

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

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State & National Policy Resolutions

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Marketing and Grading

MAR-1-05 INTEGRATION OF THE PACKING INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is deeply concerned about the rapid rate of integration and concentration taking place in the cattle feeding and packing industry; and

WHEREAS, This trend is taking place with both vertical and horizontal integration;

BE IT RESOLVED, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association recommends the strict monitoring and enforcement of present Packer and Stockyard regulations by the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association also cautions these rules and regulations must be enforced on the federal level to avoid an economic disadvantage in the respective states.

MAR-2-05 BONDING OF LIVESTOCK MARKETING AGENCIES, DEALERS AND PACKING COMPANIES

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association recognizes the protections afforded the livestock producers when selling livestock through a licensed and bonded market agency, dealer or packer and that the principal benefit to the producer is not always the amount of recovery under a bond, but equally important is the annual review and monitoring of the financial condition of the market agency, dealer or packer by a regulatory agency;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in its cooperative efforts with the Packers and Stockyards Administration and USDA in the enforcement of fair trade practice regulations and a strong bonding and credit status program.

MAR-03-07 P & S BOND

WHEREAS, the current P & S bonding program does not protect the producers and marketing Agents for 100% reimbursement of loss,

WHEREAS, Canada has a workable assessment program to protect producers and marketing agents,

BE IT RESOLVED, P & S be amended to include a program funded equitably to protect producers and marketing agents.

MAR-4-07 PACKER OWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the ability to forward contract livestock commodities to a packer is a viable and necessary marketing tool,

WHEREAS, the ban of packer ownership of livestock would prohibit the use of forward contracts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the use of forward contracts to a packer therefore would oppose the ban of packer ownership.

Trade

TRA-1-06 FARM TO MARKET ROADS

WHEREAS, Agriculture is the largest business in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Efficient and economical movement of agricultural products from production points to markets is in the interest of producers, processors, marketers, consumers and to the economic welfare of the State:

WHEREAS, there is a variation in state laws regulating the maximum weight and length limit on trucks, causing inconvenience, confusion and economic loss to livestock truckers and producers.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association support action to maintain and upgrade farm to market rural roads and bridges and increase weight limits where needed and feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to standardize truck lengths and weights for vehicles used on federal, state, and county public roads that are constructed with federal funds.

TRA-2-07 TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the expansion of foreign trade is vitally important to the growth of the beef industry.

WHEREAS, negotiators need to be able to negotiate the best agreement that they can without changes being made to the agreement after it's completion.

WHEREAS, international trade is vital to the prosperity and long-term growth of United States agriculture, the United States economy, the world economy and to Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, agricultural trade is an especially important component of world trade and embargoes, economic sanctions, and trade restrictions aimed at agriculture, have hurt United States farmers and stifled world trade,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the passage of "TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association encourages the United States government to support and implement humanitarian food programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association encourages the U.S. and all foreign government agencies to accelerate efforts to harmonize regulations affecting food production, the environment and food safety in livestock to enhance fairer trade in the realities of today's global marketplace and in concert with NAFTA, WTO and Canadian Free Trade Agreement objectives.

TRA-03-07 RURAL ROADS

WHEREAS, rural roads and bridges are in disrepair,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports reasonable increases in road and bridge funding.

TRA-04-08 HARMONIZATION OF INTER-STATE ANIMAL MOVEMENT REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association understands and supports the need for disease monitoring and eradication efforts as well as the occasional need for science based animal movement restrictions.

WHEREAS, Minnesota's current TB situation has highlighted the enormous amount of variation in State to State animal movement requirements, with many that have no scientific basis.

WHEREAS, The lack of standardization of animal movement regulations has made interstate commerce confusing, inconvenient, and often times cost prohibitive. This fact has created an uncertain business climate and an undeniable economic hardship for Minnesota's Cow/Calf and Seedstock Producers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to work with elected officials, USDA/APHIS, State Veterinarians, and other individuals with vested interest to harmonize inter-state livestock movement requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's supports the establishment of immediate reciprocal restrictions on any state that establishes requirements greater than that of USDA.

ANIMAL HEALTH

HEA-1-08-ANIMAL WELL-BEING

WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers have long been concerned with the proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry, recognizing that good animal husbandry practices are essential to the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber,

WHEREAS, California, Arizona, and Florida passed voter referendums to severely limit poultry and livestock production. This action will cause producers from those states to either reduce their numbers to meet regulations, move to other states, or shut down their facilities. This will have a negative economic impact on any state with these or similar regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes any legislation or regulatory actions which would impair or prohibit sound livestock and poultry husbandry practices and which would increase food costs to the consumer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association asks for legislation protecting the property of owners from vandalism or release of livestock; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association asks for legislation protecting the property rights of livestock and poultry owners or that would limit their ability to manage their animals and make sound business decisions.

