



# NEWS RELEASE

## Iowa Cattlemen's Association

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ICA members adopt policy to address uncertain issues; leaders elected**

AMES, IOWA— From fence laws to timely payments from packers to adjustments on property taxes, members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association adopted policies at their annual meeting on Dec. 14 to define their stands on some issues that could come under legislative or rule-making discussions. "Our members defined their positions on current topics needing directional certainty," said ICA President Ross Havens of Wiota.

There has been an indication that Iowa's law on partition fences may be challenged. Iowa law has historically held that property owners on both sides of the fence are responsible for its establishment and upkeep. However some individuals feel it should not be their responsibility if they have no livestock. At the meeting held in Altoona, ICA members voted to support the current law, and encouraged new landowners to seek written agreements with neighbors at the time land is sold or transferred so there is clarity on expectations.

ICA members also have growing concerns about using the U.S. postal service for making and receiving timely payments. Many packers mail payments, but as producers work to fill feedyards, they are concerned about the postal services announcements that mail delivery could be slower than in the past. Waiting for delayed payments could negatively impact their ability to buy replacement feeder cattle and feedstuffs. Members asked that ICA work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and packers to develop a more expeditious payment system on fed cattle.

Another issue currently being discussed by the Iowa Department of Revenue is whether there will be property tax adjustments made on pasture land. Just over half of Iowa's counties do not currently make that adjustment. ICA policy supports the current property tax formula for agricultural land, but then would like to see an adjustment on land being used as pasture.

"At a time when the market is looking to Iowa to grow its cow-calf operations, increased tax pressure on land best suited for pasture simply adds to short-term pressures on its use. We support adjustments made in a uniform fashion statewide. This will give producers more options when making decisions about land use," Havens said.

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ICA members discussed policy issues under three general headings: business issues, cattle production, and beef product.

In selecting ICA leadership, board members re-elected three leaders to each serve a second one-year term. Havens will serve as president; Ed Greiman of Garner will continue as president-elect; and Mike Sexton, Rockwell City, will serve as associate vice president.

Havens continues to focus on involving young people in ICA activities and the cattle business. "One of the goals of my presidency is to work hard to have programs that involve young people; get them active in our association," Havens said. During this past year, ICA's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Program kicked off the ICA Carcass Challenge program, and ICA sponsored a member to attend NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference.

Other members of the ICA board were elected at regional and district meetings.

Newly elected members of the executive committee are Allan Johnson, Northwood, who was elected as the Northwest Regional Vice President; and Phil Reemtsma, DeWitt, who was elected as Southeast Regional Vice President. Larry Johnson, Maquoketa, was re-elected to a second term as Northeast Regional Vice President.

Other newly elected board members are J.D. Morris, Algona, District 3 Director and Marcus Younge, Ventura, District 4 Director.

Re-elected board members are Rob Medberry, Volga, District 6; Brett Katzer, Conrad, District 9; Jessica Wilson, Pierson, District 12; Norm Ziskovsky, Swisher, District 15; and Jim Hanson, New Market, District 18.

ICA held its 39<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and convention at The Meadows Event Center in Altoona from Dec. 12-Dec. 14. The meeting attracted about 500 people to its cattle building tour, educational sessions, and trade show that included more than 60 vendors.

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**About the Iowa Cattlemen's Association:** The Iowa Cattlemen's Association represents about 9,500 beef-producing families and associated companies dedicated to the future of Iowa's beef industry. ICA's mission is "Grow Iowa's beef business through advocacy, leadership and education."