 3.3

1997/Renewed 2007

Rails to Trails

WHEREAS, In 1922 Congress passed legislation designating landowners adjacent to railroad corridors hold reversion rights to railroad right-of-way land: and

WHEREAS, In 1983 Congress amended the National Trails System Act and established procedures for state/local government and private groups to intervene in a railroad abandonment and convert the right-of-way to a recreational trail (railbanking) without approval of adjacent landowners: and

WHEREAS, over 600 "rails to trails" have been established in the United States and approximately 600 more proposals are pending THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association believes the federal railbanking laws constitute a taking of private property without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports federal legislation strengthening reversionary property rights for landowners adjacent to abandoned railroad corridors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA vigorously oppose any legislation that will circumvent current laws as such a change would result in the diminution of the rights of property owners along abandoned railroad easements and put them at increased risk.

PR/EM 3.4

1997/Renewed 2007

Property-Abandoned

WHEREAS, trespass and environmental problems are caused by public agencies using abandoned utility rights-of-way, such as but not limited to railroad easements, for public recreation areas,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes such use and supports the right of first refusal to the adjacent landowner.

PR/EM 3.5

1997/Renewed 2007

No Net Loss of Private Property

WHEREAS, the membership of OCA is drawn from men and women dependent upon and committed to the wise stewardship of natural resources, and

WHEREAS, the economy and the way of life of local communities, States and the United States is dependent upon private sector ownership and management of these natural resources, and

WHEREAS, misguided environmental activism continues to pressure government to purchase and remove lands from productive use, and

WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that a policy for setting priorities is critical to minimize fiscal pressures at all levels of government created by these acquisitions; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCA go on record as supporting the concept of "no net loss of privately owned lands" coupled with the concept that the acquisition of any land by state and federal government shall be offset by lands of equal dollar value sold back to the private sector by the government with "no net loss of revenue" to the local government affected by the transactions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that key Congressmen be approached with the request that legislation to this effect be introduced in the United States Congress.

PR/EM 3.6

2007

Eminent Domain

WHEREAS, in recent times, municipalities have used the "eminent domain" process to condemn and seize private property for the purpose of private economic development and re-sale to the private sector, and

WHEREAS, a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling upheld the ability of government entities to forcibly take private property from a citizen and then convey that seized property to other citizens or private corporations in the name of economic development,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports federal and state legislation that prevents government entities from taking private property through the eminent domain process for the purpose of conveying that property to other private individuals or entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports legislation to change the appraisal standards for federal and state appraisals to include fair market value based on highest economic value for the compensation for the taking of private property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA vigorously opposes the use of eminent domain for private use.

PR/EM 3.7 INTERIM

2009/New

Animals Running At Large

WHEREAS local prosecutors in some Ohio Counties have taken

the position that a livestock owner can be criminally prosecuted if livestock escape regardless of how or why and
WHEREAS several livestock owners have recently been charged with crimes based on this strict liability theory
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes that an animal running at large creates a strict criminal liability.

4. ENDANGERED SPECIES

PR/EM 4.1

1994/Amended 2000/Renewed 2010

Coyote Control

WHEREAS, cattle and sheep production is an integral part of Ohio agriculture contributing a major economic resource to the financial well being of the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, cattle and sheep producers are faced with a major coyote predator problem that has become a severe economic detriment to the well being of the domestic animal society,
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association pursue developing a coyote control program in conjunction with the Ohio sheep producers; the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife; and the Ohio Department of Agriculture to establish an educational and bounty program for this predator.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that bounty programs be financed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

PR/EM 4.2

2005/Renewed 2010

Black Vulture Control

WHEREAS, cattle and sheep production is an integral part of Ohio agriculture contributing a major economic resource to the financial well being of the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, cattle and sheep producers are faced with a major Black Vulture problem that has become a severe economic detriment to the well being of the domestic animal society,
WHEREAS, Black Vultures are a federally protected bird,
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to fast track permits and to give NRCS, or other appropriate agencies, the authority to issue Black Vulture nuisance permits.

TAX AND CREDIT

1. GENERAL

T 1.1

1994/Amended 2007

Real Estate Taxes

WHEREAS, real estate has been paying an unequal and unfair share of education funding, and

WHEREAS, education is requiring increased revenues, and

WHEREAS, a unified voice on agriculture taxation is necessary for any change to occur,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association favor maintaining the 10 percent and 2.5 percent property tax roll back and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA understand the need to adjust the rate factor periodically to reflect current production and income values in order to preserve CAUV.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA support shifting real estate taxes to income taxes to compensate for the reduction in educational revenue.

T 1.2

2003/Amended 2008

Health Insurance and Other Fringe Benefit/Deductions

WHEREAS, the advancing cost of health care and insurance premiums is causing many to either reduce coverage, or cancel coverage altogether, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is a size neutral organization and current tax law creates inequities among corporations and the self-employed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports moving the self-employed health insurance deductibility on IRS Form Schedule C to 100 percent immediately.

2. ESTATE TAXES

T 2.1

1997/Amended 2001/Renewed 2006/Amended 2008

Taxes — Revaluation of Estate and Gift Taxes

WHEREAS, Federal estate and gift taxes continue to be a major burden on family farms, ranches and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in Congress to provide some relief against the burden of estate and gift taxes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) supports targeted estate tax exemptions for farms and ranches, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OCA supports passage of any other estate and gift tax legislation which will eliminate the burden of estate and gift taxes on family farms, ranches, and small businesses on both the state and federal level.

