

2009 Michigan Cattlemen's Association Policy

The following resolutions and policy statements were adopted at the Michigan Cattlemen's Association Annual Business Meeting on January 24, 2009 during the MCA Annual Conference in Lansing.

CONSUMER RELATIONS

CR 1 BRAND-LIKE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the beef industry as a commodity driven business continues to lose market share to branded poultry and pork products; and,

WHEREAS, leading industry economists stress that beef must represent a better value to the consumer if it is to reverse the erosion in market share; and,

WHEREAS, it is a proven fact across industries throughout the world that branded products are more appealing than generic commodity products to the consumer;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports and endorses the Brand-like Initiative, and strategy to focus on developing industry practices, programs, and products to enhance economic signals from consumer to producer that ultimately add consumer value to our products and enhance profit opportunities for the whole industry. 1999/Amended 2007

CR 2 MEAT INSPECTIONS AND FOOD SAFETY

WHEREAS, there is a continual and reoccurring need to provide the most wholesome product; and,

WHEREAS, health and welfare of the public are top priorities for the beef industry,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to maintain the consistency of the meat inspection program; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA encourages the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Food Division inspection program to aggressively pursue and appropriately fine and punish violators of the Comminuted Meat Law.

MDA should place a priority on recommending maximum fines and punishment for repeat offenders in order to maintain integrity in the law; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA commend the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) for working with the USDA in maintaining and improving the federally funded meat inspection program in order to maintain the high level of food safety that the consumer deserves; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA firmly supports equal inspection regulations for all meats, imported and domestic, under a science based Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points System as the basis for meat inspection; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA fully endorses the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program to insure a safe and wholesome beef product; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA encourages enabling legislation and funding to reinstate State of Michigan slaughter inspection for traditional and non-traditional meats and meat products; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA supports the reinstatement of slaughter and consumption of non-ambulatory cattle due to injury incurred during transport to and while at the harvest facility. 1992/Amended 2007/2009

CR 3 MICHIGAN BEEF INDUSTRY COMMISSION FOR PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Michigan Beef Industry Commission (MBIC) has effectively promoted beef through its varied consumer and producer education programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA reaffirms its support of the current efforts of the MBIC, and the MCA urges partnering with MBIC to be continued

for its consumer education, industry information, special projects, and beef promotion programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA urges continued communication and working relationships with producers about the use of Check-off dollars to implement efficient beef promotion within the industry. 1992/Amended 2007

CR 4 INSTITUTIONAL USE OF RED MEAT

WHEREAS, we believe there is a great opportunity to develop more uses for beef through all non-commercial foodservice programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA will strive to promote the use of beef products, following current USDA nutritional guidelines, in federal and state funded programs. 2003 Amended /2005

CR 5 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WHEREAS, effective communication to consumers and the local communities about issues facing the beef cattle industry is necessary; and,

WHEREAS, loss and segmentation of Michigan agricultural land through greater urbanization has increased the importance of educating our future generations on acceptable agricultural practices as defined by Right to Farm Legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports and encourages agricultural organizations to provide leadership in the development and implementation of agricultural education materials suitable for use in Michigan's school science classes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA actively supports a coalition

with the MBIC, MDA, Michigan State University (MSU), and Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) to develop vocational agriculture, Young People Citizen Seminar and 4-H programs which train beef industry spokespersons and encourages community involvement on the local and state levels. 1992/ Amended 2007

CR 6 MICHIGAN RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL EXHIBITION

WHEREAS, the MCA stresses the importance of proper production practices and life skills development of youth and adults;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA encourages all livestock exhibitors and exhibitions adopt Michigan Recommended Animal Exhibition Guidelines for youth, 4-H extension personnel, and individuals directly involved with the livestock projects with regard to personal conduct, and animal well being. These guidelines are to be consistent with the Animal Care Guidelines that were developed under the Right to Farm Act. 1997/ Amended 2005