HEA-2-05 BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Board of Animal Health was established by State Statute; and

WHEREAS, This Board has been very effective in establishing disease control and eradication programs for all species, thereby protecting the health of all animals, livestock and poultry, as well as the citizens of the State of Minnesota;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly urge that the Minnesota Board of Animal Health remains as an independent agency governed by an appointed Board which will continue to serve the best interest of animal health and the livestock industry in the State of Minnesota.

HEA-4-06 JOHNE'S DISEASE

WHEREAS, Johne's disease is affecting the whole cattle industry and further research is needed to control it.

WHEREAS, There is no absolute test for Johne's disease.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the research and education being done by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the University of Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports efforts of the Minnesota board of Animal Health to continue the State subsidized Johne's Disease testing program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at this point, there shall not be any Johne's free herd certification.

HEA-05-04 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, USDA has begun implementing a national animal identification system (NAIS) in order to protect the health of the U.S. livestock and poultry industry from foreign animal diseases and bio-terrorism threats, and;

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statute 35.03 the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is responsible for protecting the health of domestic livestock and poultry industry within Minnesota.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports legislation that specifically assigns responsibility of and provides funding for implementation and maintenance of an animal identification system within Minnesota

HEA-06-04 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM DATA PRIVACY PROTECTION

WHEREAS, implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will require the Minnesota Board of Animal Health or national agency to handle (collect, maintain and/or utilize) private confidential business data and farm bio-security related data in the execution of their statutory duty to protect the health and safety of Minnesota's domestic livestock industry, and;

WHEREAS, animal identification system data that includes an individual farm premise identification number, individual animal or group lot animal identification number and the date of change in ownership or location relates directly to the financial operation of an agriculture business and also represents farm bio-security information that should not be releasable to the general public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports state and federal legislation that classifies animal identification system data handled by any government agency as classified.

HEA-7-08 BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS TESTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, bovine tuberculosis has been detected in Minnesota and resulted in severe economic damage to the cattle herds involved, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports continued surveillance and testing for bovine tuberculosis to be administered by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and to be funded by the state and federal government in cooperation with USDA.

HEA-8-08 NEOSPORA CANINUM

WHEREAS, Neospora Caninum is a major cause of abortion, premature birth and impaired calves in cattle and in 2005 was detected in three beef herds in Minnesota. The disease is known to host in most wild canines, domestic dogs and also infects wild deer.

WHEREAS, through blood samples taken by the USDA Wildlife Service in 2004 during wolf depredation trapping operations, neospora caninum was detected in 72%of adult wolves.

THEREFORER BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports further investigation by appropriate state and federal agencies to determine the prevalence of neospora caninum among potential host animals in Minnesota and determine the scope and scale of this disease within Minnesota's cattle herd and develop appropriate treatment protocol to minimize the economic impact of this disease on Minnesota's cattle industry.

HEA-9-07 PREMISE IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS, premise ID will be critical in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

WHEREAS, the voluntary premise ID registration program has been unsuccessful to date,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports making premise ID registration mandatory.

HEA10-08 ANIMAL QUARANTINE

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of a quarantine facility is to contain extremely contagious diseases, and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion of moving the United States quarantine facility off of Plum Island to the mainland.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes moving the United States quarantine facility to the mainland.

Food Policy and Public Affairs

FPA-1-09 USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, the state amendment that allocates 40% of lottery profits to the Environmental Trust Fund.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly supports the use of these funds to monitor the quality of Minnesota ground water and for other environmental concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes the use of funds to purchase additional farmland on the pretense of protecting the environment without considering the adverse effect to the rural economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes any additional land inventory until all current land holdings are maintained to best management practices.

FPA-2-05 ANIMAL WELFARE PLAN OF ACTION

IT IS RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association will take an active stand against THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT or any militant group that supports this movement.

The Plan is as follows:

(1) We, as feeders, producers, farmers, and ranchers, will take this as a serious threat to our industry and livelihood, and also a threat to our fellow townsmen and all people's health and welfare.

(2) We, as Cattlemen, will make it our responsibility to uphold a high standard of animal husbandry in our operations that no Animal Rights or Animal Welfare People can criticize.

(3) We will take an active role to increase public awareness by sponsoring informational meetings addressing the Animal Rights agenda and their accusations, in schools, fairs, trade shows, or wherever media is deemed necessary.

(4) We will be aggressively seeking to form a coalition with the food producing industries, meat packers, wheat, corn, and soybean associations, sportsman's organizations to communicate and develop a method to tell our story. Together, united with our funds, talents, and our voices, we can share the truth about agriculture to the consumers.

