MCA Policy Questionnaire

Please take a moment to fill out this short questionnaire to offer your input on MCA's policy priorities and decision-making for the coming year. Tell us what matters most to your family. The association represents YOU!

Cattle Health

Theileria orientalis is a protozoal organism that is relatively new in the United States. It primarily affects cattle and was first discovered in a cow/calf herd in Virginia in 2017 and first detected in Missouri in 2023. The Asian longhorned tick is the primary vector, but other arthropods such as biting flies, mosquitoes, lice and different tick species have been implicated as potential vectors. There is no approved treatment or vaccines available in the U.S. leaving producers vulnerable to potential losses. MCA is working with elected leaders in Washington, D.C., to secure additional dollars for research into treatment and prevention.

Should MCA work to secure state funding for research into the prevention and treatment of *Theileria* and other tick-borne diseases impacting the cattle industry?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

Solar

Solar energy is rapidly expanding in rural Missouri replacing traditional agricultural land with solar panels. Many producers are voluntarily leasing land to utility companies for solar energy development. Currently, solar companies are taxed and assessed by the state rather than undergoing local tax assessments like wind energy.

Should MCA support legislation requiring local tax assessment rather than state assessment?

◯ YES, RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED TO SEE ECONOMIC BENEFIT. ◯ NO, I BELIEVE STATE ASSESSMENT IS FINE. ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

The current political climate in Washington, D.C., has created uncertainty about government subsidizing solar energy. If federal subsidies are discontinued, the concern is whether the property will be returned to its original state or be left with decommissioned panels.

Do you support developing policy to require the state of Missouri to establish mandatory decommissioning requirements for solar leases to cover costs of land remediation and removal of the panels?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

_____

_____

Adverse Possession

The issue of adverse possession is a common policy discussion within the organization, but members have traditionally been split on the issue. Currently, MCA policy states that MCA supports the revision and/or clarification of the adverse possession real estate law, but that does not provide needed direction on the issue. The current law allows someone to become the owner of land they have occupied for a decade or more without permission from the actual owner if strict requirements are met. Requirements include that the person must possess the land openly and visibly and treat it as their own using it regularly. Using the land occasionally or with permission does not qualify.

Which of the following best aligns with your beliefs?

- ◯ ELIMINATE THE ADVERSE POSSESSION LAW ALTOGETHER
- ◯ LEAVE THE LAW ALONE
- ◯ REQUIRE ORIGINAL SURVEYS OF BOUNDARY LINES TO TAKE PRECEDENT
- ◯ AS LAND SURVEYING TECHNOLOGIES BECOME MORE PRECISE, I COULD BE IN JEOPARDY OF LOSING LAND
- ◯ KEEP ADVERSE POSSESSION BUT EXTEND THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE LAND MUST BE OCCUPIED TO 20 YEARS

COMMENTS _____

_____

Missouri Veterinary Practice Act

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture has identified multiple shortages of veterinarians in Missouri. Most of these shortages involve rural area veterinarians with food animal practices, including in the following Missouri counties: Adair; Andrew; Barry; Barton; Bollinger; Caldwell; Cape Girardeau; Cedar; Christian; Clinton; Crawford; Dade; Daviess; DeKalb; Dent; Greene; Knox; Laclede; Lawrence; Madison; Perry; Phelps; Pulaski; Putnam; Ray; Schuyler; Scotland; St. Clair; Ste. Genevieve; Stone; Stoddard; Sullivan; and Vernon Counties. These shortages are exacerbated by the fact that a number of large animal veterinarians serving these areas are nearing retirement.

Technology continues to advance, despite these shortages. The University of Missouri has both Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in its animal sciences program studying advanced reproductive technologies, such as In Vitro Fertilization, but current law does not allow them to carry out these practices. The Missouri Veterinary Practice Act has not been amended on this topic since 1999, addressing only embryo transfer, since IVF was not commercially available in 1999.

Should the Act be amended to allow non-veterinarians trained with advanced degrees to perform reproductive technologies like IVF?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

Do you support legislative and regulatory efforts to allow registered veterinary technicians to perform the following acts with indirect supervision of from a licensed veterinarian: vaccines, medication and treatment administration; pregnancy checking; artificial insemination; non-surgical embryo transfer; correcting uterine prolapse; uncomplicated fetal extractions; and routine, non-surgical food animal management practices?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

Land Condemnation

Legislation (HB 3375, SB 1699 and 1698) called the "Landowner Fairness Act" was introduced last year to set statewide standards across all condemning authorities for how property owners should be treated before, during and after the condemnation process. The legislation addresses landowner compensation, transparency and land restoration. The legislation was supported by MCA, Missouri Farm Bureau and others.

As eminent domain continues to be a concern across the state and primarily in rural areas, should MCA make passing the "Landowner Fairness Act" its top priority for the 2027 legislative session?

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

The Missouri Public Service Commission plays a vital role in determining which energy projects are granted public utility status with the authority to use eminent domain. Currently, the Public Service Commission is comprised of five commissioners appointed by the governor.

Do you believe MCA should work with other agricultural organizations to ensure agriculture is adequately represented on the Public Service Commission?

◯ YES, THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO ENSURE AGRICULTURE HAS REPRESENTATION SIMILAR TO THE CLEAN WATER AND CLEAN AIR COMMISSIONS

◯ YES, BUT I DO NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF EXPANDING THE COMMISSION. I BELIEVE FIVE COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING THE STATE IS ENOUGH. YOU SHOULD EXPORE MORE OPTIONS

◯ NO, I PREFER WE LEAVE THE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION ALONE

◯ NO, BUT I BELIEVE THE COMMISSION NEEDS MORE OVERSIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO GRANTING EMINENT DOMAIN

COMMENTS _____

_____

Data Centers

MCA does not have policy on data centers. The issue of data centers has become increasingly divisive in rural areas. To date, current state regulatory framework requires data centers to acquire a land disturbance permit for excavation during construction, an air permit for back-up generators and a clean water permit if they intend to discharge wastewater. New requirements were also implemented requiring data centers to pay a large load tariff rate.

Should MCA adopt policy supporting additional legislative and regulatory efforts to implement guardrails on the development and operation of data centers? Guardrails would include siting of data centers, water and electric usage and transparency.

◯ YES ◯ NO ◯ NOT SURE

COMMENTS _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Your Recommendations

Regarding state issues, what do you believe should be the top policy priority for MCA in 2027?

This is your opportunity to say anything you want regarding MCA and its efforts on the policy front. All comments will be made available to the MCA policy and legislative affairs committee.

Please return the completed survey to MCA (2306 Bluff Creek Drive, Columbia, MO. 65201) by November 20th, 2026. This survey will also be e-mailed to all members who have an e-mail address on file.