

MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

POLICY BOOK

As Adopted by the Membership
-January 2019-

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1. AG POLICY

AGP 1.1

2013/Renewed

AG POLICY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, government programs have a definite impact on the profitability of agriculture for both those commodities directly affected and those indirectly affected, and

WHEREAS, the number of producers involved in production agriculture continues to decline on an annual basis, and

WHEREAS, there is an ever increasing need to have the views of the Cattle Industry expressed with regard to policy development on both the State and Federal level,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA must continually communicate with other commodity groups regarding the impact of agriculture policy and to coordinate and cooperate with those groups in the development of agriculture policy for the best interest of the Missouri Cattlemen as well as the best interest of all of Missouri Agriculture.

AGP 1.2

2013/Renewed

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING

WHEREAS, Missouri Livestock and Poultry Production accounts for nearly three billion dollars 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 funding to the Missouri Department of Agriculture for the surveillance and control of livestock diseases.

AGP 1.3

2015/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 and

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 1.4

2015/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, Missouri is ranked number two in total beef cows and calves, and number one in total seedstock production, 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 40% 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. Until the effects of packer concentration are fully analyzed and interpreted, prohibit acquisitions of packing facilities by major packers and mergers or consolidation between packers;
2. Encourage feedlots to offer all fed cattle for sale on a pen by pen basis, rather than offering an entire show list, until such a time that cattle can be marketed through a value based marketing system;
3. Support further study of alternative methods of price discovery to determine the accurate current market value at the time of sale.
4. Urge the processing industry to move the reporting of information concerning all cattle under contract forward from the former week of activity to the current week of activity.

AGP 1.5

2015/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 1.6

2013/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 1.7

2015/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 1.8

2017/Amended 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,

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.

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.

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.

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 1.9

2017/Amended 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.

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 1.10

2015/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.

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 1.11

2016/Amended LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, there needs to be accountability in local government, and

WHEREAS, lack of accountability can result in abuse of power within certain agencies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA favors any modifications or additions to county ordinances be approved by the duly elected county commission.

AGP 1.12

2013/Renewed SUNSHINE LAW

WHEREAS, the Sunshine Law which insures open discussions and information of public meetings, and

WHEREAS, governmental agencies are established to serve the public and have recently changed to the opposite,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that the Sunshine Law be amended to:

1. Court action be initiated in counties where the infraction occurred.
2. That if the agency is found guilty, they bear all judicial cost.

AGP 1.13

2015/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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes odor regulations being implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all regulations should be based on objective scientific measurements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that a vote by the local populace would be needed and that two-thirds be in favor to pass.

AGP 1.14

2013/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.

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 1.15

2013/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 revise Missouri's Eminent Domain statutes to:

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.

AGP 1.16

GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASES

2016/NEW

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.

AGP 1.17

2015/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.

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

AGP 1.18

2013/Renewed 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 of adverse possession real estate law.

AGP 1.19

2017/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 1.20

2015/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 1.21

2017/Amended 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:

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA believes cattle producers should be given their individual choice to participate in the grass reserve program.

AGP 1.22

2017/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.

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 1.23

2015/Amended 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.

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 1.24

2015/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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA urges the leadership of the United States to negotiate trade agreements that are fair and equitable to Missouri producers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes the Executive branch of government should have the authority to negotiate foreign trade agreements on our behalf.

AGP 1.25

2015/Amended EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET ASSISTANTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the US Agriculture Policy authorizes the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) for the purposes of making U.S. Commodities more competitive in the world marketplace and to offset the effects of unfair trade practices or subsidies, and

WHEREAS, the act authorizes the Market Promotion Program (MPP) for the purpose of helping trade promotion organizations develop overseas markets, especially where the U.S. Encounters unfair trade practices,

1. Targeting of countries where U.S. market share is declining because of subsidized competition;
2. The long-term objective of creating commercial markets free of subsidies;
3. Minimal effects on foreign exporters who are not subsidized;
4. Long term market development benefits exceeding costs.

