

# MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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As Adopted by the Membership  
-January 2024-

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## **1. AG POLICY**

### **AGP 1.1**

#### **2024/Amended                      MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING**

WHEREAS, Missouri Livestock and Poultry Production accounts for a significant portion of the state's agriculture cash receipts, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattle Industry is the leading livestock segment and has national importance as a supplier of breeding stock.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports increased general revenue funding to the Missouri Department of Agriculture for the surveillance and control of livestock diseases.

### **AGP 1.2**

#### **2020/Renewed                      STRICT LIABILITY**

WHEREAS, strict liability is the imposition of liability on a party without a finding of fault (such as negligence or tortious intent), and

WHEREAS, a livestock owner is automatically guilty with no proof needed and therefore liable for property damages no matter how the cattle escaped their confines.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation or measures to eliminate the strict liability law from pertaining to livestock escaping their confines, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports measures where fault must be determined prior to guilt.

### **AGP 1.3**

#### **2020/Amended                      MARKETING OF LIVESTOCK**

WHEREAS, Missouri is primarily a cow/calf and backgrounding state, captive supplies of fed cattle have a negative impact on the prices received from feeder cattle produced in Missouri, and

WHEREAS, numerous factors and influences are responsible for the adverse market conditions facing producers, and

WHEREAS, the private treaty sales of fed cattle is currently only voluntarily reported, a mandatory reporting system should be implemented to provide for fair and equitable marketing of Missouri feeder cattle, and

WHEREAS, the impact of capturing the fed cattle market through private treaty sales, in effect, reducing the value of Missouri feeder cattle, and

WHEREAS, private treaty sales of fed cattle captures as much as 80% of the total fed cattle offered for sale during certain months of the year, the supply and demand system of economics is circumvented, reducing the need for fed cattle by contracting packers; and thus the price received for cattle offered for sale that have not been previously contracted, and

WHEREAS, producers are entitled to seek all appropriate actions to assure markets are truly competitive and that producers are receiving fair and equitable treatment in the sale of their cattle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA will seek the following changes, and implement the following actions to address problems with beef pricing in our industry:

1. MCA supports an 11:00 a.m. daily Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting (LMPR) report providing the average carcass weight of cattle harvested the previous day;
2. MCA work with its membership as well as NCBA to direct packers in all major cattle feeding regions to purchase more of their cattle through negotiated cash trade, including the bid the grid concept where buyers and sellers negotiate the base price;
3. MCA supports amending the confidentiality guidelines for LMPR. MCA supports increased transparency in formula transactions and changing LMPR to publicly report the details of the transactions including the net price, base price, and any premium and discounts.

### **AGP 1.4**

#### **2020/Renewed                      MARKETING**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes that the nation and the beef industry are best served by the capitalistic competitive free market system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to maximize market opportunities and provide unrestricted access to markets for beef producers.

AGP 1.5

**2024/Renewed                      FEEDING OF POULTRY LITTER**

WHEREAS, poultry litter is a by-product occasionally fed to beef cattle, and  
WHEREAS, the scientific community assures that feeding this by-product is safe, research indicates such practice is perceived negatively by consumers.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA discourages the use of poultry litter in beef cattle rations.

AGP 1.6

**2020/Renewed                      PESTICIDE RECORDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that agricultural pesticides users be provided immunity from legal action when chemicals are applied or disposed of in accordance with label instructions in effect at the time of their use.

AGP 1.7

**2023/Renewed                      NOXIOUS WEEDS**

WHEREAS, noxious weeds continue to be a problem on public lands, including right of ways, public parks and recreation areas and Conservation Department lands, and  
WHEREAS, sericea lespedeza is extremely invasive in pastures and hayfields.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes sericea lespedeza should be added to the noxious weed list, and  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that government agencies expand the present Multi-Flora Rose Eradication program to include all noxious weeds and woody plants and provide herbicides to landowners who agree to apply it, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that existing laws regarding noxious weeds be recognized by these public entities and that Federal, State, County and Local governments accept the same responsibilities as private landowners in controlling noxious weeds, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that action be taken to require the Missouri Department of Conservation to provide the herbicide to eradicate noxious weeds and woody plants, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that government agencies be required to comply with the eradication of weeds that have been designated as noxious, on property owned or controlled by government agencies.

AGP 1.8

**2023/Renewed                      CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, CRP was intended for soil conservation and in times of emergency this acreage is a source of additional forage reserves.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA feels that all CRP acreage should be maintained on a yearly basis by mowing, burning or spraying sprouts and other weeds. Also, the release of this acreage for haying or grazing should be in a judicious and timely manner determined by local offices for the best quality of forage, and  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That during times of emergency the base payment should be adjusted to the severity of the emergency and allow for total utilization of the reserve acreage for haying or grazing.

AGP 1.9

**2020/Renewed                      BIOTECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, safe and approved biotechnology has the potential to greatly increase the efficiency and profitability of the agriculture sector, and  
WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is a leader in the use and development of biotechnology, and  
WHEREAS, MCA believes that some countries have used biotechnology as an artificial trade barrier and have ignored the supporting science.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the efforts at every level to improve the utilization of biotechnology that is proven to be safe and in the best interest of agriculture and the beef industry and consumers, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes efforts to use technology and biotechnology as an artificial trade barrier to prevent US beef producers from exporting their products into the marketplace.

AGP 1.10

**2024/Amended                      LOCAL COUNTY RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, a number of counties have regulated livestock production through implementation of county health ordinances.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes all local regulations that restrict livestock production in excess of current Class 1A DNR regulations, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes odor regulations being implemented, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all regulations should be based on objective scientific measurements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA aggressively pursue legislation to prohibit counties from promulgating rules, regulations or ordinances on agriculture more stringent than state laws that are based on science.

AGP 1.11

**2024/Renewed FORMULATING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, government agencies have shown a tendency to create new programs with little regard to the effect on the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, those programs are likely to be opposed and defeated by the parties affected at considerable cost to taxpayers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes a cooperative effort between agency officials and industry leaders and local citizenry in drafting new programs be pursued, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages these to conduct an economic impact study so private property rights are not ignored so as not to infringe upon private property rights.

AGP 1.12

**2024/Renewed EMINENT DOMAIN**

WHEREAS, the use of Eminent Domain to condemn and acquire private property has been greatly expanded in recent years, allowing these properties to be resold for private development and recreational facilities, and

WHEREAS, landowners have very limited options at their disposal when opposing Eminent Domain authorities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges legislative action to accomplish the following:

1. Afford greater protection of landowner's private property rights.
2. Forbid the resale of land acquired through Eminent Domain for private development and recreational facilities.
3. Ensure that equitable compensation is granted to all affected landowners.
4. Allow landowners a minimum of 5 years from the time of the original Eminent Domain settlement to renegotiate claims for unforeseen damages.
5. Ensure the complaint process through the Public Service Commission functions fairly and adequately.
6. Expand the five-person Public Service Commission to include farming, ranching and agricultural interests similar to the Clean Water and Clean Air Commissions.

AGP 1.13

**2021/Renewed GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASES**

WHEREAS, private land ownership and private property rights is of utmost importance to the association, and

WHEREAS, land purchases by the state government often lacks transparency and accountability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA favors a constitutional amendment requiring any additional land purchases by the state be approved by elected members of Missouri's General Assembly, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports an indefinite moratorium on the "purchase on demand" of land, and a moratorium on the governing of private land within the state of Missouri for use as parks, monuments, rails for trail or preserves, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the use of prairie preserves by the production agriculture sector for the grazing of cattle, resulting in a more ecologically sound management practice than the hay and burn practices now used.

AGP 1.14

**2020/Renewed ABANDONED RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTY**

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

WHEREAS, some easements were originally granted for a single purpose and other proposed uses will create problems for the adjoining landowners, and

WHEREAS, there is a basic concern regarding private property rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the taking of privately owned land without due process as guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that the process of eminent domain be used only on a limited basis.

AGP 1.15

**2024/Amended PROPERTY BOUNDARY DISPUTES**

WHEREAS, most of Missouri was surveyed many years ago using less accurate methods compared to today's standards, and

WHEREAS, the need for precise and well-defined property boundaries is increasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the revision and/or clarification of adverse possession real estate law.

AGP 1.16

**2023/Renewed TRESPASS LAW**

WHEREAS, there is a growing risk of lawsuit to landowners and a growing disregard for private property rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA will initiate and support improvements in Missouri's Trespass Law which will provide for the protection of landowners.

AGP 1.17

**2020/Renewed                      FEDERAL LAND GRAZING FEES**

WHEREAS, some federal lands in Missouri have active grazing permits in place, and  
WHEREAS, grazing fees are often established with little or no input from the local areas.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes these fees should be created involving local input to determine an accurate fair rate for grazing cattle.

