



ICA POLICY BOOK

2026

ICA Policy Book

About

Policy input is gathered year-round from members through listening sessions, forums, an annual survey, and informal member feedback. A Cow-Calf Council and Feedlot Council also provide input.

Resolutions and directives are discussed in policy committee meetings and voted on by producer members at the ICA Annual Meeting.

The ICA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and staff are guided by the policies adopted by members. ICA policies provide the framework to enforce, improve, or change legislation, regulations, and programming to support Iowa's cattle producers.

ICA has three standing policy committees: Beef Products, Business Issues, and Cattle Production. Committee meetings are open to all producer members.

Below is the contact information for Policy Committee Chairs.

Beef Products Committee

Ashley Recknor, Chair

515-571-2758

Business Issues Committee

Jason Kurt, Chair

563-599-1405

Cattle Production Committee

Mike Schwarck, Chair

641-373-0672

For questions related to policy development, contact the ICA Director of Government Relations at 515-296-2266.

All policies (resolutions) shall remain in effect for five years. Policies requiring review may sunset or be reinstated. Policies not expiring may be pulled for review during the ICA Annual Meeting.

All directives shall remain in effect for one year. Directives will automatically sunset after one year unless reinstated. Directives contain the letter "D" in their title. (Example: XX-XXX-D-X)

Interim Policy: Per ICA's bylaws, the Board of Directors may determine Association policy between meetings of the membership on any subjects or matters not covered by membership decision. They may also modify existing policy if unforeseen circumstances develop which justify or necessitate modification, such as: pending or final government action, immediate needs or demands of the cattle industry, and changes in circumstances or emergencies that would cause extensive damage to the Association or the cattle industry. Interim policy must be ratified by members at the next Annual Meeting.

Producers have a voice in setting priorities and developing policy to support Iowa's cattle industry. ICA policies are developed at the ICA Annual Meeting and the policies are taken before the Iowa Legislature or the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Annual Convention. These policies result in new programs, laws, or regulations that improve the state and national business climate for the beef industry. ICA monitors many issues and programs, and has been instrumental in developing new programs.

The ICA Board of Directors is made up of an Executive Committee, 20 District Directors and 12 Directors at Large. Feel free to contact them at any time.

ICA Executive Committee

President	Craig Moss, Hull	712-439-6704
President-elect	Jeff Landrum, Lineville	641-414-3979

Regional Vice Presidents

Northwest	Mark DeVries, Sheffield	641-425-2150
Northeast	Scott Birker, Garrison	319-560-9252
Southwest	Justin Robbins, Scranton	515-370-1418
Southeast	Terry Chapman, Tipton	319-329-5904
Associate Vice President	Mitch Schaefer, Decorah	507-440-3259

District Directors

District 1

Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux, Plymouth

Dave Olson, Sioux Center 712-449-6974

District 2

Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Palo Alto

Frank Reding, Cylinder 712-298-2637

District 3

Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Winnebago

J.D. Morris, Algona 515-341-1944

District 4

Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Worth, Wright

Wade Humphrey, Ventura 515-290-4389

District 5

Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw, Mitchell, Floyd, Howard

Darin Koch, Lime Springs 641-220-6501

District 6

Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek

Matt Winters, Volga 563-929-0046

District 7

Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Pocahontas, Sac

Seth Smith, Nemaha 712-210-6599

District 8

Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Greene, Webster

Justin Venner, Carroll 402-321-1065

District 9

Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Marshall, Story

Paden Lawler, Union 641-640-0954

District 10

Benton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Linn, Tama

Jeremy Johnson, Independence 319-961-7970

District 11

Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Jones

Shelby Cornelius, Ryan 319-483-8776

District 12

Crawford, Harrison, Monona, Shelby, Woodbury

Cody Griffin, Merville 712-490-6881

District 13

Adair, Audubon, Cass, Dallas, Guthrie, Madison

Matt Woodside, Prescott 641-745-0872

District 14

Jasper, Marion, Polk, Poweshiek, Warren

Vacant

District 15

Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Washington
Kenny Scott, Oskaloosa 641-660-9331

District 16

Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine, Scott
Loren Truelsen, DeWitt 563-249-6136

District 17

Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie
Kirk Johnson, Red Oak 712-370-2414

District 18

Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor, Union
Aric Stream, Bedford 712-621-4390

District 19

Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Wayne
Bryan Reed, Albia 641-777-4010

District 20

Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Louisa, Van Buren
Adam Smith, Mt. Pleasant 319-217-1151