CR 7 ANIMAL CARE

WHEREAS, the MCA is committed to the promotion of livestock health and welfare defined as the reasonable care of all animals, i.e. good animal husbandry practices and supports the NCBA's Animal Care Subcommittee in its efforts to monitor the activities of animal activist groups;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA is opposed to the concept of animal rights, defined as a position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights similar to humans, and MCA opposes the expenditure of public funds to promote the concept of animal rights. We oppose legislation that would give animal activist organizations or any agency not connected with production agriculture the right to establish standards for the raising, handling, feeding, housing, or transportation of livestock; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA assumes a leadership role in promoting the welfare of animals, works with

MSU and other farm organizations to continue educational programs directed toward the public regarding appropriate management of livestock and supports humane handling of farm animals. 1992/Amended 2007/2009

CR 8 BEEF SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, there is a continued need to assure that Michigan beef products meet quality and safety standards to establish consumer confidence and trust in cattlemen;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA urges the USDA and MDA to provide sufficient funding for animal health monitoring programs and disease eradication programs for the livestock industries. 1992/Amended 2007

CR 9 DAIRY AND VEAL LIAISON

WHEREAS, a portion of the beef produced in Michigan comes from the dairy and veal industries; and,

WHEREAS, the beef, dairy, and veal industries have much to gain by working together;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA continues to work closely with the dairy and veal organizations of Michigan to share ideas and resources for the benefit of these industries and to promote a more unified legislative policy development effort. 1990

CR 10 NUTRITION LABELING

WHEREAS, the federal government has passed regulatory actions mandating nutrition labels on processed food products and voluntary labels on raw meat and poultry products; and,

WHEREAS, beef is a nutritious product and an important ingredient in modern diets; and,

WHEREAS, nutrition labeling of beef products, as regulated by USDA, could benefit both consumers and the beef industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports nutrition labeling of meat and poultry products that includes important nutritive qualities of the product and distinguishes between the types

and levels of fats, micronutrients and other nutritive properties so consumers can make informed decisions. 2007/ Amended 2009

MARKETING

MKT 1 PACKING CAPACITY

WHEREAS, the majority of Michigan beef cattle are harvested and processed out of the state of Michigan;

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages and supports new and existing packing/processing plants to explore business opportunities in our state, and encourage federal, state and local agencies cooperation. 1999/Amended 2007

MKT 2 PACKER CONCENTRATION

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes that further packer concentration in the United States could potentially cause a problem with respect to competitive pricing; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the time and effort taken by the Cattlemen's Association Industry Concentration Task Force and encourage their ongoing exchange of information; and,

WHEREAS, large operations are gaining vertical control of huge shares of the feedlot and packing industries;

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA is opposed to any further packer concentration; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages the department of justice to explore and investigate further concentration and mergers in the packing industry; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages strong enforcement of monopoly laws. 1992/ Amended 2007/2009

MKT 3 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

WHEREAS, the MCA supports an increased effort to promote and market beef at the retail and foodservice levels;

BE IT RESOLVED, that this effort should be at least a twofold: one,

working with the retail outlets to better present and manage the beef section of the meat case, and; two, to work at educating the consumer in the areas of beef nutrition and preparation; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports the efforts of the MBIC in carrying out the above recommendations; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports the exploration of increased investment in beef promotion to implement these programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA continually supports the efforts of the MBIC and the Check-off program. 1992/Amended 2007

MKT 4 CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

WHEREAS, basis contracts and hedging are potential marketing tools, fed cattle contracts are 40,000 lbs; and

WHEREAS, predictable basis is essential for successful use of commodity futures markets anywhere in the country;

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports modifications to the live cattle futures contract that make use of cash settlement, payment based on uniform carcass evaluation, and conversion to a beef cutout price, MCA supports an increase in fed cattle contracts to 48,000 lbs per contract; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports regional packer delivery points for fed cattle contract settlement. 2003/Amended 2007

MKT 5 PRE-SALE VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND REPORTING