AGP 1.18

**2023/Renewed                      FARM BILL**

WHEREAS, government programs have a definite impact on agriculture, including the cattle industry, which is not currently included in the present farm program, and  
WHEREAS, MCA members would benefit most from government assistance in the development of new markets, and  
WHEREAS, the beef cattle industry is the largest segment of agriculture in the United States,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports research, conservation partnerships, export market development, disaster assistance, and other programs consistent with existing policies, as long as private property rights are preserved and protected, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support policies which will place agriculture in a more market oriented system, allowing the market place, rather than the government, to determine a producer's production decisions, thereby allowing the laws of supply and demand to determine commodity prices, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA believes cattle producers should be given their individual choice to participate in the grass reserve program.

AGP 1.19

**2023/Renewed                      USDA AG CENSUS**

WHEREAS, accurate and timely reporting of livestock inventory is extremely important to create useful information when planning for production decisions, and  
WHEREAS, the AG census information is held within USDA.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports encouraging all livestock producers in Missouri to report their information accurately, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA will maintain the expectation of USDA to keep this information secure and confidential to protect the privacy of Missouri producers.

AGP 1.20

**2020/Renewed                      INFORMATION PRIVACY**

WHEREAS, MCA has always supported the census of agriculture, believing that the information would be used to promote and educate agriculture, and  
WHEREAS, there have been request for that information by the Environmental Protection Agency for the purposes of regulatory enforcement, and  
WHEREAS, the only government agencies that producers believed would have access to that information would be the National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA does not support the transfer of census or any other data accumulated by USDA and NASS, or their related agencies, to any other agency, group or organization that may not utilize that information in the best interest of producers, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports legislative changes to ensure that the information producers provide to USDA and NASS shall not be made available to any other government agencies.

AGP 1.21

**2020/Renewed                      INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

WHEREAS, international trade is vital to the future profitability of all segments of the cattle industry, and  
WHEREAS, MCA believes that supply and demand economics should be maintained, and  
WHEREAS, international trade agreements are now negotiated by the President of the United States through authority of the Congress.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes it is crucial to negotiate foreign trade agreements in a timely manner, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA urges the leadership of the United States to negotiate trade agreements that are fair and equitable to Missouri producers, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes the Executive branch of government should have the authority to negotiate foreign trade agreements on our behalf.

AGP 1.22

**2023/Renewed                      COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (COOL)**

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is a leading cow/calf state in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the stocker/feeder segment of cattle are vital to the overall cattle industry, and  
WHEREAS, the Country of Origin Label Law is projected to have an excessively high cost, disproportionately borne by cow/calf producers and feed lot operators in the United States, and  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA asks NCBA to aggressively work to repeal and/or prevent the mandatory labeling language for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

AGP 1.23

**2020/Renewed LICENSING OF FARM EQUIPMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any legislative or regulatory efforts to require licensing or titling of motorized farm equipment.

AGP 1.24

**2021/Renewed INCREASED WEIGHT LIMITS FOR LIVESTOCK HAULING**

WHEREAS, hauling livestock requires different needs and challenges to ensure safe and timely delivery of live cargo.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports raising the weight limits for livestock haulers, in order to ensure consistent load regulations with neighboring states, so long as livestock and public safety is ensured.

AGP 1.25

**2023/Renewed OVER WIDE LOADS**

WHEREAS, the modern changes in hay baling and hauling have created drastic changes from older methods.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that legislation should continue to allow truck and trailers to haul over width loads such as big bales from fields to storage areas on public highways, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to standardize truck lengths and weights for vehicles used on federal, state, county public roads, that are constructed with federal funds, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages authorities to allow certain exemptions on Dept. of Transportation regulations concerning driving time for livestock transportation drivers.

AGP 1.26

**2024/Renewed OSHA**

WHEREAS, the OSHA Reform Act of 1992 will cause undue burdens on the agricultural community.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the continuation of agriculture exemption within this act.

AGP 1.27

**2023/Renewed MISSOURI RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Missouri River and its natural watershed area, provides transportation capabilities for the movement of agricultural products and supplies while providing a source of water for industry, municipalities, agriculture and recreation.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes actions on the part of any government agency to sell and/or divert water from the Missouri River or its natural watershed area.

AGP 1.28

**2021/Renewed MISSOURI RIVER GUIDANCE MANUAL**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to propose regulations to alter the normal flow of the river to increase flow during Missouri's wet spring months and reduce flow during summer and fall to create a better habitat for fish, wildlife and endangered species, and  
WHEREAS, agriculture and commercial interest heavily depend on Missouri River transportation systems.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports other Ag interests in opposing any plan that would create a negative impact on Missouri agriculture.

AGP 1.29

**2020/Renewed PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the need for abundant water to produce cattle in the state of Missouri is a necessity, and  
WHEREAS, any governmental intervention or restriction in the usage of water for a livestock operation could have a negative economic impact.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA support a statewide exclusion of governmental ordinance requiring mandatory use of public water supplies when used for livestock and homestead purposes.

AGP 1.30

**2024/Amended AIR AND WATER QUALITY**

WHEREAS, there is an ever increasing and serious concern regarding air and water quality, and  
WHEREAS, the impact of air and water quality issues, policy decisions and protection strategies upon agriculture will be significant, and



WHEREAS, MCA is concerned about air quality and ground water quality and the need to ensure clean air and a safe and adequate water supply.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges that until adequate research is completed to that intelligent, informed decisions regarding air and water quality can be made that those making those decisions be cautious in developing rules and regulations on this issue, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA urges all agricultural producers to be extremely cautious in the handling and use of any and all potential contaminants and take other precautions necessary to further reduce potential air and ground water pollution, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes regulations further restricting the necessary production inputs used in the production of crops and livestock.

AGP 1.31

**2020/Renewed                      EFFLUENT RUNOFF LIMITATIONS**

WHEREAS, federal guidelines are unacceptable to most beef cattle operations, and

WHEREAS, implementing these guidelines may cause economic hardships that force producers out of business.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA address the issue of animal effluent guidelines, regulations and legislation as one of its highest priorities using the following guidelines:

1. Pasture based operations are exempt;
2. Impaired Watershed/Critical Watershed listings not be the sole purpose for inclusion as a CAFO;
3. Guidelines and regulations will not prevent streams or other natural water sources being used by livestock for drinking;
4. Provisions for producer control and implementation will be included in any regulations or legislation regardless of the implementing agency

AGP 1.32

**2023/Renewed                      STREAM BANK EROSION**

WHEREAS, Missouri Soil and Water Commission has had a pilot project to address stream bank erosion using cedar tree revetments, and

WHEREAS, gravel accretion and vegetation growing in the stream channel is a problem in many Missouri streams, causing serious erosion of stream banks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges the Missouri Soil and Water Commission and Missouri Department of Conservation to add to their stream and erosion guidelines allow the removal of gravel and obstructions from the existing stream channel to prevent stream bank erosion, and to allow this material to be used to repair the eroded stream banks, greatly reducing the material costs of these projects.

AGP 1.33

**2024/Amended                      STREAM BUFFER ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, Missouri is the third leading state in the nation for total beef cow numbers, and

WHEREAS, beef producers believe in the free enterprise system, protection of our private property rights and have long advocated the stewardship of all Missouri's natural resources including streams and adjacent corridors through voluntary participation through state and federal agency programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any mandatory Stream Buffer Ordinance including its regulatory approach to stream and riparian corridor protection. MCA sees this as scientifically and economically indefensible and an illegal taking through encroachment of Missouri landowners and agricultural producers.

AGP 1.34

**2020/Renewed                      STREAM CONTAMINATION CLASSIFICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the classification of streams will be determined by Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL's) of nutrients as well as contaminates, and

WHEREAS, those classifications may severely restrict the normal use of the streams and the adjacent property, and

WHEREAS, current technology allows for the identification of loading sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA will work to ensure that specific and accurate sources of loading be identified to ensure that the appropriate response be taken, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that classification of streams as "impaired or sensitive" not be designated without full use of current technology and an accurate definition, of the reason for classification, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that no stream or stream segment would be classified as impaired without an economic impact analysis on behalf of the landowner.

AGP 1.35

**2024/Renewed                      RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDORS**

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri has a considerable amount of land along rivers and streams, and

WHEREAS, some of the most productive agriculture land in Missouri is along those waterways, and

WHEREAS, the last attempt to control the streams in Missouri was strongly opposed by agricultural producers and voted down by the general public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any mandatory effort to create a Mississippi River Heritage Corridor or any other mandatory corridor management plan that includes any private lands that can be included without a landowners consent or that might infringe upon the rights of property owners. These designations create an unfair burden on adjacent landowners.