FPA-3-05 RURAL ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE

WHEREAS, Minnesota cattlemen need to use the latest technology available to stay competitive;

WHEREAS, Rural cooperative electric and telephone systems have given their members the means to adopt this technology and have given our rural area the power and communications system to attract supporting industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen asks that these programs not be diminished in any way,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insists that if we are served by private companies, that our industry receive comparable service at competitive costs.

FPA-4-05 FOOD SAFETY

WHEREAS, The food produced in the United States is the purest and safest in the world; and

WHEREAS, The producers of this food continue to strive to exceed safe government standards for food safety; and

WHEREAS, Food safety issues can be highly emotional and sensationalized;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insist that all regulations and legislation be based on sound scientific facts and not perception, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all meats have the same regulations and standards for processing and fabrication.

FPA-5-05 RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

WHEREAS, Agriculture in this nation is undergoing tremendous technological advances; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association oppose any regulations or legislation that restrict the business climate of agriculture and impose a negative economic impact on cattlemen and rural Minnesota that may contribute to agricultural business locating in less restrictive environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, which the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insists that all regulations and legislation be based on sound scientific facts, and not perception.

FPA-6-08 HAZARDOUS WILDLIFE POPULATION

WHEREAS, wildlife is defined as deer, turkeys, geese, bear, elk, coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, and others regulated by government agencies, and

WHEREAS, Agricultural producers are the primary caretakers of wild animals in Minnesota,

BE IT RESOLVED, that when wildlife causes damage to livestock, crops and feedstuffs, and, or reach detrimental levels just compensation must be made by the state at market value for losses and steps taken by wildlife officials to lower population in over populated areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DNR must change practices and management in those areas that cause over concentration of wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that agricultural producers have the authority to protect their livestock and other assets from predators or destructive animals by lethal means.

FPA-7-06 FOOD DISPARAGEMENT LAW

WHEREAS, foods are perishable, and some members of the media and members of some radical groups or organizations have made statements that are untrue and thereby causing financial harm to producers,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports a Food Disparagement Law in Minnesota.

FPA-8-08 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, beef production in Minnesota is vitally important to the economy of the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, government over regulation of cattle operations has caused many producers to leave the business, negatively effecting rural economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association support efforts by private, government, and commodity organizations to make it easier to operate and expand cattle operations in Minnesota.

FPA-9-08 IRRADIATION OF BEEF

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports federal laws allowing for the irradiation of beef and beef products, and

WHEREAS, irradiated ground beef is becoming increasingly available in the marketplace and, beginning in 2004, public schools will have the option of including irradiated ground beef in the national school lunch program.

WHEREAS, recall incidences of beef due to E coli have increased from a low in 2006, and again by fifty percent from 2007 to 2008 (information from the Minnesota Beef Council), and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association encourages increased emphasis on education programs that will provide consumers, and other opinion leaders with accurate scientific-based information on food irradiation.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports FDA approval of the irradiation process of the whole carcass.

FPA-10-08 RENEWABLE FUELS

WHEREAS, the Renewable Fuel Standard has mandated 36 billion gallons by 2022 and,

WHEREAS, renewable fuels consume a fair amount of the U.S. corn crop of which U.S. beef production also consumes and competes for,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports research to find alternative commodity sources for renewable fuels.

FPA-11-07 TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the Minnesota livestock industry is a vital part of the state's economy and rural infrastructure,

WHEREAS, the livestock industry is Minnesota's original value added agriculture and is the passion of many farm families,

WHEREAS, expansion and upgrades to Minnesota feedlots have been hindered, obstructed and/or halted by local intervention,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports clarification of the 462 and 365 township statutes to only allow for township zoning authority, only after an affirmative vote, of all township voters,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association does not support counties and townships enacting environmental regulation stricter than state standards,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports requiring townships to study the economic impact of their proposed ordinances before enactment.

FPA 12- 08 COLD PASTEURIZATION

WHEREAS, the process of E coli eradication process is called "irradiation," and

WHEREAS, the word "irradiation" has a negative connotation to the consumer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports changing the name of "irradiation" to a more consumer-friendly name, such as "cold pasteurization."

Private Lands and Environment

PRV-1-06 FEED LOT PERMITS

WHEREAS, there is a reciprocal notification law between feed lot and housing developments that is not adequate,

WHEREAS, Cattlemen are good environmentalists;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Minnesota Pollution Control not be allowed to implement rule changes without completing the rule making process.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insists that any single residential building proposed must give notice to any feedlot owner within 5000 feet.

