2026 OHIO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION POLICY

AGRICULTURE & FOOD POLICY

1. GENERAL POLICY

AFP 1.1
2026/Renewed
OCA Agricultural Policy Statement

This statement will guide the Ohio Cattlemen's Association's (OCA) actions on behalf of the cattle industry in influencing the government 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.
3. Preserve the right of individual choice in the management of land, water, and other resources.
4. Preserve the right of individual choice in the management of contracts and marketing.
5. Preserve the freedoms provided within the Constitution.
6. Provide an opportunity to compete in foreign markets.
7. Oppose farm policy which favors one producer or commodity over another.
8. Support opportunities for young men and women to enter the beef cattle business and provide experiences and education to enhance their marketability within the industry

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
National agricultural policy should be oriented to a competitive, free, and private enterprise market system.
Farm policy should be discouraged which:
1. Guarantees profit, or
2. Restricts the operation of the competitive marketplace.
3. Does not allow for both parties' consent in writing to use arbitration.

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

Commodity Programs Policy
Government farm commodity programs influence, change and distort the price and supply of beef cattle. The impact can be indirect; e.g., when grain prices are affected by a government program or direct; e.g., when a dairy payment program results in dairy cattle slaughter or retention. Any government programs which would have a substantial negative effect on cattlemen should be opposed and prevented. Commodity programs need to be studied and supported in those areas where they work toward market orientation.
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,
4. 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.

AFP 1.2
2022/Renewed
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 for a reasonable increase in the federal beef checkoff.

AFP 1.3
2023/Renewed
Federal Beef Checkoff Improvements

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Program has since1986 planned, carried out, and evaluated effective and successful beef demand building strategies; and
WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Program is consistently supported by nearly 75 percent of beef producers; 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 amendments to the 1985 Beef Promotion and Research Act that would authorize an increase in the current beef checkoff assessment rate to adequately fund effective demand building programs, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes creating a supplemental beef checkoff under the 1996 Commodity Promotion Research and Consumer Information Act, which gives more control over the checkoff to the federal government.

AFP 1.4
2026/Amended
State Checkoff

WHEREAS, Ohio's population is over 11.5 million, and provides beef promotional opportunities; and
WHEREAS, due to the decline in Ohio cattle numbers, the state's checkoff dollars are trending downward; and
WHEREAS, the buying power of the beef checkoff has eroded to the point that the federal $1.00 checkoff purchases less than half of what it did in 1985:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the continuation of both state and federal checkoff programs and instructs OCA leadership to regularly review checkoff programs to ensure the required resources are available to continue robust beef demand building programs in Ohio.

AFP 1.5
2022/Renewed
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.

AFP 1.6
2026/Amended
Horse Harvesting & Processing

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:
WHEREAS, the method of euthanasia employed by processing facilities that harvest horses is a humane end of life, and

WHEREAS, there exists an extremely insufficient infrastructure and no funding mechanism to support the humane existence of unwanted horses, and
WHEREAS, unwanted horses are processed into products that are consumed by humans in overseas markets, and
WHEREAS, the value of unwanted horses as a food animal dictates they not be abused, lest this value be diminished, and
WHEREAS, the cattle industry depends upon an economically healthy horse industry and systems to offer a humane end of life for unwanted horses,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA opposes any legislation that would prohibit horse harvesting or processing, or otherwise hinder future efforts to responsibly dispose of unwanted horses.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports the funding for federal inspection of horse processing facilities.

AFP 1.7
2022/Renewed
Renewable Fuels

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) supports our nation's commitment to reduce dependence on foreign energy, and supports efforts to develop forms of renewable energy, and
WHEREAS, OCA believes in a market-based economy and there is concern among cattlemen about the influence of renewable energy policy on the availability and price of feed grains and other feedstuffs,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA support transition to a market-based approach for the production and usage of renewable fuels.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA oppose mandated production and/or usage of any renewable fuels and support immediate efforts to significantly reduce the Renewable Fuel Standard mandate.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA support research and development of renewable fuels.

AFP 1.8
2026/Renewed
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

AFP 2.1
2022/Renewed
Federal Farm Programs

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) policy supporting less government involvement may result in incentive payment programs being developed without OCA's input,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA approves the following parameters that would allow us to be involved in the discussions surrounding any federal farm program being developed:
1. An economic review being conducted on the effect on all segments of the beef industry before implementation of a non-emergency program.
2. Evidence of a true need for the program.
3. That all programs must have an ending date, a full analysis of the results of the program, and whether there is a continuing need for the program.
4. That any program shall encourage private enterprise and minimize government involvement in agriculture.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA pursues legislation and/or regulatory action in the federal government within these parameters.