T 2.2

2007/Amended 2008

Death Tax

WHEREAS, federal estate and gift taxes continue to be a major burden on family farms and small businesses, and

WHEREAS, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the Tax Relief Bill of 2001 that would eliminate the Death Tax, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Relief Bill of 2001 eliminates all estate taxes as of 2010, but then expires in 2011 allowing estate taxes to revert to egregious 2001 levels.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association

- supports, first and foremost, full and permanent repeal of the Death Tax, to make permanent the temporary relief provided for in the Tax Relief Bill of 2001,
- Opposes any proposal to increase the income or estate tax liability of farmers and ranchers,
- Opposes any proposal to repeal the stepped-up basis provisions not tied to repeal of the estate tax, and
- Supports passage of estate and gift tax legislation which will

eliminate or significantly reduce the burden of estate and gift taxes on family farms, ranches, and small businesses.

3. INCOME TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

T 3.1

2003/Amended 2008

Income Management Tools

WHEREAS, beef production income is cyclical, requiring constant attention to income tax management, and

WHEREAS, income averaging has been reinstated in federal tax law and net operating loss carryback provisions have been improved, and

WHEREAS, these income management tools do not provide sufficient tax management options for producers in less volatile times in market cycles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports amendments to tax law to provide additional income management tools and enhancement of existing tools to enable producers more options in dealing with cyclical income, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports utilizing tools, such as personal or agricultural risk management accounts, to achieve these goals.

MEMBERSHIP

1. GENERAL

Member 1.1

1997/Amended 2007

Membership

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is the only single commodity organization representing cattlemen over the entire State of Ohio and is dedicated solely to the interests of cattlemen; and,

WHEREAS, the basic purpose of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is to represent, promote and improve the beef cattle industry, thereby enhancing the opportunity for profitability in all segments of the industry and,

WHEREAS, membership is the lifeblood and strength of an association and the effectiveness and abilities of that association are linked directly to membership numbers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the entire membership of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, the officers, directors, staff and others involved in the cattle industry, make a dedicated effort to substantially increase Ohio Cattlemen's Association membership; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association become more involved in the Association through increased participation in county, district and state activities so they can have more input into the direction and scope of responsibilities of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association be encouraged to support the state beef license program by purchasing specialty beef license plates.

Member 1.2

1997/Renewed 2007

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

WHEREAS, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is a very effective voice for the nation's cattle industry as well as providing many valuable services for and on behalf of all cattlemen; and, WHEREAS, the support of affiliated state Cattlemen's Association is necessary to the continued success and growth of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; and,

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association depends in part, on the assistance and support it receives from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association expand its efforts to increase the National Cattlemen's Beef Association membership in Ohio and continue to support and participate in National Cattlemen's Beef Association activities.

Member 1.3

2000/Renewed 2010

Allied Industry Council

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association's Allied Industry Council is designed for members to actively support the advancement of the beef industry and to provide an opportunity for participating companies to benefit from a unique tie with Ohio's cattlemen.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association's Allied Industry Council will work with OCA beyond the normal scope of association activities by providing a more stable funding base for the development of special long-term programs, educational activities, leadership training, and broad-based informational programs which fall outside the membership and checkoff supported budgetary process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Ohio Cattlemen's Association's Allied Industry Council is a beef partnership that focuses educational efforts on commercial cattle producers by fostering communications between the segments, creating an understanding for the value of genetics, and encouraging cattle producers to make decisions as food producers.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. GENERAL

MISC 1.1

1994/Renewed 2007

Cattlemen's Statement of Principle

WHEREAS, Cattlemen believe in humane treatment of livestock and good stewardship of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, this message needs to be communicated to the public when asked; and

WHEREAS, the public is entitled to credible statements from actual producers regarding the practices, intents and purposes of cattle production.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association members endorse the following Statement of Principle on animal husbandry, environmental stewardship, and food safety:

- I believe in the humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.
- I believe my cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.
- I believe that my own and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.
- I will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.
- I believe it is my responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.
- I believe it is the purpose of food animals to serve mankind and it is the responsibility of all human beings to care for animals in their charge.
- I will vigorously support the current legislation or regulation that states or implies interference with that purpose and responsibility.

MISC 1.2
1997/Amended 2002/Renewed 2007
National Long Range Plan

WHEREAS, the beef industry has experienced an increase in demand.

WHEREAS, the beef industry is becoming more consumer driven, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the vision statement presented by the Beef Industry's Long Range Plan Task Force and supports the recommendations set forth in the Beef Industry Long Range Plan.

MISC 1.3
1997/Renewed 2007
User Fees

WHEREAS, certain inspection and product testing programs are mandated and conducted in behalf of the public benefit, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association oppose the collection of user fees to cover the costs of such programs.

OCA Officers

President • Dave Felumlee
Vice-President • Sam Sutherly
Secretary • Elizabeth Harsh
Treasurer • Jim Rogers
Past President • Mike Carper



OCA Directors

At-Large Francis Fluharty	District 3 Kris Vincent	District 8 Sam Roberts
At-Large Jim Rogers	District 4 Sam Sutherly	District 9 Stan Smith
At-Large Dave Felumlee	District 5 Frank Phelps	District 10 Bev Roe
District 1 Kevin Miller	District 6 Jeff Ramseyer	District 11 Michael Bihl
District 2 Luke Worcester	District 7 Bruce Burgett	District 12 Dave Kline

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