BE IT RESOLVED, That if Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (M.P.C.A.) is to mandate changes that will cost producers monies to bring existing feed lots into compliance, then the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insists that M.P.C.A., or whoever mandates these changes, will provide the monies to make these changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if any feed lot permits are to be issued, a single agency must be in charge of issuing these permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current feedlot permit holders be protected under old permits until a new permit is issued.

PVR-2-08 MAINTENANCE OF WILDLIFE AREAS

WHEREAS, Funds through Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) were provided to the Department of Natural Resources for the purchase of land; and

WHEREAS, License fees and hunting stamp money are used for the purchase of land; and

WHEREAS, The maintenance for land and property is funded through the State's General Revenue Fund;

WHEREAS, grazing is an excepted management practice of wildlife areas,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association recommends grazing be continued as a management practice in wildlife areas.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the maintenance of all such property be funded by RIM, license fees and hunting stamps, NOT the General Revenue Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association insists that all government agencies discontinue all new land acquisitions, purchases or gift until existing land holdings are maintained at best management practices level

PVR-3-07 TIMBER WOLVES

WHEREAS, Timber wolf numbers have increased substantially and predation on domestic livestock is increasing yearly;

BE IT RESOLVED, Timber wolves are not endangered in Minnesota and should be delisted from the endangered species list; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is against the reintroduction of wolves and other predatory animals.

PVR-4-06 DRAINAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

WHEREAS, small lowlands areas usually one to ten acres in size on agricultural land in Minnesota are now classified as wetlands;

WHEREAS, in a normal year these lands would never contain water or would become arid by summer;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association urges the Minnesota state lawmakers to use federal guidelines for wetlands when drafting legislation and regulations for farmable wetlands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Type One and Type Two wetlands be exempt, and that if remaining Types of wetlands are not allowed to be drained, then we request fair compensation.

PVR-5-06 MINNESOTA DRAINAGE CODE

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Drainage Code has successfully served its purpose in allowing Minnesota agriculture to prosper by improving production on farm land in the State of Minnesota;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association will not support any changes to the State Drainage Code that would adversely impact agriculture's ability to improve farmland in a manner that is needed for Minnesota agriculture to be competitive nationally and internationally.

PVR-6-06 NORTHERN TALL GRASS PRAIRIE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Northern Tall Grass Prairie Project, dealing with the preservation and restoration of the native prairie habitat in western Minnesota and northern Iowa; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of native prairie land is in private ownership; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these privately owned lands are used for forage production and grazing, and are economically important to the property owners, their communities, local governments and schools.

BE IT RESOLVED, That these lands should remain in private ownership and in production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any prairie preservation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, be through private landowner involvement and management.

PVR-7-06 LIVESTOCK ODOR

WHEREAS, Livestock production is an important part of Minnesota's economy; and

WHEREAS, Odor is a natural part of livestock production;

BE IT RESOLVED, That consideration for the natural processes of livestock production and the economic impact of regulations be taken into consideration when developing livestock odor regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that producers, in compliance with their permits be protected from all nuisance odor lawsuits.

PVR-8-09 REGULATORY MEDIATORS

WHEREAS, many livestock producers are threatened by fines by the MPCA for either perceived or actual violations of pollution laws. Many times they do not have the financial resources to hire professional help to satisfy MPCA's requirements or the money to hire lawyers to fight the alleged infraction.

WHEREAS, livestock producers are subject to decisions made by county planning and zoning boards without any means of appeal, except expensive court litigation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the formation of a mediation team of at least three people, which can be used to settle disputes and appeals of producers. These people must be non-biased, acquainted with animal agriculture and environmental safeguards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this service will be funded, though extension or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by the legislature to a level so that any producer in animal agriculture will have access to it without any charge.

PVR-9-08 USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTIES

WHEREAS, cattlemen are good environmentalists and make practical environmental improvements as fast as economically possible, and

WHEREAS, cattlemen feel it is important to do environmental improvements on our feedlots.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly objects to penalties being assessed our members for a believed infraction. If any penalties are assessed they shall be spent to correct the infractions.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that MPCA's funding should come from the legislature and not from penalties assessed for infractions of rules developed by this same agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association asks the governor to select agency heads with these ideas and goals so as to protect existing cattle operations from being forced out of business.

PVR-10-05 ABUSE OF EMINENT DOMAIN

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports legislation that prevents government entities from taking private property through the eminent domain process for the purpose of conveying that property to other private individuals or corporations.

PVR-11-06 PRIVATE LAND RIGHTS

WHEREAS, The rights of private property owners is a cornerstone of our democracy;

WHEREAS, land that is vacant groves, or land that is enrolled in CRP, CREP, RIM, or other government programs is private agricultural property;

WHEREAS, Correctly posting and maintaining no trespassing signs on private agricultural property adds an undo burden on the property owner.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association demand that the Minnesota State Legislature require the Minnesota Department of Natural Recourses to treat private property that is vacant groves, or land that is enrolled in CRP, CREP, RIM, or other government programs to be treated as agricultural property for hunting and trespassing purposes; this land is private agricultural land and should not need posting.