AFP 2.2
2026/Amended
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 young or beginning cattle producers.

3. HAYING AND GRAZING

AFP 3.1
2022/Renewed
CRP Policy

WHEREAS, the nation's cows and stocker cattle are competing for grazing lands with government programs, and
WHEREAS, economic pressures are accelerating the conversion of grazing lands for competing uses, and
WHEREAS, permanent grasslands help protect water quality and are important habitat for birds and animals, and
WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is mandated to utilize a conservation cover crop, and
WHEREAS, CRP conservation cover crops can be utilized as valuable forage, and
WHEREAS, intentionally and actively using cattle to manage grasslands under the control of state and federal programs will benefit and enhance the grassland ecosystem,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) support rules to allow periodic non-emergency and emergency haying and grazing as approved by a NRCS Management Plan. All NRCS resource concerns shall be addressed by provisions on the Management Plan, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in all instances of haying or grazing on lands enrolled in CRP, continuous sign-up CRP, or CREP, the payment should be reduced by the value of the forage removed, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, managed grazing on CRP lands should be permitted during the primary wildlife nesting and brood rearing season where allowed under an approved plan, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should a producer extend a current contract for CRP and then decide to remove that land from the extended CRP contract, then any applicable penalty should be based upon the time from date of extension to date of withdrawal.

4. BEEF SAFETY

AFP 4.1
2026/Renewed
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.

AFP 4.2
2023/Renewed
Interstate Shipment of Beef

WHEREAS, Ohio's state meat inspection program meets or exceeds the USDA federal inspection program requirement; and
WHEREAS, federally inspected meat plants are eligible for interstate shipment; and
WHEREAS, there is a federal program in place that allows interstate shipment of beef:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the interstate shipment of beef as an important and viable marketing opportunity.

AFP 4.3
2023/Renewed
Irradiation

WHEREAS, irradiation technology has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in beef processing, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued guidelines that allow for the implementation of irradiation technology at the packer and processor level, and
WHEREAS, irradiation is another important tool that in combination with other intervention strategies, such as safe food handling techniques, will help our industry reach its goal of providing a safe product to the consumer, and
WHEREAS, USDA has developed regulations to allow the use of this technology for the beef industry, and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the use of irradiation and other available interventions to enhance beef safety,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports NCBA's efforts to work closely with the Beef Industry Food Safety Council and others to facilitate and encourage the implementation of irradiation technology where appropriate in the industry.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages government agencies to establish internationally recognized terminology that more accurately reflects new technology, such as electronic pasteurization or ionizing pasteurization.

5. NUTRITION & HEALTH

AFP 5.1
2022/Renewed
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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA strongly supports the evaluation of primary and secondary curriculums with the intent of including food and fiber production education.

AFP 5.2
2024/Renewed
Dietary Recommendation Issues

WHEREAS, government-funded agencies and health organizations continue to issue dietary guidelines to promote health and are influencing food choices, 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 based on sound science on the nutrient composition of the various beef cuts, information which includes data on the actual content of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and other 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 and other modified diets;
3. Encourage government agencies and health organizations to recognize and point out, in their information programs, the role of beef in sound nutrition education programs;
4. Work with other organizations to continue to effectively inform 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 beef's actual nutrient density and its important role in providing essential nutrients in diets
5. Encourage continued research on beef's role in nutrition, diet and health, and
6. Support legislation requiring government agencies to submit proposed diet guidance to the USDA for review and approval prior to its release.

AFP 5.3
2026/New
Nutrition & Health Statement of Principles

BE IT RESOLVED, OCA adopt the following statement of principles for nutrition and health issues:

Introduction: As producers, processors, and marketers of the nation's beef supply, we are committed to providing a wholesome, nutritious food, and to communicating accurate information about beef's nutritional qualities and the role of beef in a healthful diet. We pledge to use the following principles to guide our actions and communications about beef in regard to nutrition and health.

