

## **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 2009/2011/2013/2015

### **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 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 2007/2009/2013/2015

### **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:

- 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 2009/2011/2013/2015

**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 2009/2011/2015/2017

**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/AgBioResearch/Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- A strong beef cattle education focus in the CANR undergraduate and graduate curriculum.
- Providing resources to fill and a faculty positions in Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Sciences to support and ~~to develop new fundamental technologies to~~ 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.
- ~~That the MCA Research Committee and~~ 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 2013/2015/2017

## 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 activity 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 2013/2017

## 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 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:

- ~~Lower cost of production~~
- ~~Increase efficiency~~Beef production efficiencies
- ~~Address health issues~~Disease prevention and control
- Ensuring quality
- Environmental sustainability
- Develop alternative production systems 2011/Amended 2013/2017

## **RET 9**

### **BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program is a vital educational program which trains and tests cattle producers on the use of guidelines in responsible cattle production in order 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 BQA programs and training provides the skills which will help protect the viability of our industry for future generations, and

**WHEREAS**, a strong BQA program, 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

**WHEREAS**, cattlemen and the beef industry have experience with BQA assessment tools and recognize this assessment process must be dynamic to meet the beef industry's needs and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA will partner with MSU Extension in delivering this educational program and encourage cattle producers, all other segments of the beef industry, and consumers to recognize BQA 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) 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.

**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. 993/Amended 2007/2009/2011/2013/2017/2019.

**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 FUTHER 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 2009/2011/2017

**RET 13**

**IMPROVING BIOSECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that MDARD and MSUE encourage producers to develop and implement strategies that improve biosecurity for the cattle industry such as; 2005/Amended 2007/2011/2015/2017/2019.

- Developing a secure beef supply plan with assistance from MDARD and MSU.
- Develop emergency preparedness plans in communities for roll-over accidents involving livestock transportation