PVR-12-07 EAW AND ESI POLICY

WHEREAS, the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were created with the intention of fact finding, and

WHEREAS, the EAW and EIS process have become tools for groups or organizations to use increase the costs in order to discourage proposed projects, and not to find legitimate facts about the project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any group or organization that is for profit or non profit, that files a petition for an EAW or an ESI, be responsible for additional costs incurred by the EAW or ESI process, if the outcome rules in favor of the project.

PVR-13-09 CONTROLLED GRAZING OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM LANDS

WHEREAS, an artificial economic situation discriminates against the beef production industry (for example, current customary sustainable pasture rental rates verses CRP/CREP rates), and

WHEREAS, we need to stop the unnecessary loss of another depleting resource, the livestock grazer, and in turn the towns, churches and schools they support, and

WHEREAS, grazing has long been a method of protecting and utilizing fragile ground and with some changes and enhancements to existing managed programs they would lead to the continuing availability of pasture land or the placing of additional fragile ground into pastureland and in turn preserve or increase livestock numbers within the industries.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association asks that managed haying and grazing should apply to all CRP and CREP practices, and cattlemen (grazers) be involved in the writing of CRP and CREP programs or initiatives at all levels of government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the government change the qualifications for the Grassland program to include restoring, protecting and establishing grassland, including rangeland and grassland,

increase funding to encourage converting marginal and fragile ground of whatever size to grasslands and allow managed haying and grazing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CRP and CREP payments should be comparable to like land rental rates, and that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association oppose permanent easements on all CRP and CREP program contracts.

PVR-14-07 WINTER CARE AND FEEDING OF LIVESTOCK

WHEREAS, cattle are grazed and cared for on land that grew grains and forages during the growing season.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports language changes to the MPCA 7020 animal feedlot rules that would exclude from the animal feedlot definition, the seasonal winter feeding and care of livestock on land where forage or grain crops are grown during the growing season.

PVR-15-07 7020 FEEDLOT RULES

WHEREAS, updating existing feedlots to new 7020 feedlot rules is not always economically feasible.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association asks for consideration that cost share dollars that are available to those livestock producers for upgrading livestock facilities be available to those producers who upgrade, replace or expand their operation to make it an economically viable entity.

PVR-16-07 PASTURE RENOVATION CONTROLLED BURNING

WHEREAS, controlled burning is an important element in pasture management, including the control of noxious weeds.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota DNR should be more flexible in issuing burning permits for agriculture purposes (pasture renovation burning) and except under extreme fire danger conditions agriculture related burning should not be included in general DNR spring and fall bans on issuing of burning permits.

PVR-17-07 LEG HOLD TRAPS

WHEREAS, the elimination of leg hold traps would severely handicap predator/animal damage control trapping to protect property and livestock.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly opposes legislation to make leg hold traps illegal in the United States.

PVR-18-07 WOLF CONTROL FUNDING

WHEREAS, loss of livestock by gray wolves continue to mount and funds for removing depredating wolves may soon be depleted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association requests an additional \$500,000 to be appropriated to USDA Wildlife Services in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

PVR-19-09 TRESPASS LAWS

WHEREAS, terrorist groups, foreign and domestic, are a threat to the food supplies of the United States and a safe food supply is vital to our national security, and

WHEREAS, trespassing by domestic terrorists unto private livestock facilities carries the threat of spreading disease and threatening livestock health and causing economic hardship to producers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports a law that makes trespassing onto private livestock facilities a felony in cases where intentional damage has been caused.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all convicted trespassers and/or the organizations they represent be held liable for treble damages.

PVR-20-09 UNREASONABLE LOCAL RESTRICTIONS AND ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, it is becoming more prevalent for groups of residents, along with the help of professional specialized attorneys to press for passage of local ordinances banning or restricting the construction or expansion of livestock facilities, and

WHEREAS, while their reasoning is the fear of water and air pollution, the statements are emotionally based and not based on scientific facts nor take into consideration the negative economic impact such as anti-livestock ordinances will have on rural Minnesota.

WHEREAS, we live in a free country with private property rights protected by the United States Constitution and farmers and ranchers have the right to build new or expand existing livestock facilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports state legislation that puts a halt to local governments setting unreasonable restrictions on construction of livestock facilities in rural Minnesota.