AGP 1.26

2017/Amended 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 Origination Label Law is projected to have an excessively high cost, disproportionately borne by cow/calf producers and feed lot operators in the United States,

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 1.27

2017/Amended ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY (ADT)

WHEREAS, a permanent official identification device to track all red meat-producing livestock from farm to table would be a great protective device for anti-bioterrorism, and

WHEREAS, such devices would be useful to the producers of red meat-producing livestock in controlling diseases as a method of tracking such livestock back to the farm, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages APHIS of the USDA to develop and promulgate a voluntary program of permanent animal disease traceability (ADT) identification program to be used on all red meat-producing livestock both domestic and imported in origin that would gather information and help protect the consumers and the livestock industry in the event of a bioterrorist threat.

AGP 1.28

2015/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 1.29

2016/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 1.30

2017/NEW

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

WHEREAS, Missouri roads, highways and bridges are in need of repair;

WHEREAS, Missouri Department of Transportation funding is insufficient to make significant improvements to Missouri's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a safe and reliable transportation infrastructure is vital to all segments of the cattle industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the development of a funding mechanism for the Missouri Department of Transportation that includes sufficient funding for rural roads and bridge infrastructure.

AGP 1.31

2017/Amended

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.

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 1.32

2013/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 1.33

2017/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 1.34

2016/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 1.35

2015/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 1.36

2013/Renewed

WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, there is an ever increasing and serious concern regarding water quality, and

WHEREAS, the impact of water quality issues, policy decisions and groundwater protection strategies upon agriculture will be significant, and

WHEREAS, MCA is concerned about ground water quality and the need to insure a safe and adequate water supply,

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

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 ground water pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes regulations further restricting the necessary production inputs used in the production of crops and livestock.

AGP 1.37

2015/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 1.38

2017/Amended 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 1.39

2013/Renewed 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, and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA vehemently 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 action through encroachment of Missouri landowners and agricultural producers.

AGP 1.40

2015/Renewed STREAM CONTAMINATION CLASSIFICATIONS

WHEREAS, the classification of streams will be determined by Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL's) of nutrients as well as contaminants, 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.
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.
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 1.41

2013/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, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association 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 1.42

2017/Amended MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION-PREDATOR CATS

WHEREAS, evidence exists that at least ten reports of mountain lion occurrences have been confirmed in Missouri since 1994, and

WHEREAS, the presence of mountain lions in Missouri pose a threat to human safety and risk to livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri in their decision not to release mountain lions, develop plans for future releases of mountain lions, or otherwise create conditions in which a population of mountain lions in Missouri would be desirable, and that MCA supports Conservation Commission action as currently stated in the Wildlife Code of Missouri, which allows any mountain lion attacking or killing livestock or domestic animals, or attacking people, may be killed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA requests the Conservation Commission to maintain and open an effective partnership with MCA and livestock owners in Missouri in regard to mountain lions and related predatory species of wildlife which may pose a threat to individual livestock, or the livestock industry and further MCA supports the Conservation Commission in the continued use of the Mountain Lion Response Team to investigate reports and evidence of mountain lions.

AGP 1.43

2015/Amended 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 stores,

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

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

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 1.44

2016/Amended ENDANGERED SPECIES

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

WHEREAS, the Klamath River Project was shut down due to the coho salmon and suckerfish being listed as an endangered species, 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, and

WHEREAS, national attention and support has been overwhelming due to the Klamath River Project shut down, illustrating that this is a national issue that could happen anywhere, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

AGP 1.45

2013/Amended TOPEKA SHINER

WHEREAS, Environmentalists have asked that the Topeka Shiner be put on the endangered species list. The Shiner is on the Missouri Department of Conservation concerned species list, and is wanted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources and the Missouri University Extension, and

WHEREAS, the Topeka Shiner is on the Missouri Endangered Species List, and

WHEREAS, this has been a detriment to agriculture in the Missouri River Basin, and

WHEREAS, the placement of the Topeka Shiner on the endangered species list would devastate agriculture in certain counties in Missouri where agriculture would not be able to use fertilizer or pesticides. It would also stop urban development in some counties, and

WHEREAS, this fish has no known value, except as bait for fishing,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA asks that the Topeka Shiner not be put on the endangered species list.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports the removal of the Topeka Shiner from the Missouri Endangered Species List.