Principles:

1. We will provide factual, scientifically supported information about beef to help consumers make informed choices about what they eat.
2. We support the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recognizing that there are a variety of ways to achieve a healthy diet, and further, we believe that the overwhelming scientific evidence shows that dietary balance, variety, and moderation coupled with appropriate physical activity provides the foundation for a healthful life.

3. We are committed to conducting and participating in programs to actively disseminate accurate information about the nutritional advantages of beef in a healthful and balanced diet and lifestyle.
4. We recognize the important role of health professionals and nutrition educators in providing nutrition information and are committed to working with them and their professional organizations to communicate accurate information about nutrition and health.
5. We believe that dietary balance, variety, moderation, and physical activity are the keys to health, and we also encourage individuals with specific health concerns that require dietary modification to consult a physician followed by nutrition counseling from a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.
6. We support research on the nutritional qualities of beef and will accurately communicate research findings to help consumers make informed decisions about their diet.
7. We recognize that consumers want foods that are good tasting and convenient as well as nutritious and will support research to provide beef products that meet these consumer demands.

AFP 5.4
2023/Amended
Protecting Livestock and Dairy Nomenclature

WHEREAS, significant investments have been made to support the research, development and commercialization of laboratory grown meat alternatives, and
WHEREAS, the marketing of these products is in the early stages, and
WHEREAS, the dairy industry is facing issues with products utilizing dairy nomenclature that does not derive from dairy production; and
WHEREAS, the livestock industry expects to face the same issues with laboratory grown meats utilizing nomenclature associated with food derived from actual livestock production; and
WHEREAS, the cross-use of nomenclature can be confusing to consumers and weaken the value of products derived from actual livestock or dairy production; and
WHEREAS, the American Meat Science Association defines meat as skeletal muscle and its associated tissues derived from mammalian, avian, reptilian, amphibian, and aquatic species commonly harvested for human consumption and edible offal consisting of organs and non-skeletal muscle tissues; and
WHEREAS, animal-based stem cell derived in vitro meats are overseen by the interagency regulatory framework between FDA's Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and are not naturally derived from an animal;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes allowing food products not derived from actual livestock or dairy production to use nomenclature associated with actual livestock or dairy production.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports legislative, regulatory, or judicial action to protect nomenclature associated with actual livestock or dairy production.

AFP 5.5
2026/New
Imitation and Substitute Products

BE IT RESOLVED, in the interest of not misleading consumers, OCA takes the position that manufacturers and distributors of non-beef products or other products designed to imitate or substitute for beef and beef products should be prohibited in product promotion, advertising, or labeling from using pictures or pictorial facsimiles of beef and beef products, and from using names of natural beef and beef products or terms directly associated by the consumer with the natural products.

6. DISASTER RELIEF

AFP 6.1
2025/New
Funding for Drought Preparedness

WHEREAS, livestock producers suffer tremendous losses due to droughts, and
WHEREAS, ruminant animals are dependent on adequate forage and water supplies, and
WHEREAS, federal assistance programs are structured to offset a portion of the losses incurred by livestock producers after a drought is over, and
WHEREAS, when droughts are so severe that on-farm water supplies become unavailable and the expense to haul water for livestock both real and in time cannot be fairly compensated by any federal assistance program.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA takes the necessary steps to assure that ongoing federal cost-share programs in Ohio prioritize funding for water development efforts, such as ponds and springs, to make livestock producers and their farms more resilient during a drought.

AFP 6.2
2025/New
Disaster Payments

WHEREAS, USDA disaster assistance programs, such as the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, provide compensation to eligible producers to aid in recovery from natural disasters, and
WHEREAS, the compensation is based on a variety of factors, including carrying capacity of the land, and
WHEREAS, carrying capacities may vary significantly within a county based on many factors, including the utilization of best management practices, and
WHEREAS, the federal and state governments have programs to improve agricultural practices for crops and livestock, and
WHEREAS, FSA functions as the administering agency and determines carrying capacity at the county level for disaster assistance payments, and
WHEREAS, a farm may have an increased carrying capacity approved by NRCS as a result of improvements made through the use of best management practices.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports disaster assistance payments that accurately reflect losses based on the carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land for the producers implementing documented best management practices which increase carrying capacity instead of the average carrying capacity within a county.