PVR21-04 WILDLIFE SERVICES – FUNDING FOR DEPREDAATION CONTROL

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWL) Agency has proposed delisting of the gray wolf in Minnesota from Endangered Species Act protection. Delisting will result in overall management authority for the gray wolf reverting back to the State of Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS, the USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services Agency has historically been funded for and responded to resolve wolf depredation incidents within Minnesota and Wildlife Services maintains a well trained and highly effective cadre of depredation control specialists,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports continued federal funding of USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services for the purposes of assisting the State of Minnesota in responding to wolf depredation incidents and providing training to state and contract personnel for wolf depredation control actions after the wolf is delisted from Endangered Species Act protection.

PVR22-04 COMPENSATION FOR LIVESTOCK ATTACKED BY A GRAY WOLF

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 3.737 "Livestock Owners; Compensation For Destroyed Or Crippled Animals" directs the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to compensate livestock owners for livestock destroyed or crippled by a gray wolf, and;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in response to a deficit in the state operating budget discontinued the payment of compensation to livestock owners, and;

WHEREAS, livestock owners have borne their fair share in resolving the state's budget deficit through reduction and elimination in numerous agriculture programs, however Minnesota livestock owners continue to suffer uncompensated loss of livestock to gray wolves,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports restoration of funding to compensate livestock owners for livestock killed or crippled by gray wolves.

PVR23-06 GRAZING OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED LAND

WHEREAS, it has been determined that livestock grazing is environmentally healthy for grasslands, in that it helps establish native grass species and helps to control noxious weeds.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports grazing on government controlled land (CRP, Fish & Wildlife, DNR, etc.) following Fish & Wildlife guidelines.

PVR-24-07 WALK IN HUNTING

WHEREAS, landowners have liability with people on their land,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes a voluntary DNR walk in programs.

PVR-25-07 CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, Climate changes are in the media daily,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the use of peer-reviewed science when considering climate change legislation.

PVR-26-09 Required Fencing of Minnesota Waterways

WHEREAS, certain waters of the state are deemed as impaired waters.

WHEREAS the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and/or its contractors propose that producers fence the water of the state to restrict livestock from entering the waters of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports producer involvement in conservation and management practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes the MPCA in requiring fencing of Minnesota waterways.

PVR-27-09 Cap & Trade Legislation

WHEREAS, alleged excessive greenhouse gases are causing global warming and is considered a global issue,

WHEREAS Cap and Trade legislation is pending in Congress

WHEREAS every nation must follow the same rules for a competitive global market and

WHEREAS other nations ie: China & India are refusing to abide by the rules set forth by the UN,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is opposed to unilateral Climate agreements without unanimous global participation.

Ag-Policy

AGP-1-08 GRAZING

WHEREAS, Cattle in Minnesota graze in many pastures which have lake footage or streams included in them;

WHEREAS, some "waters of the state" in Minnesota have been deemed impaired water by reason of turbidity and other impairments,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports producer involvement and sound science in determination of conservation and management practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if change in lake, stream and river management practices becomes mandatory, there must be just compensation for costs and loss of land.

AGP-2-08 LIVESTOCK GREENHOUSE GAS

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in preparation to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association opposes any regulations on greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act that would negatively affect livestock production

AGP-3-08 HORSE SLAUGHTER

WHEREAS, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598) would criminalize the sale and transportation of horses for the purposes of slaughter, and

WHEREAS, the ceasing of horse slaughter has drastically increased the number of abandoned, neglected, and starving horses, and

WHEREAS, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598) would severely limit the rights of owners to manage their private property and subject horse owners to criminal prosecution should they sell or transport their horses for processing for human consumption, even if that is not their intention.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association does NOT support the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598) or similar legislation.

AGP-4-05 DAIRY INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the beef and dairy industries are vital to the economic well-being of the state of Minnesota, and contributes over \$1 billion annually to our state's economy, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to stabilize and revitalize Minnesota's dairy and beef industry.

AGP-5-06 ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, State and federal agencies continually adopt and revise rules and regulations for the production of livestock.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association request that funds be made available to help alleviate the financial burden put on all producers.

AGP-6-07 FORAGE CROP STORAGE STRUCTURES

WHEREAS, forage crops (hay, haylage) are a fundamental element in the feeding of beef brood cows, production of feeder calves and feeding market of cattle. Effective long-term storage of forage crops is a key element in the ability to produce and market feeder cattle.

WHEREAS, the USDA offers a low or interest free loan program commodity (grain) storage facilities to support on farm storage of grains to optimize product marketing opportunities.

BE IT RESOLVED, the USDA should extend the low or interest free loan program currently in place for commodity (grain) storage facilities to livestock forage crop storage structures.

AGP-7-09 CHANGES IN RURAL REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota is reducing rural representation in our state government.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is opposed to any legislation that would reduce rural representation in Minnesota.