WHEREAS, feeder cattle health in Michigan is a major concern, the MCA supports pre-sale vaccination and preconditioning programs being implemented by marketing organizations to improve feeder cattle health;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages sales organizations to report to the prospective buyer any vaccination and preconditioning programs. 1997

MKT 6 NUTRITION

WHEREAS, the MCA supports the organizations such as the NCBA, American Medical Association, American Dietetic Association; and,

WHEREAS, the MCA supports nutritional recommendations which encourage the use of red meat to contribute to a nutritionally sound diet for use in federal and/or food nutrition programs; designed in particular, to enhance and improve quality and nutritional value of the menus offered in the federally funded school lunch programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA urges continued communication about the positive nutritional value of red meat in a balanced diet. 1992/Amended 2007

MKT 7 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS, mandatory country of origin labeling was implemented with the signing of the 2008 Farm Bill: and,

WHEREAS, many cattle producers throughout the United States feed cattle that originate from Canada and Mexico that must now be identified at the time of slaughter;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports the implementation of a mandatory country of origin brand system for cattle that originate from Canada and Mexico so that timely visual identification can occur. 2003/Amended 2007/2009

MKT 8 VALUE ADDED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the MCA supports the concept of value added products and recognizes their success throughout the country;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports programs for developing value added beef products; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports the continued development of consumer convenient products. 1992/ Amended 2001

MKT 9 ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS, beef animals have multiple owners during their lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, animal identification is crucial to carcass data collection and disease control trace back (TB, FMD, BSE); and,

WHEREAS, the US beef industry could better position our products in the global marketplace with source verified animals/carcasses;

WHEREAS, it is important that meaningful and useful information be made available to the entire production and processing chain so that we may realize the full economic benefit of the electronic identification system;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports the development and use of a mandatory electronic identification system; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports further development and utilization of the electronic identification system by the producers and packers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA provide producer education as to the value and management capabilities of electronic identification. 2002/Amended 2009

MKT 10 CAPTIVE SUPPLY

WHEREAS, the beef industry has made progress in producing a more consistent product; and,

WHEREAS, value based pricing procedures link flow of information between beef packers and processors to cattle producers regarding product quality; and,

WHEREAS, the packer's ability to purchase or manage their supply more than fourteen days prior to delivery sustains an adequate supply of a consistent, quality product; and,

WHEREAS, it is important to have numerous risk management tools available to beef producers;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA opposes federal legislation that would eliminate packer ownership/control of livestock because the legislation would

eliminate value based pricing, reduce risk management options and/or eliminates a significant number of buyers of cattle in the U.S. 2003

RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND ENVIRONMENT

REE 1 FEED RESOURCES

WHEREAS the beef cattle industry in Michigan is reliant on high quality, cost effective feed resources;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages MSU to develop and maintain research and extension programs to enhance agronomics, harvest and storage practices of feed resources used by the beef cattle industry; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports research that utilizes Michigan's pasture lands in a cost effective and environmentally sustainable manner; and

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourages MSU Crop and Soils department to continue to conduct variety trials on species important to Michigan's livestock industry, including corn, alfalfa, soybeans grasses and others; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports and encourages MSU to develop and demonstrate cost effective strategies to market Michigan home grown feedstuffs through livestock. 2007/ Amended 2009

REE 2 MICHIGAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, The MCA commends all volunteer leaders in youth livestock shows, exhibitions and livestock clubs for their efforts to expose Michigan youth to career and educational opportunities within the Michigan cattle industry while promoting good fellowship and sportsmanship for the youth of our state and pledge full support to their activities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports programs to encourage and broaden youth involvement in the beef

industry by identifying support dollars and other resources to help coordinate these events. 1999/Amended 2007/2009

REE 3 ANIMAL HEALTH

Part I – Bovine Tuberculosis

WHEREAS, the sustainability and profitability of cattle production in Michigan depends on improving cattle health, minimizing disease outbreaks, and eradicating diseases of economic importance; and,

WHEREAS, Bovine Tuberculosis continues to impact the Michigan cattle industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports and encourages continued research into the epidemiology, diagnostics, vaccines, and development of risk mitigation protocols for on- farm implementation; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports and encourages continued research into eradication of bovine TB from Michigan's cattle and whitetailed deer population; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bovine TB policies for eradication and control be continually evaluated for effectiveness and economic feasibility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourages MSUE, MAES, MDA, USDA, and MDNR to effectively communicate information vital to the cooperative effort necessary to eradicate Bovine TB.

