

# MCA Policy As Approved March 31, 2023

## 1. CONSUMER RELATIONS

### CR 1 **BRANDED BEEF INITIATIVES**

**WHEREAS**, the beef industry strives to maintain and strengthen its market share compared to other proteins including, poultry, pork, and alternative proteins; 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 branded initiatives and strategies 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 2021

### 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 improve and maintain consumer confidence and trust in cattlemen and in beef, and to provide the most safe and 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 and Dairy 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.
- Working with MBIC to educate and provide accurate information to consumers about food safety and quality.



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- USDA and MDARD providing sufficient funding for animal health monitoring programs and disease eradication programs for the livestock industries.
- Small processors as critical infrastructure to the beef supply chain, especially to supply safe products for direct marketing and their ability to obtain needed resources, education, and financial assistance opportunities. 1992/Amended 2023

### **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, preparation and sustainability; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MCA urges continued communication and working relationships with producers about the use of check-off dollars to provide effective beef promotion within the industry. 1992/Amended 2021

### **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 (institutional) foodservice programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the MCA supports the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recognizes that there are a variety of ways to achieve a healthy diet; and,

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming scientific evidence shows that dietary balance, variety, and moderation coupled with appropriate physical activity provides the foundation for a healthful life,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MCA will continue to promote the use of beef and beef products, in federal and state funded programs. 2003/Amended 2017

### **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,



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**WHEREAS**, loss and segmentation of Michigan agricultural land through greater urbanization has increased the importance of educating our future generations on Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) 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 schools; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA supports connecting consumers with beef producers, facilitating interaction and building consumers' trust with producers; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports providing accurate information to consumers about beef production practices, including environmental sustainability and animal welfare; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MCA supports the Michigan Agriculture Council's collaborative work to raise awareness and grow trust in food and agriculture production. 1992/Amended 2021

### **CR 6 MICHIGAN RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL EXHIBITION**

**WHEREAS**, the MCA stresses the importance of Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) 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, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MCA encourages all adult and youth showing beef animals receive Beef Quality Assurance or Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (*YQCA*) training. 1997/Amended 2021

### **CR 7 ANIMAL CARE**

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

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**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MCA assumes a leadership role in promoting the welfare of animals, works with MSU, livestock markets and other farm organizations to continue the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program and educational programs directed toward the public regarding appropriate management of livestock and supports humane handling of farm animals; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MCA is opposed to:

- The mistreatment of animals.
- 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, regulatory or ballot initiatives that would increase the restrictions on the raising, handling, feeding, housing, marketing or transportation of livestock. 1992/Amended 2021

### **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 are an important part of the overall agricultural economy of Michigan and have much to gain by working together;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA continues to work closely with the dairy and veal industries of Michigan to share ideas and resources for the benefit of agriculture and to promote a more unified legislative, policy development and industry promotion effort. 1990/Amended 2021

### **CR 9 NUTRITION LABELING**

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

**WHEREAS**, beef is a wholesome, nutritious food, and beef's nutritional qualities have a role in a healthful diet; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, the MCA supports research on the nutritional qualities of beef and will accurately communicate research findings to help consumers make informed decisions about their diet;



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports nutrition labeling of meat, poultry, and alternative protein 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; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA urges USDA and FDA to enforce existing labeling laws for plant-based protein products; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MCA urges USDA to assert regulatory jurisdiction over lab-grown fake meat products to ensure both fair and accurate labeling and the safety of lab-grown products for consumers. 2007/Amended 2023

### **CR 10 NUTRITION**

**WHEREAS**, the MCA supports the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recognizing that there are a variety of ways to achieve a healthy diet, and further, we believe that the overwhelming scientific evidence shows that dietary balance, variety, and moderation coupled with appropriate physical activity provides the foundation for a healthful life; and,

**WHEREAS**, beef is nourishing and supports the health of Americans at every life stage. With its unique package of high-quality protein, iron, zinc, choline and B vitamins, beef delivers essential nutrition that helps Americans thrive; and,