CATTLE HEALTH AND WELL BEING

1. GENERAL

CH 1.1
2025/Amended
Large Animal Veterinarians

WHEREAS, Ohio is experiencing the same acute shortage that is occurring across the country of rural and food supply veterinarians (food animal veterinarians, veterinary laboratory diagnosticians, veterinarians trained in agricultural biosecurity, regulatory veterinarians, and food supply research veterinarians), and
WHEREAS, this shortage is felt on cattle farms across the state causing increased costs in herd health, disease diagnostics and overall production costs, and
WHEREAS, this shortage reduces our first line of defense against bio-terrorism, disease identification, prevention, and control, and
WHEREAS, this shortage could affect food safety for our consumers,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA advocate for changes in enrollment and acceptance policies at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and additions in ruminant faculty and staff within the College of Veterinary Medicine that enhance opportunities for rural Ohio students seeking large animal veterinarian degrees and advocate for changes in pre-veterinarian student programs that preserve the integrity and level of rigor for traditional undergraduate animal science programs.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA works to address ways to mitigate the immense amount of educational debt that large animal veterinarian students incur upon graduation.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA works with NCBA to support the Veterinary Services Grant Program and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program.

CH 1.2
2022/Renewed
Non-ambulatory Cattle not to be used in the Commercial Food Supply

WHEREAS, cattle do at times become nonambulatory; and
WHEREAS, cattle producers are committed to ensuring that all cattle are treated humanely; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA supports policies to prohibit the transport and harvest of non-ambulatory cattle for the commercial food supply.

CH 1.3
2026/Renewed
Animal Disease Traceability

WHEREAS, it is important for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association to take leadership on animal identification issues; and
WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability; and

WHEREAS, the goal should be to enable the cattle industry and state, and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies; and
WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern; and
WHEREAS, U.S. beef exports to certain countries have suffered due to the absence of an animal disease traceability program:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OCA be involved in discussions
on any animal disease traceability program(s) requiring animal identification, and maintains that any such regulations, imposed at the state and/or federal level, adhere to the following criteria:
1. Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized allowing low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible.
2. Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state animal health officials and kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.
3. The system must operate at the speed of commerce.
4. The priority animal for participation in the framework is the individual identification of adult cattle. Cattle herd movement between adjoining states on pasture-to-pasture permits should be allowed to continue at the discretion of the state animal health officials involved.
5. Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.
6. The purpose of the animal disease traceability system should be solely animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication. The only data required to be collected should be that necessary to accomplish this goal.
7. Support the flexibility of using currently established and evolving official identification methods for cattle moving across state lines only, with encouragement to producers that any official identification be applied at the herd of origin if destined for interstate movement.

CH 1.4
2022/Renewed
The Role of Individual Animal Identification to Enhance Genetic Improvement and Source Verification Programs

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, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) supports voluntary adoption of individual animal identification programs to support genetic improvement and source verification and the standardization of data collection with maintenance and distribution to producers maintained by private enterprise.

2. ANIMAL CARE

CH 2.1
2022/ Renewed
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 incentives to facilitate the surveillance of non-ambulatory animals for BSE and other important diseases; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA will also work with these partners to ensure the financially and environmentally sound disposal of such animals.

CH 2.2
2026/Renewed
Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board

WHEREAS, the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board (OLCSB) was established by Ohio voters in 2009 for the purpose of establishing livestock care standards for the livestock industry; and
WHEREAS, the OLCSB includes a broad base of stakeholders:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association will engage with the board and in the rule-making process and work to assure that sound science and good animal husbandry practices are used as guidelines for all rules and will object at any point when science is not followed in the rule-making.

CH 2.3
2022/Renewed
Tail Docking for Beef

WHEREAS, tail docking is a common procedure for the welfare and well-being of beef animals.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the right of producers to dock the tails of animals raised for beef production.

3. DISEASES

CH 3.1
2025/Renewed
Brucellosis Vaccination

WHEREAS, neighboring states require calfhood 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.

CH 3.2
2023/Renewed
Trichomoniasis Control

WHEREAS, trichomoniasis is an economically devastating disease in beef herds, and
WHEREAS, there is currently no treatment for infected bulls, and there are currently no drugs or vaccines that will effectively prevent infection of bulls or beef herds, and
WHEREAS, there are non-pathogenic trichomonads that can be isolated from bulls, particularly virgin bulls, thus, it is important to differentiate the pathogenic trichomonads from the non-pathogenic trichomonads,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) should support research aimed at prevention and treatment of trichomoniasis in cattle, especially the differentiation of non-pathogenic from pathogenic trichomonads,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USDA should make certain that veterinary diagnostic laboratories, veterinarians, and state trichomoniasis control programs are aware of all scientific information on differentiating non-pathogenic trichomonads from pathogenic trichomonads, particularly the use of any rapid diagnostic tests.