Part II - Johnes

WHEREAS, due to economic impact and public health concerns, Johnes Disease continues to be a major concern to the Michigan cattle industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages use of the guidelines for a national paratuberculosis certification program developed by the national Johnes Disease Task Force in implementing voluntary certification of cattle herds; and encourage USDA and MDA to enhance funding for this program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourages the MSU Animal Science Department, MSU Department

of Large Animal Clinical Science, Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, MSU Extension, MAES and MDA to cooperate in developing control and prevention guidelines, provide educational programs, and provide affordable diagnostic testing to assist and encourage producers to participate in an effective Johnes Disease certification program.

Part III – Development of New Technology and Strategies

WHEREAS, emerging and changing microbial populations continue to cause expensive disease outbreaks in Michigan cattle operations;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages the MSU Animal Science Department and College of Veterinary Medicine to cooperate in development of innovative technology and sound strategies to minimize diseases of economic importance to Michigan's cattle industry, including but not limited to: Bovine Respiratory Disease, Bovine Viral infections and the relationship to infections with mycoplasma;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages MSU to allocate funding for development and implementation of these strategies; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine continue to address the issue of the shortage of food animal veterinarians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Production Medicine Scholars Program continue to be supported by MSU. 2007/Amended 2009

REE 4 BEEF RESEARCH AT EXPERIMENT STATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA strongly supports beef cattle research at the Upper Peninsula and Lake City Experiment Stations and encourages efforts be focused on research in cow-calf and stocker areas emphasizing management, feed resources and genetic improvement. 1997/Amended 1999

REE 5 ENHANCED COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS, Beef Cattle Production enterprises contribute significantly to the overall economy of Michigan, and we recognize that continued economic viability of the beef cattle industry requires a strong, working relationship with MSU teaching, research and extension staff;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA strongly urges the Michigan legislature to maintain funding for MSU's Extension Programs and Agricultural Experimental Stations;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA strongly urges the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to maintain a strong beef cattle education focus in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA strongly urges the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine maintain its commitment to teaching, research, and extension related to beef cattle; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that current faculty and staff positions be maintained; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA greatly values the contributions of the MSU Extension Area of Expertise (AoE) field staff and recommends that all vacant AoE positions be filled; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the leadership of the MCA work with MSU to develop an updated list of research and education priorities for the Michigan beef cattle industry; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA maintain and enhance a close working relationship with both the MSU Animal Agricultural Initiative and Michigan Agricultural Experimental Stations regarding status of all beef cattle research. 1995/Amended 2007/2009

REE 6 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS sustainability, longevity, and profitability of Michigan cattle operations is based on proper livestock management;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA requests the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and MSU Extension direct financial resources toward research and outreach that will lower the cost of production, increase feed efficiency and decrease health associated losses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that research and checkoff dollars be used to enhance the value of beef to ultimately improve consumer satisfaction; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA continues to support the MSU undergraduate curriculum which provides a major emphasis in livestock and in agri-business; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA strongly encourages the continuance of MSU sponsored record keeping systems such as Chaps, Cow-Calf IRM and Feedlot IRM to provide a mechanism to track profitability and factors that influence profitability in Michigan cattle operations; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA requests MSU to direct the necessary resources to make these systems viable and user friendly. The results of these record keeping systems should be summarized by MSU and utilized annually to improve the economic efficiency of Michigan cattle operations; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA strongly urges MSU to complete a windows-based version of the Spartan Beef Cattle Ration Evaluation in the near future. 1995/Amended 2007/2009