AGP 1.36

**2022/Amended PREDATORY SPECIES**

WHEREAS, evidence of predatory animal occurrences have been confirmed in Missouri.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the captive breeding of predatory species for reintroduction, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a cattle and livestock indemnity fund be set up by Missouri Department of Conservation, to compensate producers for losses due to predators and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any and all damage caused by animals, fish, and fowl, under the regulation and control of the Missouri Department of Conservation be eligible for indemnity payments amounting to and no less than the full value of the damage and destruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA requests the Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and related agencies to maintain an open and effective partnership with MCA and livestock owners in Missouri in regard to all predatory species of wildlife which may pose a threat to individual livestock.

AGP 1.37

**2020/Renewed INTRODUCTION OF WILD ELK**

WHEREAS, cattlemen are the principal owners of land in the state of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, those lands support the bulk of Missouri's wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the introduction of non-domesticated elk may pose a significant animal health risk to Missouri's livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, elk are grazing animals that upon their introduction to an area are known to cause significant damage to forage pastures, crops and hay.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the further introduction of wild elk into the state of Missouri, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA will work with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to establish animal health guidelines for elk in Missouri, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the Missouri Department of Conservation bearing all responsibility for damages caused by wild elk, or their offspring, introduced by the Department.

AGP 1.38

**2022/Amended ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

WHEREAS, the current Endangered Species Act has more potential authority to restrict or eliminate cattle production than any other federal environmental law, and

WHEREAS, hundreds of farmers and ranchers were denied their irrigation water rights by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service due to enforcement of the endangered species act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly urges our U.S. Senators and Representatives in Congress to amend or reform the Endangered Species Act and oppose additions to the endangered or threatened species list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that the Endangered Species Act should give equal or more consideration to humans and local social/economic effects before applying the act, and to include a peer review of the science and economic impact and language, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation to require an economic impact analysis and an environmental impact statement before land uses are regulated due to the presence, movement or relocation of a threatened or endangered species, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that the General Accounting Office should investigate and report how much money has been spent on threatened or endangered species recovery since the ESA implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports early identification of species that could be considered endangered in the near future and support voluntary programs to assist landowners in establishing or improving habitat for the indicated species, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that industry should work with government leaders to ensure appropriate loan deferrals and other financial tools be made available to prevent loan defaults or foreclosures as a result of loss of production due to hardships brought on by the Endangered Species Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes critical habitat protection to species if the probability of saving the species is low even with designated critical habitat.

AGP 1.39

**2023/Renewed LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PLAN**

WHEREAS there is a growing public concern about environmental contamination from accidental spills from livestock waste containment structures, and

WHEREAS there is no emergency agency equipped to respond immediately and effectively to contain the spill and minimize the potential damage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA endorses the concept and encourages individual counties to organize Livestock Producer Environmental Protection Plans.

AGP 1.40

**2021/Renewed                      NUTRIENT GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, increased confusion and misunderstanding are growing between the general public and livestock producers, and  
WHEREAS, it is imperative that a more sensible balance between a safe, unharmed environment and secure cheap food policy be accepted in the U.S.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that the Department of Natural Resources take a more ag-friendly approach to animal nutrients. Specifically stop isolating individuals and punishing them to the limit the present laws allow, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that a workable set of science-based laws and regulations be created with a common sense approach from livestock producers, agriculture engineers and public environmentalists, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages DNR to expedite the permit processes to allow approval in a timelier manner.

AGP 1.41

**2020/Renewed                      WASTE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, Missouri's cattle industry contributes a significant portion to the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, the beef industry comes under increased governmental regulations and restrictions and unnecessary economic hardships, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes in the accurate accumulation of scientific data and site-specific information regarding waste management regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the state environmental agency be responsible for the permitting process of feedyards and not a federal agency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that the permitting of feedyards in the State of Missouri should be consistent with the threshold of 1,000 animal units and not reduced.

AGP 1.42

**2023/Renewed                      TOXIC WASTE**

WHEREAS, isolated cattlemen do not have an effective voice in the future of their community, and

WHEREAS, large businesses entities accomplish great tasks with political influence and financial backing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that the cattlemen of Missouri should speak with a unified voice concerning unwanted toxic waste dumps and unnecessary toxic waste hauling routes located in their areas.

AGP 1.43

**2024/Renewed                      CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Commission is in the process of reviewing rules and regulations that may affect livestock operations in Missouri, and

WHEREAS, some regulations can be devastating to cattlemen of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, there is limited scientific evidence to base any new or additional regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that before any economic hardship is imposed on producers, definitive scientific research supporting such actions be completed.

AGP 1.44

**2023/Renewed                      FENCING WALKING AND BIKING TRAILS**

WHEREAS, publicly owned property serves as walking and biking trails through much of Missouri's rural and agricultural countryside, and

WHEREAS, some of the land along the trail is used for livestock production, and maintaining quality fences is of the utmost importance, and

WHEREAS, trespassing may be reduced by the existence of these fences.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that any financial responsibility for the building and up keep of these fences be paid for by the governing bodies in charge of the trail.

AGP 1.45

**2024/Renewed                      FENCING LAW**

WHEREAS, Missouri has two fence laws: the general fence law and the (county) local option fence law. In addition, Missouri law addresses special situations of property bordering a road, a railroad, or a body of water. Landowners need to be aware of these special situations and of which fence law is in place in counties where they own land, and

WHEREAS, the local option fence law, which is patterned after laws in Iowa and other Midwestern states, increases livestock owners' rights. The counties that have opted out of the general law are fairly strong livestock counties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the local option fence law as it increases livestock owner's rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, where constructing or maintaining a fence is required in accordance to the respective county or state law, the landowner and/or contractor has the right to trespass onto the adjacent property to complete maintenance or construction of the fence to abide by the prevailing fence law.

AGP 1.46

**2024/Amended**

**RENEWABLE FUELS**

WHEREAS, it is important the entire agriculture industry, and the producers and entities therein, realize they all must work together for a unified and successful industry, and

WHEREAS, several cattlemen are involved in the entire agriculture industry, including diversified farming operations, including row crops, and

WHEREAS, with the passage of a federal renewable fuels standard and our nation's commitment to reduce our dependence on foreign energy, we are entering a time of opportunity and transition in agriculture, and

WHEREAS, there is concern among cattlemen about the influence of renewable energy on the availability and cost of quality feedstuffs, and

WHEREAS, many of the bi-products of renewable fuel production are an excellent feedstock for the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to waive the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) anytime a natural disaster is declared by the federal government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA support the entire agriculture industry and renewable fuels to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, provide a cleaner burning fuel, and add additional feedstuffs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the research of renewable fuels to benefit consumers, our agriculture economy, and our nation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the transition to a market-based approach for the production and usage of renewable fuels, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA urges the EPA to grant an RFS waiver after a declaration of natural disaster.

AGP 1.47

**2021/Renewed**

**MISSOURI LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the State Livestock Market News Program in Missouri provides accurate and unbiased market information from Missouri markets to a vast number of livestock producers across the nation, and

WHEREAS, Missouri Market News Reporters help educate the youth of Missouri in live animal evaluation through 4-H and FFA livestock grading and judging contests, and

WHEREAS, grading services are available by USDA certified graders for programs such as the Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly supports the Missouri Market News Program, and urges the Missouri Department of Agriculture to maintain existing or increase funding for market news.

AGP 1.48

**2024/Renewed**

**FARMING RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, that agriculture provides food, energy, health benefits, and security is the foundation and stabilizing force of Missouri's economy. To protect this vital sector of Missouri's economy, the right of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices should be forever guaranteed in this state, and

WHEREAS, there are continuous efforts through lawsuits and regulations to impair the productivity of this vital economic engine for the state of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri legislature passed a proposed Right to Farm constitutional amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the Farming Rights Amendment.

AGP 1.49

**2024/Renewed**

**DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, the position of Director of Agriculture for the State of Missouri is an important position for the well-being of agriculture in the state, and

WHEREAS, an elected position could have outside influences that are negative to that well-being, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the Director of Agriculture for the State of Missouri being an appointed position, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Governor of Missouri should take input from agricultural commodity groups for that appointment.

AGP 1.50

**2024/Renewed**

**LIVESTOCK LIABILITIES**

WHEREAS, Liability is a huge concern to Missouri's livestock producers and livestock markets, and

WHEREAS, Missouri producers take utmost concern to prevent damages and injury to visitor/guest to their farms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to exempt Missouri's livestock producers and livestock markets from liability on posted farms, ranches and facilities, (in the same manner as Section 537.325 for equine), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a person who has been injured while in the act of committing a crime should not be allowed to sue for damages.