**WHEREAS**, MCA will continue to support factual, scientifically supported information about beef to help consumers make informed choices about what they eat;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA will remain committed to supporting nutrition research and science-based education to help Americans enjoy beef as part of more nutrient-rich, balanced diet, as outlined by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

### **CR11 NUTRITION EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, beef is a source of essential nutrients, including high-quality protein, iron, zinc, choline, and B-vitamins, which help ensure older infants and young children start life strong, building healthy bodies and brains; and,

**WHEREAS**, many consumers are not aware of the health benefits of eating beef;



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**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA is committed to conducting and participating in programs to actively disseminate accurate information about the nutritional advantages of beef in a healthful and balanced diet and lifestyle.

2017

### **CR 12 IMITATION & SUBSTITUTE PRODUCTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, in the interest of not misleading consumers, MCA takes the position that manufacturers and distributors of non-beef products or other products designed to imitate or substitute for beef and beef products should be prohibited in product promotion, advertising, or labeling from using pictures or pictorial facsimiles of beef and beef products, and from using names of natural beef and beef products or terms directly associated by the consumer with the natural products.

## **2. 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, and state government to create an environment that is more conducive to business and industry, including the development of small processing plant opportunities. 1999/Amended 2019

### **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**, 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;

**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 2021

### **MKT 3 CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE**

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

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**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 priority, the MCA supports pre-sale vaccination and preconditioning programs being implemented by marketing organizations to further improve feeder cattle reputation and health;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA encourages:

- Sales organizations to report to the prospective buyer any vaccination and preconditioning programs.
- Producers to utilize the MCA Stamp Verification Program 1997/Amended 2017

### **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 unified national mandatory electronic identification system.
- Further development and utilization of the electronic identification system by both producers and packers nationwide.
- Providing producer education as to the value and management capabilities of electronic identification.



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- Working with Michigan Farm Bureau, MDARD and the packing industry to develop premium markets that utilize Michigan produced and identified cattle. 2002/Amended 2015

### **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 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

### **MKT 7 CARCASS MATURITY EVALUATION**

**WHEREAS** physical characteristics currently used, such as bone calcification or dentition, are not always an accurate age indicator and carcasses are often discounted if deemed over 30 months.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA encourages more accurate methods to determine animal age. 2015/Amended 2019

### **MKT 8 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**

**WHEREAS**, there are serious concerns about the many adverse aspects of mandating Country-of-Origin Labeling including costs, tracking, verification, and compliance

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA does not support mandatory labeling but remains in support of Country-of-Origin Labeling that is voluntary and industry-driven. 2015/Amended 2017

### **MKT 9 INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

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





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WHEREAS, mandating RFID tagging requirements enhances value with traceability, improved source verification, and increased market access;

**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 2017

### **MKT 10 INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE:**

**WHEREAS**, federal and state regulations require cattle moving interstate to have an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI); and,

**WHEREAS**, cattle moving interstate are commonly not inspected by a veterinarian; and,

**WHEREAS**, the destination could be changed when cattle are enroute;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports the development of “movement permits” as an option for moving cattle interstate. 2023

## **3. RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND TEACHING**

### **RET 1 FEED RESOURCES**

**WHEREAS** the beef cattle industry in Michigan is reliant on 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 Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences 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 and co-products through livestock. 2007/ Amended 2021

### **RET 2 MICHIGAN 4-H YOUTH LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, The MCA commends all volunteer leaders in youth livestock shows, exhibitions and livestock clubs for their efforts to expose Michigan



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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 positions, support dollars, and other resources to help coordinate these events,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MCA supports an additional 4-H participation fee to be collected on a per species basis, the proceeds to be used for additional livestock programming and support staff. 1999/Amended 2021

### RET 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 negatively 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.
- We support and encourage continued negotiation by MDARD with neighboring states to fully recognize the bovine TB free zones of Michigan.