REE 7 ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

WHEREAS, environmental issues are of prominent importance to the viability of the industry; and

WHEREAS, MCA is concerned with the protection of the environment;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urges Michigan livestock producers to follow the voluntary guidelines for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices established under the Right to Farm Act; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urges livestock producers to participate in the Michigan Agriculture Environ-

mental Assurance Program; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports efforts by the MSU Extension and other affiliated organizations to develop an aggressive education program to assist producers in complying with the voluntary guidelines for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urges Michigan cattle producers to become actively involved with land use planning at county, township and community levels; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urges MSU-Agriculture Experiment Stations and MSU Extension to continue to do research and educational projects on animal manure management, with special emphasis on fly, odor and air quality controls; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA opposes air quality legislation or regulation that is not based on sound scientific principles; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urges extension to work with producers to encourage NRCS to release EQIP funds to any and all conservation and facility projects that protect the environment on existing operations and are necessary to maintain or sustain the operation; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that dollar savings from reduced crop support payments be used for livestock conservation programs; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourages funding for the conservation districts be maintained, providing federal assistance to beef producers in Michigan; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports the efforts of the Michigan Grazing Land Conservation Initiative and the Michigan Forage Council. 1993/Amended 2007/2009

REE 8 BIOTECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the MCA supports the development of research and testing that will enhance the adoption of biotechnology products, processes and address consumer safety and environmental concerns;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports the development of a positive national strategy for the further development of biotechnology research and favors the swift dissemination of accurate information to consumers concerning biotechnology; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA supports active involvement by the United States in the development of a uniform scientifically based international approval process for biotechnology. 2001/Amended 2007

REE 9 BIOFUELS

WHEREAS, the expansion of the biofuels industry in Michigan has created new feed resources, such as distillers grains;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports and encourages MSU to develop research and extension to utilize co-products of the biofuel industry in livestock diets; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourages MSU to develop new technologies to integrate livestock operations with the bioeconomy. 2007/Amended 2009

STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

SNA 1 BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

WHEREAS, the mycobacterium bovis (bovine tuberculosis) problem is causing extreme financial hardship for beef and dairy producers throughout Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, bovine tuberculosis has been found in free-ranging wildlife and cattle in Northeast Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, this is a contagious disease of both humans and animals; and,

WHEREAS, the whitetail deer population in many parts of Michigan graze the same habitat as domestic livestock;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the ongoing testing of livestock and wildlife to monitor the status of mycobacterium bovis in the state; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA urges an aggressive program be conducted by

the MDA and the DNR to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the deer herd and cattle herds. Furthermore, MCA supports an aggressive approach to preventing transmission of the disease. These efforts should include programs to reduce the deer population and minimize contacts between livestock feed supply and free range deer; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA favors a blanket authorization by the DNR to livestock owners/operators to eliminate on sight any/all deer found to be within the confines of a livestock operation. Such authorization should encompass the responsible use of firearms 24 hours a day, year round, as well as the use of lights, so that deer may be safely and efficiently disposed of when found within livestock pastures and feeding areas. Such deer control efforts should continue in effect until Michigan regains its bovine tuberculosis-free accreditation; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports a total ban on feeding and baiting, including supplemental emergency feeding (normal feeding of livestock is not considered supplemental feeding) of free ranging deer statewide. Furthermore, the violation penalties should be strengthened similar to those of poaching violations (ie. heavy fines, seizure of guns and vehicles); and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports legislation to require prompt and efficient compensation from the state of Michigan to compensate producers for the full market value of any animals ordered destroyed; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the option of feedlots to become terminal feedlots and encourages producers to use the terminal feedlot program; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports an indemnification plan to expedite TB eradication in the modified accredited zone; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports producer indemnity tied directly to the development and implementation of their farm risk management plan (example, a plan with implementation