AGP 1.51

**2024/Renewed**

**CAPTIVE CERVIDS**

WHEREAS, MCA recognizes the importance of all farmers and ranchers to the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, MCA opposes the scientifically unfounded regulation of any segment of agriculture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the reclassification of all captive cervids as livestock under the regulatory authority of the Department of Agriculture.

AGP 1.52

**2020/New**

**CME LIVE CATTLE CONTRACTS**

WHEREAS, fed cattle futures are intended to be an important risk management tool for Missouri cattle producers, but changes need made in order to ensure the stated intent.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CME must increase transparency, level access to information and transactions, and foster an environment that builds confidence in the ability to use the Live Cattle Futures Contract. MCA will seek the following changes, and implement the following actions:

1. MCA oppose any changes by the CME that would adversely affect Missouri cattle feeders' ability to deliver on CME contracts;
2. CME allow heifers to be delivered to meet futures market obligations;
3. CME increase the quality specifications to 90 percent Choice and 10 percent Select to better reflect realities of the beef cattle industry;
4. CME add more delivery points for cattle on the Live Cattle Futures Contract; and
5. MCA work with NCBA to further explore a long demand option and dynamic contract specifications for settlement including weight.

AGP 1.53

**2022/New**

**CARBON SEQUESTRATION/MARKETING**

WHEREAS, there is significant interest in climate change and the role of cattle and beef production both nationally and internationally, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. cattle and beef production system is the most efficient and productive system in the world that contributes positively to the ecosystem and biodiversity, and WHEREAS, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas emissions inventories have shown that agriculture is a minor source of greenhouse gases emissions, and

WHEREAS, rangeland, pasture, grasslands, management practices and technologies play a pivotal role in carbon sequestration and improving carbon use efficiency, which continues to reduce the cattle industry's carbon footprint.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any legislation, regulation, trade agreement or international treaty that would regulate carbon or greenhouse gases in the cattle industry, including but not limited to the reporting of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA shall encourage all carbon markets, banks, etc. to allow participation from early adopters whose prior practices resulted in carbon that is currently sequestered, allowing for the generation, verification, and sale of carbon credits by early adopters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports privacy of any data collected by an ecosystem services market, or the government, and should never be released without the express written consent of the landowner and/or lessee.

AGP 1.54

**2024/Amended**

**WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY**

WHEREAS, MCA recognizes the importance of private property rights when it comes to landowners voluntarily entering into contracts with wind and solar companies and supports the landowner's right to do so,

WHEREAS, MCA also recognizes that these projects, especially solar, take land out of production agriculture, which directly impacts the economic activity in rural areas having direct implications on small businesses and, consequently, overall tax revenue, and

WHEREAS, there is a formula for the taxation of wind energy, but nothing as it pertains to solar energy and the Supreme Court ruled in 2022 that solar entities are taxable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the taxation of major solar energy as commercial real estate or taxed equivalent to wind energy and opposes these companies being taxed as farming/ranching property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports major solar energy projects being assessed locally, and subject to property tax in the county in which they are located.

AGP 1.55

**2023/New**

**GMO FEED INGREDIENTS**

WHEREAS, seeds developed using biotechnology are planted on more than 90 percent of U.S. corn and soybean acres each year with livestock being the largest user of domestic supplies, and

WHEREAS, decades of scientific research and substantial oversight conclude the safety of this biotechnology to all end-users and conclude GMO feed ingredients cannot be detected in meat products.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the use of approved biotechnology in the production of feed ingredients used

for livestock and opposes efforts at any level of government to restrict the use of such technology or special labeling (e.g.: potential gene therapy) of meat products derived from livestock fed GMO feed ingredients.

AGP 1.56

**2023/New**

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) is responsible for reviewing certificates of need requesting public utility status and acquiring eminent domain authority, and

WHEREAS, there are five individuals on the Commission appointed by the Governor with no requirement for landowner or agricultural representation, and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers are directly impacted by eminent domain authority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to ensure the agricultural community has representation on the PSC.

AGP 1.57

**2023/New**

#### **PRF INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, NCBA is supportive of the USDA's Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) insurance program as a risk management option for producers impacted by drought conditions, and

WHEREAS, the program is well intentioned and works well in many instances, but the current structure/criteria of the program too often leaves producers who are facing severe drought conditions with no protection.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA supports providing an option for farmers to utilize 1-month rainfall intervals when selecting coverage under the PRF program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA supports improvements to the PRF, which would result in better risk management options for producers. Such improvements could include: increasing the amount of weather stations to better inform rainfall data; adjusting grid size to be more reflective of local conditions; and increasing accountability within RMA to ensure the program is operating efficiently and providing adequate risk protection.

AGP 1.58

**2023/New**

#### **MAINTAINING EASEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) is responsible for formal utility complaints. Telecommunication services are currently not included under their authority. These lines are being abandoned and left for producers to deal with.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports Missouri PSC to have authority to hold telecommunication and utility companies accountable for appropriately, and responsibly maintaining easements.

AGP 1.59

**2024/New**

#### **WATER RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the control of water usage has long been an issue for Western states but is becoming top of mind for Missouri farmers and ranchers as Missouri is home to many water sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA in cooperation with other interested groups, become actively involved in developing and securing passage of a sound water rights law in Missouri, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports Missouri's riparian water law, giving landowners a right to reasonably use water sources that flow across or next to, or lie below their property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports guaranteed adequate compensation to anyone who has an established lawful right to water usage which is later prohibited or restricted by any private entity or state agency, board, commission, etc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the use of the state's underground aquifers to be utilized to meet in-state needs, including drinking water and irrigation purposes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes the unregulated and large scale export of water from streams, rivers, and aquifers within the state.

AGP 1.60

**2024/New**

#### **VEHICLE INSPECTION**

WHEREAS, vehicle inspections create a burdensome process for producers in the current format.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports minimizing the burden placed on producers with vehicle inspections, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a mobile inspection system.

## **2. ANIMAL CARE**

ANC 2.1

**2020/Renewed**

#### **ANIMAL CARE**

WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen have always been concerned with the proper care and welfare of livestock, recognizing that good animal husbandry practices are essential to efficient and profitable production, and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to use animals in necessary and responsible research programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA recognizes the following definitions:

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

2. Animal Rights – a position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes the position taken by animal rights groups and will take appropriate action to resist their unsound, unscientific efforts to attack good animal husbandry practices as well as responsible and acceptable research practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation to simplify current laws that could potentially have an adverse effect on agriculture, hunting, trapping and fishing in Missouri.

#### ANC 2.2

##### **2020/Renewed**

##### **ANIMAL RIGHTS-VIOLENCE FARM & LIVESTOCK FACILITY PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, incidents of violence by certain militant animal rights groups continue to increase, and

WHEREAS, the activist violent, terrorist type activities have begun to spread nationwide.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA will continue to support legislation like the US Farm and Ranches Livestock Facilities Protection Act that provides protection from radical environmental and animal rights groups, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports stiffer penalties for trespassing.

#### ANC 2.3

##### **2020/Renewed**

##### **ANIMAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, on occasion, the industry is faced with instances when some in the industry have not conducted themselves or their business in keeping with generally accepted and recognized business and livestock management/husbandry practices, and

WHEREAS, the entire Beef Cattle Industry often bears the brunt of public ill-will and regulatory action over the irresponsible and inappropriate action of a few.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA calls upon and urges all cattlemen to follow commonly accepted livestock husbandry and business management practices in animal care, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA shall not be compelled to defend anyone in the beef cattle industry who has clearly acted to abuse livestock, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA may best serve the industry by supporting action by appropriate state or federal agencies against those who do abuse livestock.

#### ANC 2.4

##### **2023/Renewed**

##### **PROACTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the animal rights and anti-meat activism movements were instrumental in the restriction of horse processing and the resulting devaluation of equine animals, and

WHEREAS, animal rights and anti-meat movement actively promoted to the uninformed public that livestock producers are inhumane and meat consumption is immoral.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges the Cattlemen's Beef Board, Missouri Beef Industry Council, and National Cattlemen's Beef Association to use enhanced beef checkoff funds to promote beef demand by protecting and promoting beef producer's image of stewardship of both land and animals.

#### ANC 2.5

##### **2024/Amended**

##### **TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, The Humane Society of the United States and other groups are actively hosting training sessions in Missouri and other states for law enforcement officials, and

WHEREAS, the training focuses on identifying and handling animal abuse and neglect cases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA push for legislation to require all animal care training materials for law enforcement be certified/approved by the state veterinarian.

#### ANC 2.6

##### **2020/New**

##### **INSPECTION AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, MCA believes inspection authority of livestock facilities and other agricultural property should be clarified in state law to ensure inspections are conducted based on sound science, and

WHEREAS, other states, namely California, have passed laws dictating how agricultural products in other states should be produced.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation clarifying which entities or agencies have legal authority to inspect a farming or ranching facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support measures to exclude county health departments from obtaining or maintaining inspection authority, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports prohibiting the inspection/enforcement of other states laws on agricultural property in the state.

