

# 2011 Michigan Cattlemen's Association Policy

*The following resolutions and policy statements were adopted at the Michigan Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting on January 22, 2011.*

## RECOGNITION

**WHEREAS**, Michigan agriculture has been a growing, vibrant industry in an economy that has greatly restricted government's ability to provide services and programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, Don Koivisto has served as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture during this time,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that MCA recognizes Don Koivisto for his strong support and timeless effort in promoting the beef industry in particular and agriculture in general in Michigan.

## 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 continued need to assure that Michigan beef products meet quality and safety standards to establish consumer confidence and trust in cattlemen and 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 USDA and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Food Division inspection programs to maintain the consistency of the meat inspection.
- 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.

- 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.
- The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program to insure a safe and wholesome beef product.
- Enabling legislation and funding to reinstate State of Michigan slaughter inspection for traditional and non-traditional meats and meat products.
- USDA and MDARD providing sufficient funding for animal health monitoring programs and disease eradication programs for the livestock industries. 1992/Amended 2007/2009/2011

### 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 supports 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 RESOLVED**, that this effort should include working with the retail and foodservice outlets to better market and promote beef in these channels, and educating the consumer in the areas of beef nutrition and preparation; 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; 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; and,

**WHEREAS**, beef has an important role in a well-balanced diet as a component of a healthy lifestyle that includes consuming

proper portion size and exercise,

**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 /2005/2011

### 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, MDARD, Michigan State University (MSU), and Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) to promote agricultural awareness, including but not limited to: the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program, 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/ 2011

### 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. These guidelines are to be consistent with the Animal Care Guidelines that were developed under the Right to Farm Act. 1997/ Amended 2005/ 2011

### 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.
- The expenditure of public funds to promote the concept of animal rights.
- 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 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 9 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 healthy 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 2009/2011

## CR 10 NUTRITION

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MCA urges continued communication about the positive nutritional value of red meat in a balanced diet. 1992/Amended 2007/2011

## MARKETING

### MKT 1 PACKING CAPACITY

**WHEREAS**, a significant number 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.
- Cooperation of federal, state and local agencies.
- State government to create an environment that is more conducive to business and industry, including the development of small processing plant opportunities. 1999/Amended 2007/2011

### 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; however, we are opposed to the government overstepping their boundaries as it relates to dictating how cattlemen may or may not market their cattle. 1992/ Amended 2007/2009/2011

### MKT 3 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.

- An increase in fed cattle contracts to 48,000 lbs per contract.
- Regional packer delivery points for fed cattle contract settlement. 2003/ Amended 2007

### MKT 4 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 5 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; and,

**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.
- Further development and utilization of the electronic identification system by both producers and packers.
- Providing producer education as to the value and management capabilities of electronic identification.
- Working with Michigan Farm Bureau, MDARD and the packing industry to develop premium markets that utilize Michigan produced and identified cattle. 2002/Amended 2009/2011

### MKT 6 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

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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; and,

**WHEREAS**, forward pricing is a necessary option for many producers;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA opposes federal legislation/regulation 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/ Amended 2011

## 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.
- Research that utilizes Michigan's pasture lands in a cost effective and environmentally sustainable manner.
- The MSU Department of Crop and Soil Science to continue to conduct variety trials on species important to Michigan's livestock industry, including corn, alfalfa, soybeans, grasses and others.
- MSU to develop and demonstrate cost effective strategies to market Michigan home grown feedstuffs through livestock. 2007/ Amended 2009/2011

### 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.
- Continued research into eradication of bovine TB from Michigan's cattle and whitetail deer population.
- Bovine TB policies for eradication and control be continually evaluated for effectiveness and economic feasibility.
- MSU, MDARD, 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:

- The 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.
- USDA and MDARD to enhance funding for this program.
- MSU, MDARD, and USDA 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 MSU to:

- Develop innovative technology and sound strategies to minimize diseases of economic importance to Michigan's cattle industry, including but not limited to: bovine respiratory disease, viral infections of cattle and the relationship to infections with "Mycoplasma".
- Allocate funding for development and implementation of these strategies. 2007/Amended 2009/2011

### REE 4 FOOD ANIMAL PRACTITIONER SHORTAGE

**WHEREAS**, there is a national shortage of food animal veterinarians;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MSU 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 RESOLVED**, that the College of Veterinary Medicine and MDA communicate the availability of loan forgiveness programs through the National Veterinary Medical Service Act for veterinarians practicing in underserved areas of Michigan; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Production Medicine Scholars Program continue to be supported by MSU. 2007/ Amended 2009, 2011

### REE 5 MSU BEEF CATTLE FUNDING AND PROGRAM STAFFING

**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 supports:

- Legislative funding of the MSU-Extension/Ag Bio Research.
- A strong beef cattle education focus in the CANR undergraduate and graduate curriculum.
- That current facility and staff positions be maintained.
- Filling vacant MSU-E Beef Educator positions.
- That the MCA Research Committee and MSU faculty/staff identify research priorities.
- That MSUE communicate research findings and facilitate practical application of this research.
- Continued programmatic funding of the Revitalization of Michigan Animal Agriculture Project.

### REE 6 BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MSU maintain the Chatham and Lake City AgBioResearch station funding to:

- Lower cost of production
- Increase feed efficiency
- Address health issues
- Ensure carcass quality
- Continue MSU Identity record keeping system
- Promote Cow/Calf & feedlot records – IRM

- Complete Spartan Ration Evaluation Programs (windows based and user friendly)

## 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.
- Livestock producers to participate in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and develop a comprehensive nutrient management plan.
- Continued 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.
- Michigan cattle producers to become actively involved with land use planning at county, township and community levels.
- AgBioResearch 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.
- MSUE to work with producers to better understand all farm bill conservation and facility projects that protect the environment on existing operations and are necessary to maintain or sustain the operation.
- Funding for the conservation districts be restored.