would be reimbursed 100%, a farm with minimal implementation 50% and a farm with no plan 0%); and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the efforts of MDA's TB eradication program and encourages the continued move toward a TB Free Status. We appreciate the actions taken to achieve split state status and urge MDA to aggressively pursue TB Free Status for the southern Lower Peninsula. It is imperative that MDA and USDA work to reduce the size of the *Modified Accredited Zone* in a timely manner; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA opposes the importation of cattle for exhibition or sale that do not meet health requirements as deemed appropriate by the Director of Agriculture such as; TB testing requirements, movement permits, appropriate quarantine protocols or identification with an official USDA 840 or equivalent electronic ear tag; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA calls for the APHIS TB eradication program and Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) to be updated to reflect the needs of current TB disease eradication, and that USDA seek additional funding to support these efforts. 1999/Amended 2007/2009

SNA 2 AG POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS, USEPA regulations for CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operations) is having a substantial impact on beef and dairy producers in Michigan;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the continued DEQ oversight of the Clean Water Act, and MDA oversight of the Right to Farm provisions, as it relates to animal feeding operations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA encourages the participation of its members in the voluntary MI Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program and the development of a comprehensive nutrient management plan. 1999/Amended 2005

SNA 3 UNIFORM AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes the need for a single uniform set of guidelines for generally accepted agricultural and management practices; and,

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes the MDA as the lead agency in development of generally accepted agricultural and management practices and opposes development of such practices by any other state agency;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA strongly urges all government agencies, educational institutions and industry organizations to work cooperatively and coordinate their efforts to develop and further refine a set of guidelines of generally accepted agricultural and management practices; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State and National Committee charges the MCA executive committee with the responsibility of reviewing the issues of the voluntary generally accepted agricultural and management practices prior to their initial adoption or subsequent revision and adoption by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. 1999/Amended 2001

SNA 4 TAX REFORM

WHEREAS, a balanced and equitable tax structure at a local, state and national level is necessary to create economic development and a healthy climate; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports a change in the unemployment tax base from \$20,000 per quarter to \$80,000 annually; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports tax credits for investments in alternative energy production; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA supports the taxation of qualified agricultural land at \$5.00 an acre to reflect a competitive business structure for Michigan agriculture. 1993/Amended 2005/2009

SNA 5 LAND USE PLANNING

WHEREAS, agriculture lands protect township green spaces;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the Right to Farm Act and urges producers to follow the voluntary guidelines written under the Act; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA members should become involved in local government, become aware of local ordinances, and become involved in the development of land use plans. MCA members should make themselves and other producers aware of proposed and existing ordinances that are restricting the existence and expansion of agriculture and livestock production. MCA should work closely with other organizations in reviewing and surveying existing township and county ordinances which impact agriculture. 1993/Amended 2007/2009

SNA 6 INTERNATIONAL TRADE

WHEREAS, the MCA supports the continued research and development of open market opportunities in other countries for all agricultural products;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA strongly urges the NCBA to promote international trade agreements with equal market access for all agricultural products; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages international trade to be consistent with sound scientific food safety testing procedures. 1992/Amended 2007

SNA 7 WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT

WHEREAS, the interpretation and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act by the Department of Environmental Quality has resulted in saving valuable wetlands, but has also placed a disproportionate burden on some landowners;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA supports the following wetland provisions:

1. The wetlands inventory must be completed and made available to landowners.

2. Statewide standards for wetlands determination must be established to ensure uniform application in all locations.
3. Where application of this act results in a substantial or total loss of the value of the property, the state must compensate the property owner. Control and access to the property must remain with the property owner.
4. Establishment of a property tax classification for wetlands. 1993/Amended 2003

SNA 8 LIABILITY EXPOSURE TO THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate filing of tort liability claims through lawsuits and the sometimes excessive judgments that are rendered are costing MCA members and others much more money (it is common for plaintiffs in such cases, to be awarded multi-million dollar judgments); and,