CH 3.3
2024/Renewed
Testing for Trichomoniasis

WHEREAS, Trichomoniasis is a devastating reproductive health disease in beef cattle, and
WHEREAS, the control, sampling, laboratory testing, and state import requirements of Trichomoniasis lack uniformity and consistency,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association recognizes the role that pooled Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing plays in the control of Trichomoniasis, especially in the testing of Trichomoniasis free herds for trade purposes, and work to further the education and research of pooled PCR testing in the beef industry.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the State of Ohio's testing requirements for Trichomoniasis.

CH 3.4
2024/Renewed
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control

WHEREAS, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks would devastate the beef cattle industry in the United States, the largest agriculture segment, and
WHEREAS, the control and prevention of FMD will require a multi-faceted approach,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association requests that the USDA place a high priority on the development of improved and validated FMD vaccines, including funding for production of the vaccines.

4. DRUGS AND BIOLOGICS

CH 4.1

2026/Renewed
Regulation and Use of Biologicals

WHEREAS, USDA regulates the manufacturing of animal biologicals,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) shall work to maintain regulatory authority of animal biologicals within USDA; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA urge USDA to negotiate agreements of understanding with states to continue state regulation of intrastate 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
2022/Renewed
Animal Medications~~,~~ Biologic & Feed Additives

Part I
WHEREAS, the use of pharmaceuticals may be medically necessary and is approved for adequate and economical agricultural production; and
WHEREAS, feed additives, growth promotants, medications, parasiticides and pesticides 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 supports for a clear, logical and scientifically sound procedure for clearance of new products; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA shall 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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA insists 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 Congress for proper food safety legislation that 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 urges all livestock producers to closely follow 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 for 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 produced; 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 mixers-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 mixers-feeders which is separate and apart from the regulatory system governing commercial feed manufacturers.
3. Pursues 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 mixers-feeders of all animal species in a united effort to aggressively pursue a simplified FDA regulatory system for mixers-feeders which treats all mixers-feeders equally and is separate and apart from the regulatory system governing commercial feed manufacturers.

5. FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

CH 5.1
2023/Renewed
Scrapie

WHEREAS, scrapie is a serious health problem in the sheep industry; and
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
2023/Renewed
Diseases-Emergency Management Planning

WHEREAS, the livestock and meat industry and the consuming public live under the continuous threat of catastrophic disease outbreak; 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;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association works with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to urge:

1. USDA-APHIS to aggressively monitor foreign animal disease risk globally, focused by USDA and Department of Homeland Security, to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into the US.
2. Development of rapid diagnostic tools coupled with adequate capacity for confirmation of contagious organisms and isolation of suspect foreign animal disease such as FMD.
3. Coordination of the development of comprehensive federal, state, and local emergency response plans including the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state counterparts.

CH 5.3
2026/Renewed
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) 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, 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, 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 science-based actions on the part of USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards in controlling the importation of beef, beef products, animal feeds and feed ingredients; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports FDA fully enforcing the existing feed restrictions designed to prevent the potential amplification and spread of BSE; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA recommends all feed suppliers be in compliance with FDA specified risk materials (SRMs) feed restrictions designed to prevent BSE; and
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.

6. JOHNE'S DISEASE

CH 6.1
2023/Renewed
Johne's Disease Support After Termination of USDA-APHIS Johne's Disease Program

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS) terminated their Johne's disease program on October 1, 2012, and
WHEREAS, Johne's disease continues to result in clinical disease in cattle, and subsequent economic losses for the cattle industry, and
WHEREAS, Johne's disease may now be best addressed as a herd security issue at the producer level,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association encourages herd security measures to control Johne's disease and to continue efforts to certify laboratories to conduct serology and fecal culture analysis tests for Johne's disease in cattle.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. GENERAL

IT 1.1
2022/Renewed
Free Trade Agreements

WHEREAS, Free Trade agreements between the United States and our trading countries are crucial to increased economic development and strengthening our beef industry; and
WHEREAS, almost all experts agree that free and fair trade is important in promoting peace among nations:
BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports free and fair trade agreements that are aggressively negotiated by any United States administration when such agreements are both fair and reciprocal for both trading partners.