Directors at Large

Mike Hein, IBBC Rep	402-719-4389
Scott McGregor, IBIC Rep	641-330-2854
Rob Medberry, Past President	563-380-4835
Aimee Lutz-Wertz, IBC Rep	
Jason Kurt, Business Issues Committee Chair	563-599-1405
Mike Schwarck, Cattle Production Committee Chair	641-373-0672
Ashley Recknor, Beef Products Committee Chair	515-571-2758
Dustin Puhmann, Feedlot Council Rep	712-229-2258
Darrin Crawley, Cow-Calf Council Rep	515-370-1418
Tanner Lawton, Membership Committee Chair	515-777-5815

ICA Staff

Bryan Whaley, Chief Executive Officer	bryan@iacattlemen.org
Erika Osmundson, Director of Communications	erika@iacattlemen.org
Kelli Klink, Director of Government Relations	kelli@iacattlemen.org
Jackie Ditsworth, Graphic Designer	jackie@iacattlemen.org
Jenna Smith, SE Iowa Member Services	jenna@iacattlemen.org
Cody Jimmerson, SW Iowa Member Services	cody@iacattlemen.org
Joe DeVries, NW Iowa Member Services	joe@iacattlemen.org
Morgan Pothoven, Events & Communications Coordinator	morgan@iacattlemen.org
Ally Brown, Office Operations & Finance Manager	allyssa@iacattlemen.org

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266 | www.iacattlemen.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASSOCIATION SERVICES

AS-1 [Membership](#) (*interim policy*)

BEEF PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

BEEF SAFETY

BP-BS-1 [Foodborne Pathogen Research](#)
BP-BS-2 [Beef Quality Assurance \(BQA\)](#)
BP-BS-3 [Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Training & Certification](#)
BP-BS-13 [Safe Food Handling Labels](#)
BP-BS-18 [Beef Products Production Transparency](#)
BP-BS-19 [Beef Import Safety & Inspection](#)

GLOBAL CONSUMER MARKETING

BP-GCM-1 [World Trade](#)
BP-GCM-7 [U.S. Meat Export Federation](#)
BP-GCM-10 [Small Processor, Differentiated Consumer & Local Foods Systems Markets](#)
BP-GCM-11 [International Markets](#)
BP-GCM-27 [Export Assistance Funding](#)
BP-GCM-35 [Support for Iowa Beef Checkoff Fund](#)
BP-GCM-36 [Usage of Iowa Beef Checkoff Funding](#)
BP-GCM-37 [USDA Quality Grades & Consumer Clarity in Retail Marketing](#)
BP-GCM-38 [Harmony in Beef Promotion](#)
BP-GCM-39 [Transparency in Labeling](#)
BP-GCM-40 [WTO-Compliant MCOOL for Beef](#)
BP-GCM-41 [Animal Care Standards](#)

NUTRITION, HEALTH & INFORMATION

BP-NHI-1 [FFA, 4-H, and Other Organized Ag Industry Groups Excused School Absences](#)
 (*interim policy*)
BP-NHI-4 [Beef Team](#)
BP-NHI-10 [National Beef Checkoff Program](#)
BP-NHI-11 [Food Safety](#)
BP-NHI-12 [Public Education](#)
BP-NHI-13 [Beef in Nutritional Programs](#)
BP-NHI-14 [Media Coverage](#)
BP-NHI-15 [Health/Obesity](#)
BP-NHI-16 [Alternative Proteins](#)
BP-NHI-17 [Government Funding for Alternative Proteins](#)
BP-NHI-18 [Agriculture Education in Public Schools](#)

BUSINESS ISSUES COMMITTEE

AGRICULTURE POLICY

BI-AP-D-14	CRP
BI-AP-D-15	Interstate Weight Limits Task Force
BI-AP-1	Support Forage Experiments
BI-AP-2	Dairy Policy
BI-AP-3	ATV-UTV-OHV Road Regulations
BI-AP-4	Government Incentive Payments (<i>interim policy</i>)
BI-AP-7	Compulsory Union Membership
BI-AP-9	Federal Grazing Fees
BI-AP-10	Disaster Assistance
BI-AP-11	Loss of Market Competition
BI-AP-13	Hunting Access
BI-AP-14	Grazing Land Availability
BI-AP-15	Definition of Crop
BI-AP-24	Cattlemen Serving as Local Leaders
BI-AP-26	Right-of-Way Fencing
BI-AP-27	Farm Programs
BI-AP-29	Regents & IDALS Funding
BI-AP-31	Iowa Fence Law
BI-AP-33	Iowa State University Support
BI-AP-34	Regulation of Livestock Haulers
BI-AP-35	Immigration
BI-AP-36	Interstate Highway Weight Limits
BI-AP-37	Rainfall Index & Grid System
BI-AP-38	Climate Change
BI-AP-39	CRP Guiding Principles
BI-AP-40	Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land
BI-AP-41	State-Owned Agricultural Land
BI-AP-42	Recognition of Farm Plates in Neighboring States
BI-AP-43	Approved Commodities for Farm Haulers