AGP 1.46

2015/Renewed PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the United States Government, the Department of Natural resources, and the Department of Conservation have lost sight as to the amount of land that should be owned by these entities, and
WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Government now own 7.64% of the land in Missouri, and
WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the right of the people to own the land,
THEREFORE BE IT 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, trails for trail or preserves.
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 1.47

2017/Renewed HAYING & GRAZING CRP LAND

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri has the natural resources necessary to produce abundant forages for beef production. In many instances the best use of this land is forage production rather than crops, and
WHEREAS, current beef herd size is projected to increase at a time when forage production may be unable to support this expansion,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes the natural resource forage inventory enrolled in CRP could be a valuable asset for Missouri cattlemen. These CRP acres could be utilized for beef forages by haying or grazing under controlled circumstances and regulations. MCA believes emphasis should be given to construction of fencing and water development during the CRP contract life and at the time of renewal or exiting the program.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that a fair and equitable trade-off be pursued in the next farm bill to allow private industry to pay the CRP landowner a fee, in lieu of government subsidies, to hay or graze this acreage. Grain crop production should not be included in this change.

AGP 1.48

2015/Renewed TALL FESCUE

WHEREAS, tall fescue and its contributions to the pasture, hay, seed, soil and water conservation resources of our states landowners has a positive influence on Missouri's economy more than any other crop currently in existence, and
WHEREAS, Missouri is the number three state in the numbers of cows and calves as a result of fescue's adaptability and widespread use, and
WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has now listed tall fescue as a harmful, invasive exotic plant and has issued a memorandum to its personnel that tall fescue is not to be used on any MDC lands and is not to be recommended for use on private lands, and
WHEREAS, this new directive is an insult to the states cattle producers in that it totally ignores the many positive attributes of fescue and its contributions to agriculture as well as soil and water conservation,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages MDC to reevaluate its position on fescue.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that MDC should issue the correction of their policy in the Missouri Conservationist to inform producers and citizens of the changes regarding tall fescue.

AGP 1.49

2017/Renewed DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, Missouri's livestock industry is a vital and integral portion of Missouri's economic well being, and
WHEREAS, Missouri's livestock producers are under increased production pressure that could adversely affect their ability to produce an economical source of food for all Missourians,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports legislative action concerning the joint committee on administrative rules and oversights that require positive action by committee for the rules and regulations to become effective.

AGP 1.50

2017/Amended 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 1.51

2016/Renewed **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - 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;
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages DNR to expedite the permit processes to allow approval in a timelier manner.

AGP 1.52

2015/Amended **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.
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 1.53

2017/Amended **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 1.54

2013/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 1.55

2017/Amended **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 supports the building and maintaining of fences along
BE IT FURTHER 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 1.56

2013/New **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,
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.

AGP 1.57

2013/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; and
 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 1.58

2017/Renewed CATTLE ON FEED REPORTING

WHEREAS, accurate and timely information regarding quarterly cattle on feed numbers may not be available, 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,
 WHEREAS, there has been advancements in technology,
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes a more accurate estimate and mandatory reporting system should be implemented to provide for fair and equitable marketing of finished cattle.
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports an accurate and timely reporting system that could be used to facilitate marketing decisions.

AGP 1.59

2016/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 1.60

2013/New 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,
 WHEREAS, there are continuous efforts through lawsuits and regulations to impair the productivity of this vital economic engine for the state of Missouri,
 WHEREAS, The Missouri legislature passed a proposed Right to Farm constitutional amendment,
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the Farming Rights Amendment,
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the passage of this constitutional amendment in the 2014 general election.

AGP 1.61

2013/New 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,
 WHEREAS, an elected position could have outside influences that are negative to that well-being,
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the Director of Agriculture for the State of Missouri being an appointed position,
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Governor of Missouri should take input from agricultural commodity groups for that appointment.

AGP 1.62

2013/New

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, and
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 1.63

2015/New

CAPTIVE CERVIDS

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association recognizes the importance of all farmers and ranchers to the state's economy;
WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes the scientifically unfounded regulation of any segment of agriculture;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the reclassification of all captive cervids as livestock under the regulatory authority of the Department of Agriculture.