AGP-8-08 FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL TAX

WHEREAS, Minnesota farmers and cattlemen use millions of dollars of fertilizer and chemicals to produce abundant food for American citizens and for the people throughout the world,

WHEREAS, it is impossible for farmers or cattlemen to pass any extra tax costs on,

BE IT RESOLVED, any sale or use tax on any fertilizer or chemical used by farmers or cattlemen must be prohibited.

AGP-9-08 PETROLEUM CONTAINMENT

WHEREAS, new federal law requires anything over 1000 gallons of petroleum products to require a containment structure to retain such product in case of a spill

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association requests an Ag exemption to this federal rule.

AGP-10-08 PROVEN YIELDS

WHEREAS, Minnesota cattle producers grow crops for feedstuffs under federal farm programs,

WHEREAS, many of these feedstuffs are fed to our livestock without LDP's, government loans, or warehouse receipts being produced, causing undo economic hardship for these feeders,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattleman's Association requests that Federal Crop Insurance records be used to prove federal government program yields.

AGP-11-08 EQIP APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has the duty of applying for EQUIP funding for upgrading of livestock facilities to comply with the EPA and MPCA feedlot rules, and

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

WHEREAS, NRCS offices and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Environmental Protection Agency are not consistent or in agreement on rulings,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association requests that NRCS local and regional officials be obligated to help livestock facility owners apply for EIP funding in a timely manner and with consistent rulings throughout the state.

AGP-12-04 SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR'S LIVESTOCK TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Governor's Livestock Task Force Recommendations provided for much needed regulatory reform and economic incentives for investment in Minnesota's Livestock Industry in order that it continue to be competitive and economic opportunities are expanded.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly supports legislative and regulatory changes to keep Minnesota animal agriculture competitive.

AGP-13-08 RULE CHANGES FOR RENDERING SERVICES

WHEREAS, renderers now pick up dead cattle and calves from beef and dairy operations. Since 1997 restrictions on feeding of ruminant proteins, the decrease in value of by products from dead animals has necessitated pick-up charges to farmers and feedlots.

WHEREAS, FDA has underestimated the effects of the proposed rule—that additional regulatory restrictions will have important negative environmental and economic impacts. The new rules will likely cause many renderers to cease pick-up of dead cattle or increase the pick-up charges causing farmers to seek alternative disposal methods for nearly one million cattle carcasses each year. This would increase the incidences of inappropriate disposal. This will cause the economics of many pick-up routes to be so inefficient that rendering services will cease to exist.

WHEREAS, the increased inappropriate disposal of dead animals and offal will lead to environmental and human/animal health problems that are not accounted for in the FDA proposal. In trying to rid the US of an extremely small risk of the spread of BSE in cattle, the proposed FDA regulation could increase the real risk of many other human/animal diseases.

WHEREAS, the livestock industry in the United States has made great strides in producing quality food in an environmentally friendly manner, and this regulation may result in a serious setback.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association does NOT support the FDA proposed BSE ruling concerning brain and spinal cord removal from cattle carcasses by rendering facilities.

AGP-14-08 BEEF CHECK-OFF

WHEREAS, the Beef Check-Off program has been critical to the improved perception and demand for beef,

WHEREAS, given the turbulent and increasingly competitive environment of today, combined with the increasing costs associated with carrying out the assigned tasks of Beef Promotion Research and Education,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports an increase of the Check-Off funding.

AGP-15-07 PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDE LABEL LAWS

WHEREAS, EPA has studied application rates and methods for pesticides and herbicides,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, opposes, Minnesota proposing, more restrictive regulations of pesticide and herbicide than the labeled instructions.

AGP-16-07 PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER REGULATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Ag has an understanding of agricultural practices,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the Minnesota Department of Ag maintaining exclusive authority of pesticide and fertilizer regulations.

AGP-17-08 FEED STORAGE

Whereas, MPCA is now requiring no discharge from stored feed areas.

Be it resolved, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports options other than containment.

AGP-18-08 BALLOT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is deeply concerned about the rapid spread of ballot initiatives across the Country.

WHEREAS, by this process well funded misinformation campaigns can overwhelm our ability to disseminate the truth and limit any chance of a fact based debate.

WHEREAS, an extremely small portion of the voting population has the experience or knowledge base to make an informed fact based decision.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Cattlemen believe that our elected officials have the responsibility of weighing the facts, exploring the consequences, and ultimately creating policies, laws, statutes that are in the best interest of their constituents,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the legislative process, and the work of our elected officials, and opposes any effort to replace the legislative process with ballot initiatives.