### **3. FOOD POLICY**

FP 3.1

#### **2020/Renewed                      FOOD SAFETY AGENCY STRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) oversees the inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees almost all other food products, and  
WHEREAS, the safety of the U.S. beef supply continues to improve due to the commitment of the beef industry and FSIS to enhance the protection of public health, and  
WHEREAS, there have been attempts to restructure the federal agencies that have responsibilities overseeing the safety of the U.S. food supply, and  
WHEREAS, efforts to restructure federal food safety agencies may create a burdensome process that could threaten the progress made on beef safety and future protection of public health, and  
WHEREAS, the consolidation of federal agencies into the Department of Homeland Security has been complicated and not without problems, and  
WHEREAS, a complicated restructuring of federal food safety agencies may create a disruption in effective monitoring and inspection of the food supply.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the creation of a single food safety agency, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA only supports restructuring that will enhance the effectiveness of the federal food safety agencies.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA urges continued cooperation between USDA and FDA to further protect public health.

FP 3.2

#### **2020/Renewed                      FOOD SAFETY**

WHEREAS, food safety is an extremely important and controversial issue, and  
WHEREAS, the safety of the food supply can be achieved only through reliable scientific research, valid interpretation of information and sensible regulation, and  
WHEREAS, the beef and dairy industries must continue to develop and strengthen quality assurance procedures with the objective of enhancing consumer confidence in the safety of beef and dairy.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA continues to support Beef Safety and Quality Assurance programs at every level, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes any retail sales of raw milk in Missouri and supports the State Milk Board inspections of all producers selling raw milk privately.

FP 3.3

#### **2023/Renewed                      USDA GRADING STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, USDA Grading Standards have proven to capture value and differentiates beef in the marketplace.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA support the continued use of the USDA Grading Standards.

FP 3.4

#### **2020/Amended                      FEEDING AND PROCESSING FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, Missouri is void of a vibrant cattle feeding and processing sector, and  
WHEREAS, local feeding and processing facilities would benefit cattle producers in the state and bordering states.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA works with the appropriate private entities, organizations and elected and appointed government officials to establish state incentives to attract feeding and/or processing facilities to Missouri and to assist existing smaller feeders and processors with expansion.

FP 3.5

#### **2019/Renewed                      ZERO TOLERANCE DETERMINATIONS**

WHEREAS, the interpretation of certain air, water and food quality reports has led to the concept of zero discharge, zero emission and zero tolerance, and  
WHEREAS current scientific knowledge does not warrant zero tolerance in air, water and food quality regulation.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA seek legislation to recognize the concept of a risk compared to benefit analysis concerning tolerance levels.

FP 3.6

#### **2023/Renewed                      IN-STATE MEAT INSPECTION**

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is a major producer of cattle, and  
WHEREAS, economic growth for agriculture for rural Missouri is vital to the economic health of the state, and  
WHEREAS, access to open and competitive markets is essential to all producers of farm commodities.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that meat inspected under state programs, which are equivalent federal inspection and approved by USDA, be permitted to move in interstate commerce.



FP 3.7

**2021/Renewed                      IMPORTED MEAT INSPECTION**

WHEREAS, standards of meat inspection in foreign plants exporting meat to the U.S. are required by law to be equivalent to U.S. meat inspection standards.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that slaughter processing and transporting facilities that handle foreign meats for importation to the United States be subject to comparable inspection and sanitation requirements applicable to federally inspected plants in the U.S., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that imported meat be subject to the same restrictions as domestically produced meat with respect to feed additives, antibiotics, pesticides and other chemicals.

FP 3.8

**2021/Renewed                      BEEF EXPORTS**

WHEREAS, beef exported from the United States receives inequitable treatment by other nations in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and

WHEREAS, there have been continued attempts to liberalize trade with other countries without imposing any sort of quotas, tariffs, levies or other restriction on imports to the United States, and

WHEREAS, there is a great potential for beef exports.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA actively supports fair trade agreements with other countries and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support the U.S. Meat Export Federation in promoting U.S. meats and expanding meat exports to potential foreign markets.

FP 3.9

**2021/Renewed                      GOVERNMENT BEEF PURCHASES**

WHEREAS, MCA opposes the purchase of imported beef by any government agency, and

WHEREAS, tax dollars so spent are, in effect, subsidizing foreign producers at the expense of U.S. cattlemen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that all tax supported government entities be required to purchase and utilize domestically produced beef when available.

FP 3.10

**2023/Renewed                      BIOSECURITY**

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports initiatives to strengthen livestock security in order to prevent bio and eco-terrorism.

FP 3.11

**2023/Renewed                      ARTIFICIAL OR IMITATION MEAT**

WHEREAS, investments are occurring in the development of artificial/alternative meat and dairy products where many products are inaccurately called beef, pork, milk etc. or using similar nomenclature, and

WHEREAS, other proteins have latched onto traditional beef and dairy nomenclature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA pursue regulatory or legislative mechanisms to protect the word beef, milk and associated beef cuts or dairy products to only include food derived from actual livestock production, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes allowing other food products not derived from livestock production to use nomenclature associated with the beef and dairy industries.

FP 3.12

**2020/New                              INCENTIVES FOR INSTITUTIONAL USERS**

WHEREAS, Missouri schools and other institutional users purchase a consistent supply of beef and other protein products based largely on price and availability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA favor incentives for schools and other institutional users to purchase meat grown and processed in Missouri.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the Missouri Department of Agriculture engagement of local schools and institutions to inform them on the benefits and utilization of Missouri grown and processed beef.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the reduction of burdensome regulations, which disproportionately disadvantages Missouri producers.

## **4. RESEARCH & EDUCATION**

RE 4.1

### **2024/Amended UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

WHEREAS, University Extension continues to be important to Missouri's agriculture and it is an integral part of the Land Grant College System, and

WHEREAS, University Extension must continue to recognize agricultural programs as essential to a strong, healthy agricultural economy, and

WHEREAS, MCA believes the Commercial Agriculture program is a strong component of the MU Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension program for Missouri farmers and ranchers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages more emphasis on agriculture by the University Extension administrators by maintaining or increasing the number of livestock specialists and forage specialists, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports increased funding for the Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension program including the Commercial Agriculture Program, with a director to focus solely on this program.

RE 4.2

### **2023/Renewed EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, agriculture institutions have been a valuable liaison in conducting cattle research for the Missouri cattle producer, and

WHEREAS, the land acreage and facilities are an integral part of this cattle research.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports an effort to maintain the current level of research infrastructure.

RE 4.3

### **2024/Amended LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARIANS AND ANIMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of large animal veterinarians, and a need for continued research in meat production and processing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the current large animal veterinarian loan program administered by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and supports expansion of the program to continue to address the needs of livestock producers in underserved areas of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that the State of Missouri should continue to provide financial support to upgrade the teaching and research programs at all Missouri land grant universities.

RE 4.4

### **2021/Renewed LIVESTOCK JUDGING**

WHEREAS, livestock judging is an important activity for young agriculturalists to engage in as it teaches leadership, public speaking, teamwork and many other skills that will benefit the individual and the industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports livestock judging programs in Missouri and will push to retain and/or implement programs in high schools, colleges and universities.

RE 4.5

### **2023/Renewed LIVESTOCK ODOR CONTROL**

WHEREAS, livestock odor issues have come to the forefront of many local and state meetings between livestock producers and the general public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the use of federal and state funding for implementation of olfactometry and research for mitigation of livestock odors.

RE 4.6

### **2020/Amended MISSOURI QUALITY ASSURANCE STOCKER/FEEDER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the stocker/feeder segment of cattle in Missouri are vital to the overall cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, it is important to initiate a program that will guarantee the integrity of the participants, and

WHEREAS, we need to position Missouri cattlemen to take advantage of value-based marketing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports this concept and encourages the participation and implementation from the cattle producers of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA endorses the use of a carcass data collection service.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports funding by the state legislature for tax credits to incentivize backgrounding and feeding in the state of Missouri that is inclusive of producers of all sizes.

RE 4.7

### **2024/Renewed MARGINAL LAND USAGE**

WHEREAS, the current farm program and commodity prices have made the shift from grassland to farmland more appealing, and WHEREAS, some of this land is of marginal quality and may return to livestock production at some point in the future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages producers to consider the sustainability of the land and its uses, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages producers to leave infrastructures (i.e.: ponds, fences, etc.) intact, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the limiting of government programs that encourage the conversion of marginal land, and  
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the return of marginal land to its previous uses in a free market system.