2. ANIMAL CARE

ANC 2.1

2015/Renewed

CATTLEMEN'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

WHEREAS, Cattlemen believe in humane treatment of livestock and good stewardship of natural resources, and
WHEREAS, this message needs to be communicated to the public when asked, and
WHEREAS, the public is entitled to credible statements from actual producers regarding the practices, intents and purposes of cattle production,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA endorses the following Statement of Principle on animal husbandry, environmental stewardship and food safety as adopted by the membership of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association:

"I believe in the humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.

I believe my cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.

I believe that my own and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.

I will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.

I believe it is my responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.

I believe it is the purpose of food animals to serve mankind and it is the responsibility of all human beings to care for animals in their charge.

I will vigorously oppose any legislative or regulatory activity that states or implies interference with that purpose and responsibility.

I will actively support all legal, normally accepted animal husbandry practices and the marketing of these animals."

ANC 2.2

2015/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.

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 2.3

2015/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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA will support stiffer penalties for trespassing.

ANC 2.4

2015/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.

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 2.5

2017/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.

3. FOOD POLICY

FP 3.1

2015/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.

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

2015/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 industry must continue to develop and strengthen quality assurance procedures with the objective enhancing consumer confidence in the safety of beef,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA continues to support Beef Safety and Quality Assurance programs at every level.

FP 3.3

2017/Amended

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

2017/New

PROCESSING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, Missouri is void of a large scale processing facility and

WHEREAS, a cow processing facility would benefit cow/calf 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 largescale processing facilities to Missouri.

FP 3.5

2014/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

2017/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

2016/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.

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

2016/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 and the Missouri Beef Industry Council support the U.S. Meat Export Federation in promoting U.S. meats and expanding meat exports to potential foreign markets.

FP 3.9

2016/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

2017/Amended BIO-SECURITY

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

2016/Renewed ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICES AND SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, food quality and security is vital to the future profitability of all segments of the beef industry, and

WHEREAS, there currently are several different Animal Identification Devices and various quality assurance and carcass data retrieval programs, and

WHEREAS, removal of these devices destroys the integrity of such systems,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a voluntary and private National Animal Identification System, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to maintain the integrity of Beef Quality Assurance Systems making it illegal to tamper with official Animal Identification Devices or Systems.

FP 3.12

2017/New ARTIFICIAL OR IMITATION MEAT

WHEREAS, investments are occurring in the development of artificial/ alternative meat and inaccurately calling it beef or using similar nomenclature and

WHEREAS, other proteins have latched onto traditional beef nomenclature.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes allowing other food products not derived from cattle production to use nomenclature associated with the beef industry.

4. RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RE 4.1

2013/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, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports and encourages more consideration of the needs of Missouri agriculture and that more emphasis be redirected towards agriculture by the University Extension administrators. Specifically, maintain or increase the number of Area Livestock Specialists and Agronomy or Forage Specialists, and

THEREFORE BE IT 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 4.3

2017/Amended EDAUCATIONAL 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 4.4

2013/Amended ANIMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

WHEREAS, due to the shortage of large animal veterinarians, and the need for research in meat production and processing.

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

RE 4.5

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

2016/NEW

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, and colleges and universities.

RE 4.6

2017/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 4.7

2015/Renewed 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,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA endorses the use of a carcass data collection service.

RE 4.8

2013/New

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, and
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 4.10

2015/ NEW

SCHOOL START DATES

WHEREAS, MCA supports the involvement of youth in 4-H and FFA related activities at the Missouri State Fair,
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

2013/Renewed

BOVINE OCULAR NEOPLASIA

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes the importance of providing a wholesome beef product and the importance of animal well-being considerations, and
WHEREAS, the 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

2013/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

2013/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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages seedstock producers to eliminate Johnes Disease from their herds as quickly as possible.