Taxes and Credit

TAX-1-08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TAX EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS, the livestock industry in Minnesota generates millions of dollars of income, and thousands of jobs for our citizens, our livestock industry is declining in production because of neighboring states tax policies.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association encourages the Minnesota Legislature to advocate investment in our livestock industry by;

- (1) Compute sales tax on materials that are used in the construction of new livestock facilities or improvement and repairs of existing facilities the same as farm machinery.
- (2) The valuation of these facilities be exempt from property taxes for ten years. Similar to the laws of Tax Increment Financing, that numerous businesses in Minnesota are receiving, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association believes all should be treated equally.

TAX-2-07 REDUCTIONS IN PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS, Agricultural property taxes in Minnesota constitute a large part of a producer's cost of production that must be paid regardless of whether a crop is produced or harvested, and regardless of whether a producer has the income to pay; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That real estate taxes should be based on the agricultural income producing capability of the property instead of on the assessed value of the property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association resists shifts in taxes that would increase the tax burden to the Minnesota agricultural economy.

TAX-3-03 WORKERS' COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature passed and the governor signed into law in 1992 and 1995 major reforms in Minnesota's Worker's Compensation laws which improved the overall competitiveness of Minnesota's agriculture industry, and

WHEREAS, these reforms have produced huge savings to Minnesota's agricultural industry and at the same time Minnesota employers have continued to improve their safety record.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association urges the Minnesota State Legislature to continue support for the 1992 and 1995 reforms to improve Minnesota's competitive position by reducing workers' compensation cost and to protect employee safety and thereby improve the states ability to invest in new jobs and businesses.

TAX-4-08 ESTATE AND GIFT TAX

WHEREAS, the elimination of the estate tax in the new Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 will return to full status after a phasing out period of ten years,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports a permanent reduction of the estate tax while retaining the current stepped up basis provision at the time of death.

TAX-5-05 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX ON FARMLAND RENT

WHEREAS, the IRS is attempting to place social security tax rules on agriculture, which are different than faced by any other segment of the economy.

BE IT RESOLVED, that income received as rent of agricultural property shall not be subject to social security.

TAX-6-08 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

WHEREAS, public school district funding is derived from local property taxes, and

WHEREAS, funding for public school capital improvement funding is assessed on a different property tax base than for levy increase referendum funding,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports all public school funding including capital improvement funding be based on one (1) house, one (1) garage, and one (1) acre of land.

TAX-7-09 COINCIDING STATE AND FEDERAL TAX LAWS

WHEREAS, the current state tax laws do not coincide with federal tax laws.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association suggest that the Minnesota Department of Revenue change tax laws to accept federal law changes on the same timetable.

TAX-8-05 TOTALLY COVERED CATTLE FEEDING SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the beef industry is building totally covered structures to eliminate manure runoff.

BE IT RESOLVED; The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports a ruling that the roof of a totally covered beef structure be exempt from property tax valuation.

TAX-9-06 HOMESTEAD CREDIT

WHEREAS, property tax amount is determined by an adjusted value of any given land, and

WHEREAS, homestead credit is limited to a total valuation of property of \$690,000, and

WHEREAS, land values are escalating.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports raising the credit limitations.

TAX10-08 CLEAN WATER FUND

WHEREAS, the Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water Land & Legacy Act which dedicates funding to improving and protecting the waters of the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports using the Minnesota Clean Water Fund to provide cost-share assistance for farmers for the development of voluntary comprehensive planning tools for nutrient management, manure management, pesticide management, tillage management, water management and conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports using the Minnesota Clean Water Fund for research and education projects related to agriculture nutrient use and potential water quality impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports using the Minnesota Clean Water Fund for the development and operation of an on-farm research and demonstration program for evaluating the relationship between farming practices and water quality, including the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices.

TAX-11-09 Dedicated Sales Tax Funds

WHEREAS the 2008 Minnesota State Sales Tax increase has raised dedicated funds for protecting, restoring, or enhancing the environment

WHEREAS Lessard-Sams Council has decided to acquire land as a way of protecting land

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports using dedicated funds for acquisition of private land only if funds for perpetual maintenance and management are included.

Research and Education

RED-1-06 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND EXTENSION SERVICE

WHEREAS, The University of Minnesota is involved in teaching, research, extension and public service programs which are a benefit to the entire population of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Livestock and supporting industries annually generate over 10 billion dollars of revenue in the State of Minnesota;

WHEREAS, The efficiency of animal production ultimately influences food costs for Minnesota consumers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strongly urges the Minnesota legislature to appropriate funds to adequately fund University Agriculture programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association believes the University of Minnesota Extension Service must be fully supported to continue educational programs and to provide new technology to all sectors of the State.

RED-2-09 BEEF INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR

WHEREAS, Coordination is needed between all educational entities and programs serving the beef industries throughout Minnesota.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association supports the creation of a statewide position of Beef Cattle Educator for beef industry development.

(Nothing Follows)