

## **BUSINESS ISSUES COMMITTEE 2017**

### **Agriculture Policy**

- BI-AP-D-5 Supporting Curriculum for Iowa's Beef Industry Employees (renewed 2017)
- BI-AP-10 Disaster Assistance (renewed 2017)
- BI-AP-12 Liability of Volunteer Boards (allowed to sunset in committee)
- BI-AP-24 Cattlemen Serving as Local Leaders (renewed 2017)
- BI-AP-31 Iowa Fence Law (renewed as amended)

### **Public/Private Lands & Environmental Management**

- BI-PPLEM-13 Environment and Property Rights Representation (renewed 2017)
- BI-PPLEM-14 Soil Conservation (renewed 2017)
- BI-PPLEM-22 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress (renewed 2017)
- BI-PPLEM-29 Rhodes Research Farm (allowed to sunset in committee)
- BI-PPLEM-31 Iowa Slough Bill (renewed 2017)
- BI-PPLEM-42 Predators (renewed 2017)
- BI-PPLEM-48 Nuisance Lawsuits (renewed 2017)

### **Tax and Finance**

- BI-TF-3 Balanced Budget (renewed as amended)
  - BI-TF-14 Feedlot Tax Credit (allowed to sunset)
  - BI-TF-15 Foot and Mouth Disease Indemnity Fund (renewed 2017)
  - BI-TF-34 Estate Tax (renewed as amended)
  - BI-TF-39 Agricultural Property Tax Adjustment (renewed as amended)
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### **Agriculture Policy**

#### **BI-AP-D-5 Supporting Curriculum for Iowa's Beef Industry Employees (renewed 2017)**

2016 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa has an outstanding system of community colleges and post-secondary Schools that have agriculture or animal science programs to properly train students to enter the workforce.

THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association collaborate with the state's community colleges and post-secondary agriculture schools to develop curriculum and course outcomes that properly train students through hands-on experiences for a profession in the beef industry.

#### **BI-AP-10 Disaster Assistance (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, in the event of any future disaster assistance programs, gross income may be used as a criteria of eligibility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, replacement feeder cattle and other purchased inputs be deducted when determining disaster assistance eligibility.

#### **BI-AP-24 Cattlemen Serving as Local Leaders (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, involvement in farm program administration is important.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors encourage members to gain County Farm Service Agency Committee positions, District Soil and Water Commission seats, Township Trustees and Zoning Commissioners, and local conservation work groups.

**BI-AP-31 Iowa Fence Law (renewed as amended)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the current Iowa fence law.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that landowners should be encouraged to reach a written agreement regarding their border fences and file them with the county recorder

**Public/Private Lands & Environmental Management**

**BI-PPLEM-13 Environment and Property Rights Representation (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association's diverse membership includes producers with experience and expertise in all facets of cattle production; and  
WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association employs a professional staff capable of communicating the importance and interests of the cattle industry to elected officials, agencies and the general public; and  
WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association has historically been active in preserving and promoting the cattle industry in Iowa.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if new environmental or property rights legislation or regulation is proposed which would impact the cattle industry, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will represent cattle producers' interests to the fullest extent possible.

**BI-PPLEM-14 Soil Conservation (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the preservation of Iowa's productive topsoil is of concern to all segments of society; and  
WHEREAS, we have learned a great deal about effective soil conservation practices; and  
WHEREAS, Iowa still has a considerable number of marginal acres that are of too high a degree of slope to have acceptable levels of soil loss regardless of conservation practice when intensively row-cropped.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association develops promotional and educational programs to call attention to this problem and promote the conversion and maintenance of these acres, subject to severe erosion, to grass and forage production, which can only be utilized by ruminant animals and Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports that funding of soil conservation cost share be maintained at current funding levels or above.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with state and federal government to insure that programs addressing soil conservation recognize the role that the beef industry can play in addressing this problem and that these programs do not discriminate against the beef industry.

**BI-PPLEM-22 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Congress (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the cattle industry in the State of Iowa is comprised of private land consisting of row crop, grazing land and timberland; and  
WHEREAS, the actions taken by the Resource Enhancement and Protection

(REAP) Congress have a direct impact on existing and future livestock operations through management practices and tax rates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, only delegates selected by the county Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee to the regional REAP meeting be eligible to be selected as delegates to the REAP Congress and that federal, state and county employees and their spouses are not eligible to be delegates to the REAP Congress.

**BI-PPEM-31 Iowa Slough Bill (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Slough Bill provides property tax relief for particular uses of land including: open prairies, forest cover, river and stream banks, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Slough Bill does not require restoration of such land to a native condition; and

WHEREAS, public assistance for restoration of native habitat is available through various agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, restoration of land to a condition such that a majority of the vegetation is consistent with a native habitat be required, and certified by a government naturalist, prior to being granted property tax relief.

**BI-PPEM-42 Predators (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is vital to Iowa's economy; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry and our human population are being threatened by predators and other species.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will oppose all attempts to give any type of legal protection to cougars, wolves and bears.

**BI-PPEM-48 Nuisance Lawsuits (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the steady increase of nuisance lawsuits in the state of Iowa against cattle producers has closed existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, the threat of nuisance lawsuits has discouraged many cattle producers from expanding facilities; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's Right to Farm Act does not protect Iowa cattle producers from nuisance lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states have Right to Farm Acts that do protect their cattle producers from nuisance lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, anonymous reporting of feedlots' alleged violations occur without any accountability to the reporter and causes considerable inconvenience and cost to feedlot operators, many times without justification to the reported event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports changes to the Iowa Code to provide better protection for Iowa cattle producers from nuisance lawsuits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports changes to the Iowa Code to provide protection for the Iowa cattle producers from anonymous reporting of alleged violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the other agriculture organizations in the state of Iowa to achieve this change to the Iowa Code.

## **Tax and Finance**

### **BI-TF-3 Balanced Budget (renewed as amended)**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the approach to a balanced budget and more fiscal responsibility in state and national government with any burden being placed on all segments of society equally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as Iowa moves to be more fiscally responsible with our tax dollars, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports exhausting all existing financial resources before passing any tax increases

### **BI-TF-15 Foot and Mouth Disease Indemnity Fund (renewed 2017)**

WHEREAS, the federal government has an indemnity fund to pay producers for their livestock in the event of an Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the U.S.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the income from the FMD indemnity fund should be handled the same as an involuntary conversion and qualify for two-year deferral or replacement.

### **BI-TF-34 Estate Tax (renewed as amended)**

WHEREAS, the family farm is and should continue to be the backbone of agriculture in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, a family livestock operation cannot attain economic success without a substantial land base for growing feed grains; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the estate tax laws have not kept pace with inflation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA:

- Support, first and foremost, full and permanent repeal of the Estate Tax,
- Oppose any proposal to increase the gift or estate tax liability of farmers and ranchers,
- Oppose any proposal to repeal the stepped-up basis provisions not tied to repeal of the estate tax, and
- Support passage of estate and gift tax legislation which will eliminate or significantly reduce the burden of estate and gift taxes on family farms, ranches, and small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in absence of a full and permanent repeal, any potential exemption level be indexed to inflation going forward.

### **BI-TF-39 Agricultural Property Tax Adjustment (renewed as amended)**

WHEREAS, within the State of Iowa there has developed an unfair disparity in the calculation and adjustment process in the establishing of agricultural property assessed values which are the foundation for property taxes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports value calculations that include the use of the property in the formula and assesses all agriculture property on a uniform and equitable level playing field across the State of Iowa.