ANH 5.4

2014/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

2017/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

2013/Renewed PRECONDITIONING PRACTICES

WHEREAS, preconditioning practices vary greatly from one operation to the next, and
WHEREAS, Missouri is the #2 producer of feeder calves in the nation producing approximately 2 million head per year, 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 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

2016/NEW VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE

WHEREAS, animal health and welfare are top priorities for livestock producers; and
WHEREAS, new 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.
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA insists that all cattle-related regulations be meaningful, based on science
and not cost prohibitive.
THEREFORE 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

2015/New MEAT PROCESSING

WHEREAS, Non-Ambulatory disabled, but otherwise healthy livestock are not allowed to be processed in the United States and
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

2014/Renewed USDA ANIMAL HEALTH REPORTING

WHEREAS, Missouri's beef industry ranks number three in the nation in cow numbers and is a major contributor to the state and
national economies, and a majority of Missouri's 70,000 beef producers are comprised of small family farms, with a substantial
financial investment and subject to market fluctuations, and
WHEREAS, MCA believes sensitive BSE test results were inappropriately released and confidentiality was compromised,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA calls on USDA to adhere to their own testing guidelines, release test results promptly
and honestly and investigate and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, any one found inappropriately releasing or tampering
with test data or results of any animal health issues.

ANH 5.10

2017/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 5.11

2013/Renewed MISSOURI VOLUNTARY BOVINE VIRAL DISEASE-PERSISTENTLY INFECTED (BVD-PI) FREE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Missouri ranks 3rd nationally in cow/calf production, in addition to ranking in the top of several breeds in the number of breeding stock registered in their respectful associations, and
WHEREAS, one persistently infected BVD-PI animal cost producers \$14-24/head/year due 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,
THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a BVD-PI free program that would provide certification regarding the BVD-PI status of their breeding herds. This program 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. Subsequent years would require BVD-PI testing of all calves retained in the herd or sold for reproductive purposes.

ANH 5.12

2015/Renewed PRESERVATION OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN LIVESTOCK

WHEREAS, the health, and sound animal husbandry practices concerning cattle are a top priority in Missouri's livestock industry, and
WHEREAS, the responsible administration of antibiotics consistent with BQA guidelines for preventative purposes, growth promotion or during the medical treatment of cattle is in the best interest for the livestock, the producer, and the consumer,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes further regulation regarding the purchasing, dispensing, and record retention requirements of antibiotics.

ANH 5.13

2015/Renewed ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY

WHEREAS, a permanent official identification device to track all red meat-producing livestock from farm to table would be a great protective device for anti-bioterrorism, and
WHEREAS, such devices would be useful to the producers of red meat-producing livestock in controlling diseases as a method of tracking such livestock back to the farm, and
WHEREAS, the need for the State Veterinarian to establish an Animal Disease Traceability Working Group,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA urges the State Veterinarian to include cattle industry personnel including producers, marketing personnel, production management personnel, animal health professionals and transportation personnel in the Animal Disease Traceability Working Group.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages the APHIS of the USDA to develop and promulgate a voluntary program of permanent animal disease traceability (ADT) identification program to be used on all red meat-producing livestock both domestic and imported in origin that would gather information and help protect the consumers and the livestock industry in the event of a bioterrorist threat.

ANH 5.14

2017/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 5.15

2013/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, and
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. 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.

6. TAX & CREDITS

TC 6.1

2016/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.

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

TC 6.2

2013/Renewed 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 their agency:

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 financial 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;
9. That MCA does not support the concept of "The Ozark man and his biosphere."

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that MDC should dedicate moneys 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

2016/Renewed MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department on Conservation has a perpetual source of funding through the one eighth cent sales tax assessment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes a sunset amendment should be added for their funding which would be voted on at a general election of the citizens of Missouri every ten years.

TC 6.4

2016/Renewed 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourage Soil and Water District Commission to maintain farmer landowner representation at local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD's).

TC 6.5

2013/Renewed RENTAL INCOME TAXATION

WHEREAS, the rule change by Internal Revenue Service in 1992 was that rental income from personal property new be reported as business income on Schedule C which will result in this income being subject to an additional 15.3% Social Security Tax, and

WHEREAS, this rule change could cause a retired individual to be ineligible for Social Security benefits,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports changing this rule by making rental income from personal property by retired individuals or persons not in the business of rental equipment not be subject to self-employment tax.