WHEREAS, costs associated with paying the judgments are borne largely by the defendant's insurance company, and, subsequently passed on to its insurer through higher insurance premiums;

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the adoption of the following comprehensive tort reform measures in order to alleviate the tremendous economic pressure that this places on MCA members, hospitals, physicians, local governments and others:

1. Abolish joint and several liabilities and allow defendants to name other principal defendants to the suit;
2. Mandate structured settlements for large monetary judgments;
3. Cap non-economic damages;
4. Reform pre-judgment interest rules by:
 - a. Reducing the interest rate
 - b. Abolishing pre-judgment interest
5. A plaintiff should be responsible for paying the defendant's legal fees if the case is settled in the defendant's favor; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, there is a need to curtail unjustifiable and excessive liability lawsuits in this country; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA continue its efforts to achieve these results on both the state and national level. 1989

SNA 9 WOLF DELISTING

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes the sociological ramifications the Michigan wolf causes and the need for collaborative effort between MCA, MDA, and MDNR to address livestock production burdens resulting from the MI wolf population;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the current Federal Rule delisting of the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species Act and supports delisting of the wolf from the Michigan Endangered Species regulations; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports continued MDNR training of personnel that leads to timely identification of kills and indemnification payments at full market value; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the wolf management guidelines developed by the MI Wolf Roundtable Group; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA supports full compensation to include but not limited to vet bills, fence repair, and other expenses and/or provide adequate protection to landowners who are unable to control wolves engaged in the destruction of their livestock. 2003/ Amended 2007

SNA 10 BIOSECURITY

WHEREAS, terrorism and biosecurity are important to the safety of our Nation's food supply;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA encourages MDA to identify critical control points in the beef cattle production system; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MDA develop strategies for identifying and minimizing risk that improve biosecurity for the cattle industry. 2005/ Amended 2007

SNA 11 LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT OF MSU ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the cattle industry relies heavily on MSU campus staff, extension and the MSU Agriculture Experiment Stations for research and dissemination of information critical to the profitability of the cattle industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA considers it a high priority to secure funding for the MSU Agricultural Experiment Stations and MSU Extension; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA urges the administration of MSU, the Governor and state legislature to continue to support the programmatic funding portion of the Revitalization of Michigan Animal Agriculture Project. 2005

SNA 12 PERMANENT REPEAL OF THE DEATH TAX

WHEREAS, the inheritance tax is presently on a declining scale but will return in 2010 if not permanently repealed,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports and encourages the permanent repeal of the death tax; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCA supports NCBA's efforts to achieve beneficial modifications to the death tax. 2005/Amended 2007

SNA 13 AGRICULTURE REGULATORY REFORM

WHEREAS, in response to the current regulatory climate surrounding environmental issues,

BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA continues support of voluntary programs such as the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we strongly support regulatory reform including the following actions:

1. Rulemaking authority should be limited by legislative actions.
2. Regulations should be understandable and easy to comply with and penalties should fit the violation.
3. State agencies should be required to conduct standardized risk assessments, cost benefit analyses and

economic impact statements of all proposed regulations.

4. New regulations should expire after a defined period of time unless a review finds substantial reasons to continue the programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA continues to communicate with the DEQ, Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders to resolve this problem. 2007

SNA 14 MSU MEATS LAB

WHEREAS, the state's agricultural industry and especially the livestock industry, propelled the Animal Initiative through the state legislature to enhance Michigan State University's animal education programs and facilities; and,

WHEREAS, among the initiatives were the creation of a state-of-the-art meats laboratory and new faculty positions; and,

WHEREAS, currently, there is an insufficient number of faculty to fully utilize the facility,

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports immediate development and implementation of a strategic plan to fill vacant positions and increase research and educational activity within the MSU Meat Science program and facilities. We further urge involvement from external industry partners to facilitate the plan; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourages industry leaders to convene and re-evaluate the mission of the MSU Meat Science program and work with the MSU Animal Science and Food Science staff to develop a plan for the future direction of animal products programs. 2007