##### Part II – 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:



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- 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", and vector borne diseases
- Allocate funding for development, communication, education, and implementation of these strategies. 2007/Amended 2015

### **RET 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 shortage of food animal veterinarians by identifying innovative ways to deliver animal health care to rural areas; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the College of Veterinary Medicine and MDARD 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**, programs that reduce the cost of veterinary science education continue to be supported by MSU. 2007/Amended 2017

### **RET 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, MSU AgBioResearch, and the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- A strong beef cattle education focus in the CANR undergraduate and graduate curriculum.
- Providing resources to fill faculty positions in Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Sciences to support and enhance beef production in Michigan.
- That current needs-based faculty and staff positions be filled/maintained.
- Filling vacant MSU-E Beef Educator positions in underserved areas.



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- MSU administration, faculty/staff should include MCA representation to identify research priorities, and long-range plans for teaching and research centers.
- That MSUE communicate research findings and facilitate practical application of this research.
- Continued programmatic funding of the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MCA supports the use of cutting-edge resources and technology. 2011/Amended 2021

### **RET 6 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;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports creating and filling positions to increase research and educational opportunities for students within the MSU Meat Science program and facilities; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports work force training and continuing education programs for meat processing.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports maintaining and upgrading equipment and infrastructure at the MSU Meat Lab, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MCA supports continued industry oversight to ensure the MSU Meat Science program continues to meet the needs of livestock industry stakeholders. 2007/Amended 2021

### **RET 7 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 and seek a greater involvement in



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determining the best utilization of the revenue generated from the fund.  
2007/Amended 2011/2013

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MCA shall meet annually with the University officials to review the endowment growth and annual allocations.  
2015

### **RET 8 BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA values real world learning experiences utilizing the MSU farms which are maintained to reflect the scope and scale of production agriculture. This includes research, extension and teaching opportunities for students in the Institute of Agriculture Technology, undergraduate and graduate programs and industry educational experiences.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MSU support the MSU Beef Cattle Centers, U.P. and Lake City AgBioResearch stations with funding in key areas including:

- Beef production efficiencies
- Disease prevention and control
- Ensuring quality
- Environmental sustainability
- Develop alternative production systems 2011/Amended 2021

### **RET 9 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**WHEREAS**, quality assurance programs, such as Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT), and Calf Care Quality Assurance programs are vital educational programs which trains and tests cattle producers on the use of guidelines in responsible cattle production to protect the welfare of our cattle, enhance the safety of beef, and grow the consumer's confidence in our industry, and

**WHEREAS**, proactive use of quality assurance programs and training provides the skills which will help protect the viability of our industry for future generations, and

**WHEREAS**, strong quality assurance programs, available to all producers, will provide cattlemen and the beef industry with a strengthened position to demonstrate our commitment to the safety and quality of beef, in addition to the health and care of our cattle, and



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**WHEREAS**, cattlemen and the beef industry have experience with quality assurance assessment tools and recognize these assessment processes must be dynamic to meet the beef industry's needs

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA will partner with MSU Extension in delivering quality assurance educational programs and encourage cattle producers, all other segments of the beef industry, and consumers to recognize these programs and guidelines as the industry foundation for beef quality, beef safety, cattle care, and handling. 2019

### **RET 10 ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the cattle industry is concerned with protection of the environment;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA urges:

1. Michigan livestock producers to follow the voluntary guidelines for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices established under the Right to Farm Act.
2. Livestock producers to develop and implement a nutrient management plan while participating in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program with the ultimate goal of MAEAP verification.
3. 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 Management Practices.
4. Michigan cattle producers to become actively involved with land use planning at county, township and community levels.
5. Research that substantiates the beneficial role of cattle on soil health and the environment.
6. MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension to continue to do research and educational projects on animal manure management, with special emphasis on fly and odor management, and water and air quality.
7. MSUE to work with producers to better understand all farm bill conservation and facility projects that protect the environment on beef operations and are necessary to maintain or sustain the operation.
8. Funding for the conservation districts.



