



2018 State Policy Priorities

The issues outlined below represent the top state public policy priorities for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association in 2018.

Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)

- ICA supported the state's appropriation of an additional \$150,000 (\$250,000 total) to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for Foreign Animal Disease preparedness and response.
- Iowa is the most livestock dense state in the country (4th for cattle on feed, 7th for total cattle, 1st for hogs and pigs).
- Iowa is behind many states with much less at stake when it comes to personnel, technology and other FAD preparedness and response needs.

Environmental Regulations

- Cattlemen understand that clean air, land and water are crucial to the long-term success of not only their family and business, but the entire state and future generations.
- Livestock producers do more with less now than they ever have while also having less of an impact on the environment.
 - » Between 1977 and 2007, we produced each pound of beef using 19% less feed, 33% less land and 12% less water.
- The cattle industry is a partner in environmental stewardship, but increased regulation that limits the ability to make decisions on individual operations, increases costs and has little to no impact on the environment, is not the answer.

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

- Funding is needed for the building and renovation of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL).
 - » ICA supported the request for \$100 million to be combined with private gifts and university funds.
 - » The legislature appropriated \$63.5 million of the \$100 million request.
- ISU's VDL is an important tool for protecting the animal agriculture industry and its \$32.5 billion economic output in Iowa.
- Currently facing biosafety, biocontainment and biosecurity issues due to overcrowding, poor layout and outdated systems
 - » 500% growth of caseload and staff since 1976
- Accreditation and critical disease response is at risk

Other Topics

- Support voluntary efforts and funding for cost-share initiatives, educational outreach and projects to reduce nutrient escape and improve water quality
- Improve the accuracy of the US Drought Monitor and other weather measurements used by government entities
- Investigate government land ownership and its impact on cattle producers and state tax revenue
- Protect Iowa's Fence Law
- Support opportunities to help young producers
- Support funding of Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC)

2018 National Policy Priorities

The five issues outlined below represent the top national public policy priorities for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association in 2018.

2018 Farm Bill

- Full funding for a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank
- Protect conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Improve the Conservation Reserve Program, including increased opportunity to integrate cattle production
- Protect trade promotion programs (Market Access Program/Foreign Market Development Program)
- Maintain research funding
- Prevent market-disrupting policies



Regulatory Reform

- Find a permanent solution to electronic logging devices/Hours-of-Service
- Modernize the Endangered Species Act
- Replace the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule
- Protect producers from Superfund reporting regulations (CERCLA/EPCRA)
- Revisit and correct Range Reform '94
- Reform wildlife management and funding programs



Trade & Market Access

- Overcome current trade barriers with China and continue expanding markets for U.S. beef.
- Protect market access under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Protect market access under the Korea-U.S. Trade Agreement (KORUS)
- Promote bilateral trade agreements

Fake Meat

- Protect our industry and consumers from untrue, disparaging claims and misleading labels

Traceability

- Represent Iowa cattle producers in national traceability discussions

Cattle Marketing

- Guide changes to CME cattle futures contracts to increase their usefulness as a risk management tool for cattle producers
- Increase cash negotiated trade in all major cattle feeding regions of the US

Labor

- Iowa's agriculture industry is facing a labor shortage
 - The state's most livestock dense areas are at virtually full employment
 - In addition to farm labor, the processing sector is experiencing a severe labor shortage. This has a direct impact on producers' ability to market cattle.
- Iowa's cattle industry needs a timely process for immigrants to gain legal status for employment.