TC 6.6

2016/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 6.7

2013/Renewed HORSE SALES TAX

WHEREAS, the collection of sales tax on the sale of horses places unwarranted and unnecessary expense on those cattlemen utilizing horses in their operation, and
WHEREAS, this sales tax can only depress the growth of the horse industry in Missouri,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that horses be exempt from the sales tax provisions of the Missouri Statutes.

TC 6.8

2016/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 6.9

2013/Renewed 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 fixed cost,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes efforts to increase property taxes and/ or assessments formula rates.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports mechanisms that will lower the burden of property taxes on agriculture property.

TC 6.10

2016/Renewed FARM LAND VALUATION

WHEREAS, Real property in this state is being reassessed every two years for tax purposes, and
WHEREAS, annual farm income is variable from year to year,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA recommends that farmland be taxed at no more than 10% of assessed valuation and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA favors the tax rate be reassessed every five years rather than every two years.

TC 6.11

2017/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 6.12

2015/New TAX EQUALITY

WHEREAS, Missouri farmers and ranchers own operations which bear a large tax burden, and
WHEREAS, these cattlemen require a large volume of inputs, costing more than the average person's annual salary,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes the tax burden for the United States needs to be equally levied on the general population.

TC 6.13

2015/NEW BEGINNING FARMER

WHEREAS, the average age of farmers and ranchers in Missouri and throughout the United States is not stabilizing;
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, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association 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 6.14

2015/New

MISC. AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, as the Missouri Department of Agriculture has instituted the Agriculture Stewardship Assurance Program (ASAP) to provide certification that officially recognizes Missouri farmers and ranchers who act as responsible stewards of the land.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the ASAP program and encourages its members and fellow producers to participate in the program.

TC 6.15

2017/New

BEEF TAX

WHEREAS, beef is a healthy and nutritious food source.

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.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

MISC 7.1

2015/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.

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

2017/New

BALLOT INITIATIVE PETITIONS

WHEREAS, Missouri has a representative form of government allowing citizens to elect people to represent their interests and concerns;

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

2013/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, Co-op's and REA's 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 de-regulate our present electrical distribution industry.

MISC 7.4

2013/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 the inaccurate information should be held responsible for their actions.

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

2017/New

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

2017/Amended 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.
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes that anyone convicted of a cattle theft should be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports additional oversight on brand reporting at the time of sale to ensure appropriate ownership.

MISC 7.7

2017/New 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 Check-Off dollars.
THEREFORE 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 Check- Off dollars and interest.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports the livestock sale barns and private sellers who collect the dollar per head and supports making the public aware of the importance of this issue.

MISC 7.8

2016/Renewed 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,
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 check-off collections, and
WHEREAS, this increase alters the traditional marketing channels and the collection of check-off 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,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages Missouri producers to exercise their option to pre-pay their check-off dollars or sign a waiver to require their check-off dollars to be returned to Missouri when feeding retained ownership cattle out of state.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a reasonable enhancement of the Checkoff program, to be assessed each time the animal is sold.

MISC 7.9

2013/Renewed FERAL HOGS

WHEREAS, feral hogs in some areas of Missouri have become a burden to landowners by the destruction of crops and habitat, and
WHEREAS, the cost of these damages cannot be reimbursed to the affected landowners,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports efforts to allow these landowners to qualify through the Missouri Department of Conservation to take appropriate measures to resolve the problem on a case by case basis. Specifically the landowner should be allowed to eradicate the feral hogs that have caused damage to their private property.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports making unauthorized transporting and releasing of feral hogs a felony offense.

MISC 7.10

2017/Amended 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

2013/Renewed EQUINE ABANDONMENT

WHEREAS, most equine animals sold for processing have lived beyond their useful lives, and
WHEREAS, Congress and other entities have interfered in the free market system by banning processing of equine animals resulting in the unintended consequences of severe devaluation of equine animals and their subsequent abandonment on public or private land,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA believes that any damage caused by such abandonment should be financially compensated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA asks that NCBA actively pursue a viable legislative solution to the equine processing issue.

MISC 7.12

2013/Renewed

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 80 acre 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes the elimination of no cost qualifying lessee deer hunting permits.