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**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA opposes all 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 2021.

### **RET 11 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

### **RET 12 CO-PRODUCTS**

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of the food and fuels industry in Michigan has created new resource opportunities;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA supports and encourages MSU to develop research and MSU Extension programs to utilize co-products in beef production. 2007/Amended 2017

### **RET 13 IMPROVING BIOSECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA supports efforts by MDARD and MSUE to encourage producers to develop and implement strategies that improve biosecurity for the cattle industry such as;

- Developing a secure beef supply plan
- Develop emergency preparedness plans in communities for roll-over accidents involving livestock transportation. 2005/Amended 2019

## **4. STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS**



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### **SNA 1**

#### **BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan has been plagued with Bovine TB issues for over 20 years; and, the problem persists while causing extreme financial, emotional and psychological 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:

- A \$1 fee increase on deer hunting licenses to be utilized for livestock indemnification until bovine TB is eradicated from wildlife in Michigan.
- The ongoing testing of livestock and wildlife to monitor the status of mycobacterium bovis in the state.
- MDARD will apply for and submit applications for upgrades in zone status change the first day an area meets USDA's published requirements
- MDARD will use producer and industry stakeholder decisions as the basis for writing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) and not set government policy as the priority in these documents.
- 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 contact between livestock feed 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 to be made widely available to farmers and landowners.



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- 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 (i.e. heavy fines, seizure of guns and vehicles).
- Seeking additional partners to collaborate within TB eradication efforts.
- Legislation to require prompt and efficient compensation from the state of Michigan to compensate producers for the full replacement value of any animals ordered destroyed.
- 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 State of Michigan. It is imperative that MDARD and USDA work to reduce the size of the Modified Accredited Zone in a timely manner.

a **BE IT RESOLVED**, Cattle should not be moved from the MAZ without movement permit unless going to a terminal system. MCA supports working with the industry, MDARD and USDA to develop an economically viable terminal marketing system for cattle originating in the Modified Accredited Zone and Presque Isle County; 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 the Michigan Department 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, we urge the state to take a more aggressive approach to managing the infected deer herd situation; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports significant reduction of wildlife populations and is opposed to Antler Point Restrictions in any area where there is a disease risk in wildlife; and,



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we support the concepts of the proposed national TB plan published on December 16, 2015 and will continue to offer suggestions that will assist with eradication of the disease, and we urge final publication of the plan. 1999/Amended 2021.

### **SNA 2**

#### **MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan has adopted and had in place a Right to Farm Act for several years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the MCA recognizes the need for a single uniform set of guidelines for generally accepted agricultural and management practices within the Right to Farm Act; and,

**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 MCA board or an appointed subcommittee of the board will review the voluntary generally accepted agricultural and management practices of importance to the beef cattle industry prior to their initial adoption or subsequent revision and adoption by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. 1999/Amended 2019.

### **SNA 3**

#### **TAX REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, major improvements have been recently made in the business tax structure; and,

**WHEREAS**, a balanced and equitable tax structure at a local, state and national level is necessary to create economic development and vital growing communities;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA supports making provisions of the federal tax reform of 2018 permanent; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA supports and encourages the permanent repeal of the death tax, and opposes the reinstatement of any form of death tax, and



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**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 2021.

