

STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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.
- 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.

BE IT RESOLVED, Cattle should not be moved from the MAZ unless going to a terminal system, (Nov,11 2020). 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. (Interim Policy Approved June 18, 2020).

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** (Nov,11 2020) in any area where there is a disease risk in wildlife; and,

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 2007/2009/2011/2013/2015/2017/2019.

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 2001/2019.

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**

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 2005/2009/2011/2015/2019.

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 2007/2009/2011/2015/2017

SNA 5

WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT

WHEREAS, the interpretation and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act by ~~EGLE~~ ~~the DEQ~~ 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

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. 2015

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 2007/2011/2013/2015

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.
- 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 2011/2017/2019.

SNA 8 HORSE HARVEST

BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA urges reinstatement of federal funding for horse slaughter and processing inspection. 2007/Amended 2009/2013/2015/2017

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 2009/2013/2015

SNA 10 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 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 2015/2019.

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;
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;