RE 4.8

**2020/Renewed SCHOOL START DATES**

WHEREAS, MCA supports the involvement of youth in 4-H and FFA related activities at the Missouri State Fair, and  
WHEREAS, MCA supports urban participation at the Missouri State Fair as a way to continue to bridge the knowledge gap between food producers and food consumers, and  
WHEREAS, school districts are starting school earlier each year and preventing some youth, rural and urban, from participating in the Missouri State Fair.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to encourage school districts to be cognizant of the Missouri State Fair when determining start dates, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation for schools to start classes subsequent to the Missouri State Fair if other efforts to encourage this switch do not yield results.

## **5. ANIMAL HEALTH**

ANH 5.1

**2024/Renewed BOVINE OCULAR NEOPLASIA**

WHEREAS, MCA recognizes the importance of providing a wholesome beef product and the importance of animal well-being considerations, and  
WHEREAS, MCA is dedicated to the economic success of cattlemen in Missouri and the marketing of cattle before B.O.N. becomes advanced is in the best interest of cattlemen, consumers and the animal, and  
WHEREAS, the marketing of cattle in good physical condition and in good flesh is consistent with current NCBA Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges producers to market those animals in the early stages of B.O.N. in a timely manner, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA is opposed to the marketing of animals with advanced B.O.N.

ANH 5.2

**2024/Renewed MISSOURI BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, beef is wholesome, nutritious, safe, high quality and tasty, and  
WHEREAS, beef producers, seedstock, commercial cow/calf, backgrounders, feedlot operation needs to review his/her operation in terms of cattle processing, feeding practices, facilities and cattle selection and marketing, and  
WHEREAS, attention to good production practices in cattle processing, feeding facilities and selection will insure the production of quality beef.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that a framework of communication and cooperation in the Beef Quality Assurance program between all segments of the cattle industry will provide the consumer with a safe, high quality, nutritious product.

ANH 5.3

**2024/Renewed JOHNES DISEASE (PARATUBERCULOSIS)**

WHEREAS, Johnes Disease is a slow, progressive, contagious disease of cattle which has a negative impact on production and profitability, and  
WHEREAS, Johnes Disease can be controlled by the proper management practices and can be eliminated from a cow herd using current knowledge, and  
WHEREAS, cattle from a herd without Johnes Disease are more desirable than cattle of unknown status.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the National Voluntary Johnes Certification Program, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages seedstock producers to eliminate Johnes Disease from their herds as quickly as possible.

ANH 5.4

**2019/Renewed FEDERALLY APPROVED PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, the FDA approved products have been thoroughly researched to be declared safe, and  
WHEREAS, the use, dispensing and accountability of prescription drugs is an assigned responsibility of licensed veterinarians.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA does not support any rules, regulations or legislation inhibiting the use of FDA approved animal use products.

ANH 5.5

**2023/Renewed                      BRUCELLOSIS**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is a major concern to Missouri's cattle industry, and  
WHEREAS, Missouri is a Brucellosis Free State and is aggressively pursuing Brucellosis eradication and Brucellosis Class Free State status.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly supports the State and Federal efforts to promptly depopulate Brucellosis infected herds with the current enhanced indemnification program.

ANH 5.6

**2024/Renewed                      PRECONDITIONING PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, preconditioning practices vary greatly from one operation to the next, and  
WHEREAS, Missouri is a top producer of feeder calves in the nation with a large portion leaving the state, and  
WHEREAS, Missouri's reputation for high quality feeder cattle must be maintained and improved to ensure demand in the future.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages all feeder-calf producers to maintain their integrity and reputation by the following:

1. Utilize Beef Quality Assurance guidelines;
2. Participate in current value-added feeder calf programs best suited to their operation;
3. Provide necessary information to purchasers of their cattle regarding the animal's individual health history, genetic background and other pertinent information.

ANH 5.7

**2021/Renewed                      VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE**

WHEREAS, animal health and welfare are top priorities for livestock producers, and  
WHEREAS, Veterinary Feed Directives and guidance establish new regulations that will be imposed on feed distributors, veterinarians and producers, and  
WHEREAS, the rules could inhibit producers' ability to provide timely treatment to their animals, prove costly and time consuming and burden already strained large-animal veterinary and agribusiness resources.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA works with the appropriate entities, organizations and elected and appointed government officials to ensure that livestock producers have reasonable access to products that help ensure animal health and welfare, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA insists that all cattle-related regulations be meaningful, based on science and not cost prohibitive, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA works to prevent scientifically unfounded restrictions on the use of antibiotics, push for repeal of any scientifically unfounded restriction on cattle producers' access and ability to judiciously use antibiotics, and push for the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine to transition Category 1 Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) drugs to Over-the-Counter (OTC) status.

ANG 5.8

**2020/Renewed                      MEAT PROCESSING**

WHEREAS, Non-Ambulatory disabled, but otherwise healthy livestock are not allowed to be processed in the United States.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports allowing these beef animals to be processed for personal consumption by the animal owner(s) or charitable donation if approved by a veterinarian.

ANH 5.9

**2023/Renewed                      TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR EVENT CATTLE**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the cattle producers of Missouri have worked diligently to accomplish our tuberculosis free status, and  
WHEREAS, adult event cattle over 18 months of age that have crossed state lines and entered Missouri could possibly transport health concerns.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports regulations that would require adult event cattle be tested for tuberculosis before entering the state of Missouri.

ANH 5.10

**2024/Amended                      MISSOURI VOLUNTARY BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA-PERSISTENTLY INFECTED (BVD-PI)  
FREE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, one persistently infected BVD-PI animal leads to increased herd health costs and losses in reproductive efficiency, and  
WHEREAS, a BVD-PI Free Certification would add value to the seedstock produced in the State of Missouri.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a BVD-PI free program that would provide certification regarding the BVD-PI status of their breeding herds, which would require BVD-PI testing on an annual basis to maintain certification by documenting in the initial year all calves, cows (open or without calf) and bulls are BVD-PI free, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, subsequent years would require BVD-PI testing of all calves retained in the herd or sold for reproductive purposes.

ANH 5.11

**2019/New ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY**

WHEREAS, there is industry value in a traceability program to producers seeking to protect and add value to their cattle.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a market oriented, producer driven program for Missouri cattle producers, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA insists any traceability program's database be held privately and not by any government entity and the release of such information should only occur in the instance of a reportable disease incident, and then in a manner that ensures confidentiality to the extent possible, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes the database should only contain four data points: tag number, date, time and location, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes a point of contact, connected to tag numbers, should suffice and a premise identification number should not be needed as it adds unnecessary burdens on producers with multiple premises, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages adoption of user-friendly technology that will interface with other programs and not inhibit the speed of commerce.

ANH 5.12

**2023/Renewed BOVINE LEUKOSIS VACCINE**

WHEREAS, Bovine Leukosis Virus is a significant impediment for domestic and international cattle movements, and  
WHEREAS, a successful control program of Bovine Leukosis in vector states require an effective vaccine,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly supports the development of a USDA approved vaccine for Bovine Leukosis such as those used in European countries.

ANH 5.13

**2024/Amended TRICHOMONIASIS**

WHEREAS, Trichomoniasis can be an economically devastating disease, causing low productivity, increased abortions and trade restrictions, and  
WHEREAS, eliminating Trichomoniasis should be extremely important for all cattle operations.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages all producers to give full support to the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division in their effort to control Trichomoniasis, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division to increase efforts and make available educational information through multimedia and other outlets to assist individuals in making the proper management decisions to prevent Trichomoniasis in their herd, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division regulations developed by the cattle industry requiring that all bulls offered for sale at auction or private treaty, be for slaughter unless verified Trichomoniasis free with written certification of a negative Trichomoniasis test within 30 days prior to sale or be a virgin bull less than 24 months of age and provisions must be made to allow for retest and reclassification of a positive bull based on sound epidemiological evidence, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports and encourages the harmonization of Trichomoniasis regulations among all states.

ANH 5.14

**2023/New ACCESS TO VACCINE TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, the Beef Quality Assurance Program trains farmers and ranchers on best practices, including developing and maintaining herd health plans that follow good veterinary and agricultural practices based on sound scientific research, which includes a stringent pharmaceutical approval process, and  
WHEREAS, cattle producers vaccinate cattle to treat and prevent many diseases, including respiratory and clostridial disease, to keep them healthy, and  
WHEREAS, regardless of the vaccine technology, the vaccines are digested after being administered, which means their components are not present in the animal and the vaccine is processed well before slaughter concluding there is no residue remaining.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the use of vaccines in the beef cattle industry that have undergone sound scientific, peer reviewed research leading to USDA approval, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes any effort at the state or federal level to restrict access to any approved vaccine technology.