### **SNA 4**

#### **LAND USE PLANNING**

**WHEREAS**, agriculture lands are an integral part of our communities and provides a positive economic and environmental impact to the local, state and national economies,

**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**, 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. 1993/Amended 2017

### **SNA 5**

#### **WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the interpretation and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act by EGLE 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.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, MCA opposes any further expansion of the definition of Waters of the United States and opposes expansion of federal jurisdiction over wetlands and non-navigable waters. 1993/Amended 2021

### **SNA 6**

#### **WOLF MANAGEMENT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA supports:

- The NRC decision making ability to identify wildlife game species
- The NRC working with the DNR to establish a wolf hunting season where license sales help fund indemnity from wolf predation.
- DNR issuing nuisance wolf control permits to land owners and operators
- Permanently delisting gray wolves from the Federal Endangered Species Act and from the Michigan Endangered Species regulations.
- Continued training of personnel that leads to timely identification of kills and indemnification payments from MDARD and USFWS at full replacement 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 2021

### **SNA 7**

#### **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.



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- 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 EGLE, DNR, MDARD and other stakeholders to resolve this problem; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, when there is a review of the Michigan Animal Industry Act, the review committee should include representation from the beef cattle industry. 2007/Amended 2021.

### SNA 8 **HORSE HARVEST**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the MCA urges reinstatement of federal funding for horse slaughter and processing inspection. 2007/Amended 2017

### SNA 9 **NATIONAL BEEF CHECKOFF**

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

**WHEREAS**, 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.

- Revise the beef referendum process to provide producers the opportunity, at regular times intervals, to petition for a referendum on continuing the beef checkoff program. Ten percent of producers nationwide signing the petition at USDA designated local sites will trigger the USDA to conduct a vote within a year.
- Increase the beef checkoff assessment rate for the purpose of adequately funding an effective beef demand building program. Ensure a referendum is held so all producers have an opportunity to vote on the changes.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA opposes any attempt to create duplicative beef checkoff under the 1996 Generic Commodity Promotion Act; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**; MCA supports:

- Maintaining the Federation of State Beef Council representation at 50% of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee
- Maintaining state beef council funding at one-half of collections
- Maintaining the fundamental right of the Federation of State Beef Councils to determine where it resides. 2008/Amended 2015

### SNA 10 **ETHANOL MARKETS AND MANDATES**



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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA opposes use of government subsidies/mandates to stimulate production of ethanol. 2011/Amended 2015

### SNA 11 MICHIGAN BEEF INDUSTRY COMMISSION ACT 291

**WHEREAS**, assessments under Michigan Beef Industry Commission Act 291 were suspended in 1986 because of the passage of the 1985 Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Act (National Beef Checkoff); and,

**WHEREAS**, we have an urgent need for funding beef promotion, consumer marketing, industry information, and research and education programs, including scientific research on any or all phases of beef production;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports the reinstatement of assessments under the Michigan Beef Industry Commission Act 291. 2013/Amended 2019.

### SNA 12 CRP GRAZING

**WHEREAS**, managed grazing of livestock has been proven to provide ecological benefits to the land upon which it is practiced, and;

**WHEREAS**, the USDA CRP removes land suitable for grazing from livestock production;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Michigan Cattlemen's Association supports a "Hybrid" CRP contract that would allow grazing of contract lands under a specific NRCS management plan provision. Plans would allow for:

- Permanent fencing of CRP land and
- Required managed rotational grazing practices
- Grazing access earlier in the season while improving forage production and limiting wildlife impact

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, "Hybrid" CRP plans would reduce USDA CRP contract cost by providing a combined payment structure for CRP/Grazing contract thus allow more acres to be enrolled, benefiting both environmental and livestock production interests. 2013

### SNA 13 ANIMAL ANTIBIOTICS

**WHERE AS**, antibiotics/antimicrobials are necessary to address disease issues in livestock,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA Supports:

1. Sound science as the basis for decision-making and policy development regarding use in food animal production;



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2. A multi-agency approach to on farm antimicrobial-resistant bacterial research and surveillance that includes APHIS, agricultural research service, Food Safety and Inspection Service and livestock producers;
3. Rather than limitations or elimination of animal health and food safety protection tools, we support veterinarian oversight of antibiotic use, allowing for the purchasing of animal pharmaceuticals using a prescription, or veterinary feed directive without the requirement of purchasing directly from a veterinarian;
4. Information contained in pharmaceutical product prescriptions and VFD should remain confidential and not subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. 2015/Amended 2017