MISC 7.13

2013/Renewed

MISSOURI INSTITUTE FOR CATTLE (MIC)

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is extremely vital to the state of Missouri's economy, and

WHEREAS, preparing for the future and preserving the valuable assets now in place will be a significant challenge for our next generation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the formation and funding of the Missouri Institute for Cattle. This new group will be comprised of MU College of Veterinary Medicine and University of Missouri.

MISC 7.14

2015/New

RESOLUTION MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE

WHEREAS, Missouri is the second largest 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 114 counties and accounts for more than 2 billion dollars in economic impact,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the efforts to establish the National Center for Beef Excellence (NCBE) in Missouri. The NCBE will consist of a National Center for Genetic Evaluation for Beef Cattle, and create an opportunity for Breed Associations to co-exist.

MISC 7.15

2015/New

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.

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 7.16

2015/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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports financing the reforms primarily through savings and efficiencies.

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 7.17

2017/Amended

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.
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.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, highway funds be allocated to rural and urban roads based on needs assessments studies.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a reasonable increase in the fuel tax and alternative fuel vehicles pay an equivalent usage tax.

MISC 7.18

2015/Renewed HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAYS

WHEREAS, MODOT has modified their highway maintenance programs by reducing or eliminating the mowing of the rights of ways on may 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 7.19

2016/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 7.20

2017/Amended SKY LANTERNS

WHEREAS fires are an extreme hazard,
WHEREAS manmade fire hazards are a threat to farms and ranches and should be reduced,
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 that MCA supports making illegal the use of floating incendiary objects in the state.

MISC 7.21

2013/New FAMILY AND FARM PROTECTION

WHEREAS, The Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes that its members must be able to protect and defend their families and property,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLOVED, 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 or regulation on firearms or ammunition that would erode that right.

MISC 7.22

2013/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 desire to hire only documented, legal immigrants, and
WHEREAS, agricultural businesses are not equipped to verify the legitimacy of documents presented by potential employees,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA support the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's policy, which supports meaningful legislative or regulatory immigration reform which:
1. strengthens border security, and
2. creates a non-seasonal, temporary worker program that ensures an adequate workforce,
and
3. provides opportunities for current employees found to be in the U.S. illegally to apply for legal status, and
4. instructs the Department of Homeland Security to work with cities, counties, and agriculture interests, including producer members of this association, in the implementation of any fences or other barriers between the United States and Mexico, and
5. commits adequate time and appropriations by the Missouri Legislators and the Department of Homeland Security to implement a workable, expeditious, and common sense approach to temporary visa applications, and
6. denies access to citizenship or temporary visa to any alien who has committed a felony while in the United States, or violated a court order for deportation while legally in the United States, and

7. allows any and all undocumented workers, regardless of their family status, (within a reasonable amount of time after the enactment of any reform legislation and the implementation of enforcement procedures and before applying for a guest worker visa) to conduct a “touchback” in this country, through a consulate of their home country and achieve temporary legal status whereby they can reside in the United States until they achieve full legal status or must return to their home country. But, any undocumented workers who do not “touchback” should be considered fugitives, and
 8. deny Social Security benefits for any fiscal quarter where those individuals holding any visa have falsified their identification, and
 9. institute a point system based on the background checks and merits of the applicant/migrant to allow applicants the opportunity to show that their presence in this country would be an asset, regardless of family ties, and
 10. processes first those applications for citizenship filed prior to the implementation of any immigration reform legislation, after which all other applicants should be processed in an orderly fashion, and
 11. supports English language education programs, and
 12. preempts states from adopting and prosecuting immigration laws to avoid regulatory duplication for employers.
- 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,
- 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,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA oppose a mandatory E-verify program until a nonseasonal, temporary agriculture worker program is enacted.

MISC 7.23

2013/New

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, in accordance to the language included in Senate Bill 9, which limits the amount of land that can be owned by foreign entities and clearly defines the guidelines and establishes the approval process of ownership,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports a 1% cap on land that can be acquired by foreign entities.

MISC 7.24

2015/New

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;
WHEREAS, state agencies are using funds for legislative lobbying purposes;
WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen's Association recognizes the potential for a conflict of interest in state agency usage of funds to further lobbying efforts;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA opposes the use of funds by state agencies or appointed commissioners to lobby any legislative entity.

MISC 7.25

2015/New

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.