## **6. TAX & CREDITS**

TC 6.1

### **2021/Renewed                      HANCOCK AMENDMENT FORMULA**

WHEREAS, there is a move to exempt moneys received by government agencies from calculations required under the Hancock Amendment, and

WHEREAS, all funds available for use by government agencies should be considered as part of the income formula of the state. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any and all efforts to exempt funds from total state revenue calculation formulas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes any effort to repeal the Hancock Amendment.

TC 6.2

### **2024/Amended                      MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation has become a very large and powerful state agency since the 1/8th cent sales tax was passed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the following positions concerning MDC:

1. MCA endorses the rights for special privileges for holders of landowner hunting permits and lease operations;
2. That individual incurring damage to private property by wildlife should be financially compensated from MDC for their loss;
3. That all meetings of MDC be publicized through all local media sources in the area affected;
4. That MDC which is a taxpayer funded entity, not be allowed to lobby against private property rights using these tax generated dollars;
5. That the 1/8th cent sales tax be put back on the ballot with a sunset duration of 10 years;
6. That all property owned by MDC be subject to normal taxation in that area;
7. That MDC be liable for damage caused to vehicle by wildlife and disposal of said wildlife carcasses;
8. That MDC be liable for damage caused by wildlife introduced, reintroduced or naturally occurring and help institute management policies to prevent further damage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that MDC shall pay 50% of fencing cost on boundary fences between MDC owned or managed properties and private lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that MDC should dedicate money from 1/8-cent sales tax to improve grassland condition for cattle production as well as water quality and wildlife habitat whether on privately owned or MDC owned/managed lands.

TC 6.3

### **2022/Amended                      SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, cattlemen growing forage and grass have been the leaders in soil conservation in Missouri over the years, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri soil conservation program is governed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission, and

WHEREAS, this commission has not seen the need for using Amendment 2 money for maintaining desirable grass cover, nor the need to use criteria for cost-sharing that is applicable to grasslands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly encourages the Governor to always appoint at least a majority of farmers actively engaged in raising forage and grasses to the Soil and Water Districts Commission and maintain farmer landowner representation at local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD's).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports state Soil and Water Conservation programs providing funding specifically for livestock practices.

TC 6.5

### **2021/Renewed                      TAXES-REEVALUATION 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, MCA feels higher exemptions will be necessary in the future to allow us to pass family operations to the next generation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any effort to increase estate taxes, including capital gains at death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports further capital gain reductions including recent improvements that have been made concerning "Death Taxes," with an ultimate goal of no death tax liability.

TC 6.6

### **2021/Renewed                      SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR AG SUPPLIES**

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to exempt all agriculture and veterinary supplies from the state sales tax when used in the care of large animals.

TC 6.7

### **2020/Amended                      PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, cattlemen of the state of Missouri are significant landowners in the state of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, profitability of cattle operations is largely affected by increasing costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes efforts to increase property taxes and/or assessment formula rates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports mechanisms that will lower the burden of property taxes on agricultural property, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA favors the tax rate be reassessed every five years rather than every two years, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes state legislative efforts to cap the percentage of recommended tax increases proposed by the Missouri Tax Commission as it could potentially result in consistent tax increases on agricultural property.

TC 6.8

**2023/Renewed                      AGRICULTURAL CREDIT**

WHEREAS, economic growth and jobs expansion are important to the rural economy.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports that all Agriculture related initiatives (crop or livestock) that will result in economic development in Missouri be eligible for state tax credit programs.

TC 6.9

**2020/Renewed                      BEGINNING FARMER**

WHEREAS, the average age of farmers and ranchers in Missouri and throughout the United States is not stabilizing, and  
WHEREAS, empowering the next generation of farmers and ranchers is essential to food security across the globe and paramount to keeping agriculture as the driving force of Missouri's economy.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports taking measures to encourage and enable beginning farmers and ranchers in Missouri, including tax credits and other incentives that level the playing field for beginning farmers and ranchers.

TC 6.10

**2023/Renewed                      BEEF TAX**

WHEREAS, beef is a healthy and nutritious food source, and  
WHEREAS, MCA believes beef should be readily available without undo added costs.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any type of usage, or consumption tax to be set up by local, state, or federal governments.

TC 6.11

**2019/New                              PARKS, SOILS AND WATER TAX REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, the two main purposes of the Parks, Soils and Water Tax is to prevent soil erosion and protect the water quality in the State of Missouri, and  
WHEREAS, by the demonstration of a best management practice such as grazing systems is to improve or maintain forage quality and quantity while maintaining watershed function, while also reducing accelerated soil erosion and maintaining or improving soil condition, and  
WHEREAS, to improve and maintain desired species composition and vigor of the plant community it is therefore brought to our attention when a landowner intensifies an existing grazing system, there is no cost-share alternatives available for the landowner, and  
WHEREAS, the landowner that intensifies a grazing system creates soil erosion problems with livestock travel lanes to water sources.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the development of cost-share alternatives or practices to landowners who wish to intensify their grazing system, and consider removing the per acre maximum and focus on soil erosion and forage quality and quantity.

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS**

MISC 7.1

**2020/Renewed                      EASEMENTS**

WHEREAS, cattlemen are primary landowners in the state of Missouri, and  
WHEREAS, the need for infrastructure (pipelines, railroads, highways, etc.) and burial of utilities may necessitate the need for easements for the use of that property, and  
WHEREAS, restrictions on these easements may be unacceptable in the future due to changes in land use.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports legislation that would allow landowners with easements greater flexibility in maintaining the use and value of their property, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that designated areas have sunset or abandonment provisions and restitution for any and all damages be included in easements.

MISC 7.2

**2023/Renewed                      BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITIONS**

WHEREAS, Missouri has a representative form of government allowing citizens to elect people to represent their interests and concerns, and  
WHEREAS, the ballot initiative process in the state allows citizens to propose or initiate a statute or constitutional amendment without having to go through the legislature; and  
WHEREAS, the well-intended process has resulted in certain groups, some of which are outside the state, taking advantage of the

process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports allowing the Secretary of State to set standards and assess reasonable fees when submitting a ballot initiative to ensure the integrity of the process.

#### MISC 7.3

##### **2024/Renewed ELECTRIC INDUSTRY DEREGULATION**

WHEREAS, cattlemen of the state live largely in remote areas of the state, and

WHEREAS, cattlemen are not typically large users of electricity compared to other industries, and

WHEREAS, cooperatives have provided cattlemen and their families with low cost power, compared to other parts of the country, and dependable service in the past.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any effort to deregulate our present electrical distribution industry.

#### MISC 7.4

##### **2024/Renewed INFORMATION ACCURACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHEREAS, inaccurate reporting is perceived by consumers as fact, and

WHEREAS, lessened demand for beef will lower the profit potential and increased regulation will increase the cost of production for cattlemen in Missouri, and

WHEREAS, consumers could make purchasing decisions based on misinformation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that the person or persons responsible for reporting inaccurate information should be held responsible for their actions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that person/persons found responsible should compensate the industry for their actions including monetary and other forms of compensation to those affected by their actions.

#### MISC 7.5

##### **2023/Renewed BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS**

WHEREAS, Missouri farm and ranch families are increasingly conducting business on the Internet and utilizing management software to better manage their respective farm or ranch, and

WHEREAS, Internet in some rural areas in the state is non-existent or unreliable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports state government working with private industry or cooperatives to expand Broadband Internet Access in the state.

#### MISC 7.6

##### **2023/Renewed CATTLE THEFT**

WHEREAS, MCA supports the continuation of a centralized reporting procedure with the purpose of effectively investigating thefts by efficiently data basing, finding, prosecuting, and preventing livestock and rural theft.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the continuation of a livestock and rural theft task force to be funded and placed under the control of the Missouri Highway Patrol or another appropriate agency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support the concept of official identification for those presenting cattle for sale and those accepting payment in person at an auction market, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that anyone convicted of a cattle theft should be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports additional oversight on brand reporting at the time of sale to ensure appropriate ownership.

#### MISC 7.7

##### **2023/Renewed PRIVATE TREATY CHECKOFF COLLECTIONS**

WHEREAS, internet/private treaty cattle sales are becoming more numerous, and

WHEREAS, some internet/private treaty cattle sales may not be collecting the mandatory beef checkoff dollars.

THREERE FOR BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports enforcement by Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Cattlemen's Beef Board of the Act and Order and the non-compliance penalty, per transaction, plus remitted checkoff dollars and interest, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the livestock markets and private sellers who collect the dollar per head and supports making the public aware of the importance of this issue.