IT 1.2
2026/Renewed
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 beef and beef products.

IT 1.3
2023/Renewed
Trade and Retaliatory Measures

WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.) trade deficit continues to grow, and
WHEREAS, other countries have closed their borders to U.S. beef products due to either unscientific food safety concerns or incorrect paperwork, and
WHEREAS, a single U.S. shipment bound for export that fails to meet agreed upon requirements should not be grounds for excluding U.S. beef and beef products,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association will work with NCBA to lobby the U.S. Congress and Administration to pursue swift and appropriate trade retaliatory measures against countries that implement such trade practices.

IT 1.4
2022/Renewed
Trade Promotion Authority

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

IT 1.5
2024/Renewed
Country-of-Origin Labeling

WHEREAS, there are serious concerns about mandatory Country of Origin labeling, and
WHEREAS, there are 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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association does not support mandatory labeling but is in support of Country of Origin labeling that is voluntary and industry driven.

IT 1.6
2026/Renewed
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) for trade sanctions, to reestablish trade that is based on sound science and the OIE guidelines of beef and beef products with all countries.

2. ACCESS AND CREDIT

IT 2.1
2022/Renewed
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
2026/Amended
Ohio Brand Beef

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
2023/Renewed
Packing Plants and 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:
THEREFORE 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
2023/Renewed
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 for review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions to consider "buyer-side" impacts to agricultural producers, as well as, "seller-side" impacts to consumers.

M1.4
2023/Renewed
Packer 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; and
WHEREAS, the packers' ability to purchase or manage their supply more than 14 days prior to delivery sustains an adequate supply of consistent, quality product; and
WHEREAS, it is important to have numerous risk management tools available to beef producers; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes federal legislation which would eliminate packer ownership and/or control of livestock because the legislation would eliminate value based pricing, reduces risk management options, and/or eliminates a significant number of buyers of cattle in the United States.

M 1.5
2022/Renewed
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
2026/Renewed
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 Packers & Stockyards Act of 1921 in order to maintain a free and open cattle market.

M 1.7
2022/Renewed
Fraud and Non-Payment Issues

WHEREAS, the sale of cattle has always been in good faith; and
WHEREAS, the sale of cattle has become "seller beware"; and
WHEREAS, the banks have a lien against any cattle being sold by the seller; and
WHEREAS, when the banks have a lien against any cattle acquired by the purchaser:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that OCA encourages cattle producers require letters of credit, bank drafts, wire transfers, references, cashier's checks, etc., to ensure payment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the seller of said cattle have a first and best lien against those cattle when sold by the buyer; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA asks the Justice Department and the USDA to enforce the provisions in the Packers and Stockyards Act requiring cattle dealers to be bonded and audited.

PROPERTY RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

1. GENERAL

PR/EM 1.1
2026/Renewed
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; and
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 1.2
2022/Renewed
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 1.3
2025/Renewed
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 1.4
2023/Amended
Livestock Composting

WHEREAS, it is difficult to properly dispose of on-farm livestock mortality:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the state's requirement for producers to attend a livestock mortality composting program to become certified to compost livestock mortality and recommends on-farm composting of cattle as one method of disposal.

PR/EM 1.5
2026/Renewed
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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA vigorously oppose the ratcheting down of permit requirements for smaller Animal Feeding Operations. (AFOs).

PR/EM 1.6
2023/Renewed
Ohio's Livestock Industry

WHEREAS, a healthy and growing livestock industry contributes greatly to the benefit of Ohio's economy and food production; and
WHEREAS, new and expanding livestock operations should have the right to conduct business in any part of the state; and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association is a size neutral organization:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the continued growth of an environmentally responsible livestock industry within the state of Ohio; and
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 1.7
2025/Renewed
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.

PR/EM 1.8
2024/Renewed
Oil & Gas Taxation

WHEREAS, from time to time there are discussions about increasing the severance tax on oil and gas development in Ohio, and in some scenarios with the intent to redistribute this wealth to the general population of the state of Ohio through a reduction of personal income tax; and
WHEREAS, an increase in severance tax on oil and gas developers is a corporate tax and, therefore, a pass-through tax resulting in a reduction of revenue to landowners and mineral rights owners through reductions in lease payments and royalty payments:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes an increase in the severance tax solely to fund an income tax reduction. If there is an increase in the severance tax, revenue generated should be organized along the following priorities:
1. Support for ODNR Oil and Gas regulatory and enforcement programs
2. Support for enhancement in the Ohio Orphan Well Program

3. Support for programs addressing local infrastructure, economic, community and agricultural development
4. Support for reduction of income tax

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any proposal that provides tax credits in relation to severance tax payments, should proportionally benefit producers and landowners with royalty interests.