SNA 15 ANIMAL COALITION

WHEREAS, the Animal Coalition Committee has dissolved,

BE IT RESOLVED, that a "new" group of industry leaders be developed to interface with MSU administrators and state legislators. 2007

SNA 16 BEEF CATTLE ENDOWMENT FUND

WHEREAS, Michigan's beef industry, with the leadership of MCA, has established the Beef Cattle Education Endowment Fund at MSU for the purpose of providing a sustained source of funding for MSU's beef research and teaching facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the fund will assist in providing support for the educational opportunities offered to students in the MSU beef cattle program,

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA urges the Michigan Farm Bureau, its members and all cattle producers in the state to support this effort in funding the endowment. 2007

SNA 17 HORSE HARVEST AND PROCESSING BAN

WHEREAS, legislation was introduced in Congress to ban the processing of horses for the meat export market and in the process passed in the House of Representatives; and,

WHEREAS, such legislation puts at risk the value and welfare of unwanted horses, the environment from the disposal of carcasses from thousands of horses no longer allowed to be processed, and the private property rights of horse owners; and

WHEREAS, such legislation threatens the ability of the meat processing industry as a whole to operate freely in this country and will likely be reintroduced in the new Congress;

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA opposes any legislated ban to the domestic slaughter or interruption of international trade of horses and will encourage our legislators to oppose it as well. 2007/Amended 2009

SNA 18 MICHIGAN BEEF CHECK- OFF

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports an initiative to increase the Michigan Beef Checkoff. 2005/Amended 2006

SNA 19 NATIONAL BEEF CHECKOFF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, producer investment in the Beef Checkoff has helped improve beef demand in the U.S. and in foreign markets, and,

WHEREAS, 20 years of inflation and changes in cattle feeding have cut into the amount of funding for promotion, research, and educational projects,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Michigan Cattlemen's Association supports the following Amendments to the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.

- 1) To provide every 10 years a petition of at least 10% of all beef producers can trigger a referendum on the beef Checkoff. The referendum will be decided by simple majority of producers voting to validate and continue the Checkoff.
- 2) To provide a permanent, producer initiative to give producers the opportunity to set the assessment rate upon a 10% petition of all U.S. Beef Producers for a new referendum. A simple majority of those then voting on the referendum will set the new rate.
- 3) Make the Checkoff more inclusive to contractors by deleting any reference to charter dates of established national non-profit industry governed organizations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Michigan Cattlemen's Association supports a Checkoff rate increase of at least \$1.00 per head, plus the continuation of the current \$1.00. 2008/Amended 2009

SNA 20 WILDLIFE INDEMNIFICATION

WHEREAS, game farms have put livestock farms at risk for disease and have drained MDA and USDA of finances,

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA supports the privately owned cervids, game mammals and game birds be reclassified as wildlife and excluded from domestic livestock indemnification under the Animal Industries Act 466; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA supports a statewide moratorium on new and expanding game farms until each farm meets state guidelines and establishes a risk mitigation plan or quarantine release plan. 2009

SNA 21 ETHANOL MARKETS AND MANDATES

WHEREAS, MCA supports the domestic ethanol industry because of its importance to our nation's security, energy policy, agriculture industries, and rural communities; and,

WHEREAS, MCA believes competitive markets are the most efficient way to allocate resources between livestock industry, ethanol industry, export markets and other corn users; and,

WHEREAS, the current import tariffs and blenders credit, which helped develop the ethanol industry and serve to protect it from unfair foreign competition, are scheduled to sunset in December 2009 and December 2010, respectively;

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA seeks transition of the ethanol blender's credit and import tariffs to a counter cyclical payment system that will serve as a safety net in times of severe economic challenges to the ethanol industry; and

BE IT RESOLVED, MCA is opposed to additional increases to existing federal mandates for ethanol usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes government incentives for cellulosic ethanol production from corn ethanol co-products.