#### MISC 7.8

##### **2020/Amended BEEF CHECKOFF**

WHEREAS, the beef checkoff has been a positive influence on beef demand, safety and research, and

WHEREAS, inflation has decreased the buying power of today's checkoff funds, and

WHEREAS, many Missouri cattle producers utilize retained ownership as a marketing tool, and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in the number of Missouri cattle in out-of-state retained ownership programs since the establishment of the rules and regulations governing checkoff collections, and

WHEREAS, this increase alters the traditional marketing channels and the collection of checkoff revenues, affecting the revenue available for beef promotion, education, and research opportunities in Missouri.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA endorses the elimination of the current 30 day requirement in the state of origin rule, and,  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages Missouri producers to exercise their option to pre-pay their checkoff dollars or sign a waiver to require their checkoff dollars to be returned to Missouri when feeding retained ownership cattle out of state, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a reasonable enhancement of the checkoff program on a case by case basis approved by the MCA Board of Directors.

MISC 7.9

**2019/Amended                      FERAL HOGS**

WHEREAS, feral hogs in some areas of Missouri have become a burden to landowners by the destruction of land and habitat, and  
WHEREAS, the cost of these damages cannot be reimbursed to the affected landowners, and  
WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation relying solely on trapping and a shooting/trapping ban on public lands has created a safe haven for feral hogs.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to eradicate feral hogs, including use of thermal imaging and night vision on privately controlled land and opposes any ban on shooting/trapping feral hogs on private or public lands, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports making unauthorized transporting and releasing of feral hogs a felony offense.

MISC 7.10

**2023/Renewed                      HORSE PROCESSING FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, an effective ban on horses being humanely processed for consumption is now in place, and  
WHEREAS, a humane method of horse processing would be preferred over abandonment or long-term suffering, and  
WHEREAS, the value of horses has declined because of these regulations.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges our members and other state cattlemen's associations work to reinstate the funding for inspection on horse processing.

MISC 7.11

**2024/New                              PROPOSED DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the Missouri Department of Conservation's Deer hunting regulations are far reaching and affect private property rights, and  
WHEREAS, MCA strongly supports the active management of deer population management to protect farms and crops, and  
WHEREAS, the operators of family farms are often lease holders of family owned farms and not owners themselves.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the acreage requirement for no cost deer hunting permits.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes the formation of any MDC owned private property database and obtain needed information from public tax records, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes the elimination of no cost qualifying lessee deer hunting permits.

MISC 7.12

**2020/Renewed                      NATIONAL CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, Missouri is a top cow/calf producing state in the United States and is geographically located to represent the United States Beef industry and is the largest segment of Missouri's animal agriculture and has beef producers in all counties and accounts for more than 2 billion dollars in economic impact.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the efforts to establish the National Center for Beef Excellence (NCBE) in Missouri, which will consist of a National Center for Genetic Evaluation for Beef Cattle, and create an opportunity for breed associations to coexist.

MISC 7.13

**2020/Renewed                      NUISANCE DOGS**

WHEREAS, livestock are vulnerable to harassment from dogs which can cause damage to fences, property and the wellbeing of livestock, and  
WHEREAS, it is difficult to prove with certainty the owner of the dog responsible for the attacks, and  
WHEREAS, livestock owners taking matter into their own hands can create a liability by harming the dog.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a fair and effective local process to resolving the problem, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that when a solution is not possible at the local level, a district or state legal process be available that has authority and expertise to solve the problem.

MISC 7.14

**2020/Renewed                      HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM**

WHEREAS, affordable health care is an important issue to cattle producers and their families, and  
WHEREAS, health care emphasis is moving from critical care to primary care and prevention, and  
WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers are considered as small business operators, and  
WHEREAS, rural areas are typically under-served.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports affordable, adequate health care in rural areas by participating in the process of health care system reform, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports financing the reforms primarily through savings and efficiencies, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that federal and state legislation allow self-employed people to have a full deduction of health insurance and medical bills for self-insured and partially insured individuals.

MISC 7.15

**2023/Renewed MODOT HIGHWAY FUNDING**

WHEREAS, all of agriculture depends on adequate transportation infrastructure, and  
WHEREAS, past MODOT policies have not adequately addressed the transportation needs of Rural Missouri, and  
WHEREAS, addressing these needs will require increased funding.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that MODOT should be directed to economize operations and prioritize future projects, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports voter approval of the sunset clause of five years for any new funding proposals,  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes MODOT's transfer of maintenance responsibility of state designated roadways to local and county governments, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, highway funds be allocated to rural and urban roads based on needs assessments studies, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a reasonable increase in the fuel tax and alternative fuel vehicles pay an equivalent usage tax.

MISC 7.16

**2020/Renewed HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAYS**

WHEREAS, MODOT has modified their highway maintenance programs by reducing or eliminating the mowing of the right-of-ways on many secondary highways to as few as one time during each year, and  
WHEREAS, that reduction in mowing serves to attract more deer and other wildlife to feed and travel and nest in areas adjacent to the pavement; creating a very dangerous situation for drivers on these roads.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA, in the interest of public safety, urges MODOT to return to mowing their highway right-of-ways at least twice a year.

MISC 7.17

**2021/Renewed RURAL FIRE PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the rural voter is overwhelmed by metropolitan numbers.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that it should be the right of citizens in rural communities to determine whether they will be served by local membership/volunteer fire departments or tax supported fire districts.

MISC 7.18

**2023/Renewed SKY LANTERNS**

WHEREAS, fires are an extreme hazard, and  
WHEREAS, manmade fire hazards are a threat to farms and ranches and should be reduced, and  
WHEREAS, incendiary objects that travel over extended distances without being extinguished or burnt out are a hazard to any and all surrounding property.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports making illegal the use of floating incendiary objects in the state.

MISC 7.19

**2020/Amended FAMILY AND FARM PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, MCA believes that its members must be able to protect and defend their families and property.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a citizen's right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution in the second amendment and opposes any law, regulation, or tax on firearms, ammunition, components and accessories that would erode that right.

MISC 7.20

**2024/New IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, the U.S. beef industry is challenged by a lack of interested and reliable American workers and therefore must rely on immigrant workers for a significant portion of its labor force, and  
WHEREAS, agricultural businesses are not equipped to verify legitimacy of documents presented by potential employees.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports meaningful legislative or regulatory immigration reform, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support a safe harbor from prosecution for businesses unknowingly employing illegal workers until the federal government develops uniform, transparent documentation that will enable employers to easily verify the immigration status of prospective employees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support legislation that reduces penalties for employers who have followed available guidelines for verifying legitimacy of documents presented by potential employees, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a nonseasonal, temporary agriculture worker program.

MISC 7.21

**2024/New FOREIGN OWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, Missouri law currently limits foreign ownership of farmland to 1% of total farm ground acreage, and  
WHEREAS, state law also dictates the tracking and approval process of land sought and/or owned by foreign entities, and  
WHEREAS, MCA believes farm ground should be owned by U.S. citizens as a matter of national security and sustaining a viable food supply chain in the state and throughout the country  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes any effort to increase foreign ownership of farm ground acreage above 1%.

MISC 7.22

**2020/Renewed STATE AGENCY LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS**

WHEREAS, Missouri state agencies would best serve the citizens of Missouri by providing unbiased information to the elected officials of the Missouri Legislature, and  
WHEREAS, state agencies are using funds for legislative lobbying purposes, and  
WHEREAS, MCA recognizes the potential for a conflict of interest in state agency usage of funds to further lobbying effort.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the use of funds by state agencies or appointed commissioners to lobby any legislative entity.

MISC 7.23

**2020/Renewed UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, MCA embraces and supports the use of sound science and technology in the beef industry and in all of agriculture, and  
WHEREAS, drones offer many benefits to farmers and ranchers, including increased efficiency and potential economic benefits in the future.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports allowing the utilization of drones in agriculture, including the beef industry, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports protocols ensuring privacy and boundaries for such technology.

MISC 7.24

**2019/New FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

WHEREAS, beef and dairy producers utilize the services of Farm Service Agency (FSA), and  
WHEREAS, individual producers in rural counties, with small farm program volume should have the same access as counties with large volume programs, and  
WHEREAS, in the last 25 years USDA has closed offices and reduced services in numerous Missouri counties putting undue burden on producers, and  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the further closing or reduction in days of operation of FSA offices and services.

MISC 7.25

**2023/New PRODUCER HEALTH**

WHEREAS, with healthcare becoming so expensive that it is unaffordable to many of Missouri's cattle producers and that affordable, good coverage needs to be made available.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports fair, reasonable and affordable health insurance for Missouri cattle producers.

MISC 7.26

**2024/New ROAD CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, extreme winter storms can cause dangerous travel conditions, and create hazard to Missourians, restricting commerce on Missouri highways roads and side roads.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourage the Missouri Department of Transportation and county road crews to salt and clear primary and secondary roads with proper utilization of salt and chemicals to allow safer travel for Missouri citizens.