PR/EM 1.9
2023/Renewed
Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing

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; and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association promotes the prudent use of natural resources and offers a list of Resource Stewardship recommendations; and
WHEREAS, the right of an individual to own property is protected by the federal constitution and various state constitutions:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the land owner's right for drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of all natural resources, while carefully caring for the environment including protecting water and soil; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any abridgement of these rights shall be opposed by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

PR/EM 1.10
2023/Renewed
Guidelines for Addressing Ohio's Water Quality Challenges

WHEREAS, Ohio is experiencing water quality challenges caused by harmful algal blooms (HABs), known to be caused in part by excess Phosphorus, and
WHEREAS, in recent years weather conditions have contributed to significant HABs in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) that have negatively impacted the fishing and tourism industries, and
WHEREAS, significant HABs are known to regularly occur in watersheds throughout the state where agricultural practices are not a significant contributing factor, and
WHEREAS, there are many other non-agriculture related contributors to the pollution issue, and
WHEREAS, Ohio agriculture is investing significant resources in research and farmer education to better understand agriculture's role and the nutrient management aspects of issue;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association adhere to the following guidelines in their efforts to protect water quality and food production in the state:

1. Encourage farmer education and certification programs to help implement scientifically based on-farm Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nutrient management.
2. Promote the value of manure as fertilizer.
3. Explore financial support for on-farm storage structures for manure
4. Support increased penalties for repeat violations of significant regulations (not including paperwork and administrative violations.)
5. Oppose new regulations that single out livestock producers and do not apply to all of agriculture.

PR/EM 1.11
2023/New
Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, renewable technologies are being added to utility infrastructure along with the use of coal, nuclear, natural gas, and petroleum, and
WHEREAS, landowners throughout Ohio are being contacted to sign leases and agreements for energy development, utility infrastructure and wind and solar projects, and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association recognizes the rights of landowners to enter into effective partnerships and agreements with developers to responsibly use land and resources to develop energy, transportation, generation and distribution projects; and
WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association believes the development of these types of energy sources needs to be done in a free market driven way that has the least impact on the environment, current land uses, and includes land restoration practices at the end of a lease; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports competitive free market driven renewable technologies designed, developed and operated under scientifically-based standards.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the property rights of landowners in all renewable energy projects.

PR/EM 1.12
2023/New
Climate Change Initiatives

WHEREAS, cattle are a part of the solution for climate change; and
WHEREAS, scientific evidence demonstrates that cattle are involved in a positive, biodiverse ecosystem, and a sustainable environment with a small carbon footprint; and
WHEREAS, there is a continual push from stakeholders, consumers, and special interest groups to demonstrate continual environmental improvement; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports scientifically-based technologies to improve water quality and cattle up cycling of byproducts from other industries to reduce carbon emissions.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

PR/EM 2.1
2022/Renewed
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
2026/Renewed
Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Other Programs

WHEREAS, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) within the Farm Bill is 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 maintains the ability to restrict the amount of Commodity Credit 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 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, 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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA maintains a position on the State Technical Committee; and
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; and
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.

PR/EM 2.3
2025/Renewed
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRCS fund EQIP projects at an equitable level throughout the entire state.

PR/EM 2.4
2022/Renewed

Noise and Air Quality

WHEREAS, air quality, noise, dust, and odor are becoming an issue:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, any move on that part of the state or federal government to regulate odors, noise, gaseous emissions and dust from livestock facilities must be based on sound science and the best available technology; and
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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association opposes any new regulations that pertains to agricultural odors, noise, or air that will unreasonably hinder the production, preparation, and harvesting of crops and the production of livestock; and
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
2026/Renewed
Livestock Manure

WHEREAS, livestock manure, has many beneficial uses, such as being a natural, organic nutrient which improves soil fertility and condition, and as an alternative energy source, and, when applied to lands at appropriate agronomic rates, will not degrade surface or ground water supplies, and
WHEREAS, classification of livestock manure as a hazardous substance or pollutant would cause significant harm to all segments of the beef industry:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) oppose any and all efforts to regulate natural, organic nutrients as a toxic or hazardous waste.