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MCA supports the efforts of the Michigan Grazing Land Conservation Initiative and the Michigan Forage Council. 1993/Amended 2007/2009/2011

## 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 bio-fuels 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 enhance livestock operations utilizing byproducts from the bioeconomy. 2007/Amended 2009/2011

## 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.
- An aggressive program be conducted by the MDARD and the DNR to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from the deer herd and cattle herds.
- 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.
- 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.
- Disease Control Permits and Crop

Damage Permits not being subject to local DNR biologist discretion.

- 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).
- 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.
- The option of feedlots to become terminal feedlots and encourages producers to use the terminal feedlot program.
- An indemnification plan to expedite TB eradication in the modified accredited zone.
- 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%).
- The efforts of MDARD'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 MDARD to aggressively pursue TB Free Status for the southern Lower Peninsula. It is imperative that MDARD and USDA work to reduce the size of the Modified Accredited Zone in a timely manner.

**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 and Rural Development 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 RESOLVED**, land owners should be able to manage wildlife on their own properties; 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 2007/2009/2011

### SNA 2 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,

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**WHEREAS**, the MCA recognizes the MDARD 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 3 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 FURTHER RESOLVED**, MCA supports that the agricultural land assessment should be at its present use value. 1993/Amended 2005/2009/2011

## SNA 4 LAND USE PLANNING

**WHEREAS**, agriculture lands protect 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**, that MCA members should:

- become involved in local government.
- become aware of local ordinances.
- become involved in the development of land use plans.
- make themselves and other producers aware of proposed and existing ordinances that are restricting the existence and expansion of agriculture and livestock production; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MCA should work closely with other organizations in reviewing and surveying existing township and county ordinances which impact agriculture. MCA urges the 10 acre minimum portion of the Subdivision Control Act to be repealed. 1993/Amended 2007/2009/2011

## SNA 5 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 US Trade Representative to promote international trade agreements that provide equal market access for U.S. beef and are consistent with sound scientific food safety testing procedures. 1992/Amended 2007/2011

## SNA 6 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:

- The wetlands inventory must be completed and made available to landowners.
- Statewide standards for wetlands determination must be established to ensure uniform application in all locations.
- 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.
- Establishment of a property tax classification for wetlands. 1993/Amended 2003

## SNA 7 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 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 insured through higher insurance premiums, there is a need to curtail unjustifiable and excessive liability lawsuits in this country.

**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:

- Abolish joint and several liabilities and allow defendants to name other principal defendants to the suit;
- Mandate structured settlements for large monetary judgments;
- Cap non-economic damages;

- Reform pre-judgment interest rules by:
- Reducing the interest rate,
- Abolishing pre-judgment interest
- 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 FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MCA continue its efforts to achieve these results on both the state and national level. 1989

## SNA 8 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 delisting of the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species Act and from the Michigan Endangered Species regulations.
- Continued MDNR training of personnel that leads to timely identification of kills and indemnification payments at full market value.
- Wolf management guidelines developed by the MI Wolf Roundtable Group.
- 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 2007/2011

## SNA 9 COYOTE CONTROL

**WHEREAS**, the MCA recognizes the economic impact due to coyote destruction to livestock;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA supports the implementation of a coyote control program.

## SNA 10 BIOSECURITY

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MDA and MSUE encourage producers to develop and implement strategies for identifying and minimizing risks that improve biosecurity for the cattle industry. 2005/Amended 2007/2011

## SNA 11 PERMANENT REPEAL OF THE DEATH TAX

**WHEREAS**, the inheritance tax is presently on a declining scale but will return in 2011 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 12 AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT**

**WHEREAS**, livestock producers are burdened by increasing environmental regulations in response to the current regulatory climate,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MDARD be the lead agency in regulatory oversight; and,

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

- Rulemaking authority should be limited by legislative actions.
- Regulations should be understandable and easy to comply with and penalties should fit the violation.
- State agencies should be required to conduct standardized risk assessments, cost benefit analyses and economic impact statements of all proposed regulations.
- 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, MDARD and other stakeholders to resolve this problem. 2007/Amended 2011

## **SNA 13 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 14 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 all cattle producers in the state to support this effort in funding the endowment. 2007/Amended 2011

## **SNA 15 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 16 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.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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 17 WILDLIFE INDEMNIFICATION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports that 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 18 ETHANOL MARKETS AND MANDATES**

**WHEREAS**, the ethanol industry has rapidly grown into a mature industry capable of surviving on its own,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA opposes continued use of government subsidies to stimulate production of ethanol. 2011

## **SNA 19 MSU REFOCUSING THE LAND GRANT MISSION**

**WHEREAS**, Agriculture has been the most robust sector of Michigan's economy; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Snyder recognizes the value of Agriculture's contribution to the economic recovery of Michigan; and,

**WHEREAS**, MSU is Michigan's Land Grant University and seemingly has lost its focus on the land grant mission;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MSU should re-focus its land grant mission and commitment to agriculture education, research and extension outreach; and partner with Governor Snyder and agriculture stakeholders to lead Michigan out of our economic slump and;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that agriculture stakeholders be seated on the search committee for the new Dean of the CANR and Chairperson of Animal Science Department. 2011