3. PROPERTY RIGHTS

PR/EM 3.1
2024/Renewed
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
2022/Renewed
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
2026/Renewed
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 (OCA) believes the federal railbanking laws constitute a taking of private property without compensation; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports federal legislation strengthening reversionary property rights for landowners adjacent to abandoned railroad corridors; and
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports litigation on behalf of owners of land along railroad rights-of-way that have been converted to trails for public use.

PR/EM 3.4
2022/Renewed
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
2026/Renewed
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, policy for setting priorities is critical to minimize fiscal pressures at all levels of government created by these acquisitions:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCA supports 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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of Congress be approached with the request that legislation to this effect be introduced in Congress.

PR/EM 3.6
2022/Renewed
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; and
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; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA vigorously opposes the use of eminent domain for private use.

PR/EM 3.7
2024/Renewed
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
2025/Renewed
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil & Water Resources re-establish producer education programs that focus on eliminating problem coyotes and provide information regarding methods of control.

PR/EM 4.2
2025/Renewed
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 appropriate agencies the authority to issue Black Vulture nuisance permits.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association also seek federal funding to establish control measures within Ohio similar to what has been done in other states that have excessive black vulture populations.

TAX AND CREDIT

1. GENERAL

T 1.1
2026/Renewed
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:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) understand the need to adjust the rate factor periodically to reflect current production and income values in order to preserve CAUV; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that OCA support shifting real estate taxes to other alternative taxes to compensate for the reduction in educational revenue.

2. ESTATE TAXES

T 2.1
2023/Renewed
Death Tax

WHEREAS, federal estate and gift taxes continue to be a major burden on family farms, ranches, and small businesses; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association:

- Supports, first and foremost, full and permanent repeal of the Death Tax,
- Opposes any proposal to increase the income or estate tax liability of farmers, ranchers, and small businesses,
- 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
2023/Renewed
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.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. GENERAL

MISC 1.1
2022/Renewed
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:

- We believe in the humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.
- We believe cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.
- We believe that our own and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.
- We will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.
- We believe it is our responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.
- We 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.

MISC 1.2
2026/Renewed
National Long Range Plan

WHEREAS, the beef industry has experienced an increase in demand; and
WHEREAS, the beef industry is becoming more consumer driven:
BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is supportive of a national long range plan that helps set direction for the beef industry in the United States.

MISC 1.3
2022/Renewed
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 from producers to cover the costs of such programs when the general public is the primary beneficiary.

MISC 1.4
2026/New
The Ohio Expo Center and The Ohio State Fair

WHEREAS, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association supports the Ohio Expo Center grounds as a facility to host the Ohio State Fair, Ohio Beef Expo, and many other agriculture related events; and
WHEREAS, OCA supports the promotion of beef at the Ohio State Fair; and
WHEREAS, the OCA supports a pathway for youth and Ohio consumers to be connected to beef, cattle and agriculture practices that is centrally located:
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association strongly supports keeping the Ohio Expo Center at its current location without decreasing its current size; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, OCA supports Ohio's state budget to continue adequate funding for the Ohio Expo Center to operate at full capacity and support future growth and expansion.

MISC 1.5
2023/New
OCA Sponsorship Opportunities

WHEREAS, partnerships and external sponsorships statewide allow the Ohio Cattlemen's Association to better support its members; and
WHEREAS, sponsorship of fundraising events, designed specifically for the purpose of raising funds to benefit the beef industry are beneficial for the Ohio beef industry and its members; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, sponsorship of an Ohio Cattlemen's Association program or event does not imply OCA's endorsement or policy support of the sponsor's product or service;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse a potential sponsorship if it is determined the sponsor does not align with OCA policy positions or is deemed to be not in the best interest of Ohio's beef industry.

2. MEMBERSHP

MISC 2.1
2022/Renewed
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; and
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.

MISC 2.2
2026/Renewed
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.

MISC 2.3
2025/Renewed
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.

3. PRODUCER EDUCATION

MISC 3.1
2022/Renewed
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:
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.

MISC 3.2
2026/Renewed
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.

MISC 3.3
2022/Renewed
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.