PUBLIC/PRIVATE LANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BI-PPLEM-1	Land Restoration
BI-PPLEM-4	Criminal Trespass Law
BI-PPLEM-5	Underground Water Supplies
BI-PPLEM-6	Separation Distances
BI-PPLEM-9	Endangered Species
BI-PPLEM-11	Land Use
BI-PPLEM-13	Environment & Property Rights Representation
BI-PPLEM-14	Soil Conservation
BI-PPLEM-18	Land Acquisition
BI-PPLEM-22	Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) Congress
BI-PPLEM-28	Zoning Exemption for Agricultural Facilities
BI-PPLEM-31	Iowa Slough Bill
BI-PPLEM-33	Pilot Projects/Public Grazing
BI-PPLEM-36	Livestock Feeding Regulations

BI-PPLEM-37	Environmental Planning
BI-PPLEM-39	Accidental Spills Penalties
BI-PPLEM-40	Wetland Definition
BI-PPLEM-41	Wildlife Control
BI-PPLEM-42	Predators
BI-PPLEM-46	Non-Point Source Pollution
BI-PPLEM-47	Environmental Quality/Local Control
BI-PPLEM-48	Nuisance Lawsuits
BI-PPLEM-49	Wildlife Carcass Disposal
BI-PPLEM-50	Clean Air
BI-PPLEM-51	Nutrient Reduction Strategy
BI-PPLEM-52	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Use (Interim)
BI-PPLEM-53	Land & Water Stewardship
BI-PPLEM-54	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BI-PPLEM-55	Anaerobic Digestion Systems
BI-PPLEM-56	Waters of the U.S.
BI-PPLEM-57	Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Setback Distance
BI-PPLEM-58	Eminent Domain
BI-PPLEM-59	Utility-Scale Solar

TAX AND FINANCE

BI-TF-1	State Minimum Cell Phone Coverage
BI-TF-2	Single-Use Livestock Facility Sales Tax Exemption
BI-TF-3	Balanced Budget
BI-TF-4	CRP Payment Taxation
BI-TF-7	Job Creation
BI-TF-9	School & Bond Issues
BI-TF-13	Property Tax Exemption for Pollution Control Systems
BI-TF-15	Foot & Mouth Disease Indemnity Fund
BI-TF-18	Road Use Tax Fund
BI-TF-20	Incentives for Livestock Facilities
BI-TF-30	Livestock Production Incentive Refund
BI-TF-31	Agricultural Tax Credit
BI-TF-32	Social Security Exemption on Cooperative Dividends
BI-TF-33	Property Tax Levies
BI-TF-34	Federal Estate Tax
BI-TF-35	Gift Exemption
BI-TF-36	Renewable Fuels & Co-Products
BI-TF-37	Capital Gains
BI-TF-38	Fuel Taxes and Pickup License Fees
BI-TF-39	Agricultural Property Tax Adjustment
BI-TF-40	Support for Section 179 Depreciation
BI-TF-41	State of Emergency & Essential Workers
BI-TF-42	Rural Broadband
BI-TF-43	Federal Student Aid
BI-TF-44	Bank Lending Rates
BI-TF-45	Livestock Capital Gains
BI-TF-46	Property Tax Exemption on Reservations

CATTLE PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- CP-CHWB-D-6 Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) Priorities
- CP-CHWB-2 Brucellosis Vaccination
- CP-CHWB-3 Stray Voltage
- CP-CHWB-4 Law Enforcement Animal Welfare Training
- CP-CHWB-5 Cattle Theft
- CP-CHWB-7 Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council
- CP-CHWB-9 Ultrasound, Bovine Fetal Aging, Carcass Measurement and Embryo Transfer Technicians
- CP-CHWB-11 Humane Animal Practices
- CP-CHWB-16 Iowa Beef Center
- CP-CHWB-18 Foreign Animal Disease Response
- CP-CHWB-21 Ionophore Classification
- CP-CHWB-24 Nationwide Cattle Identification
- CP-CHWB-26 Trichomoniasis Testing
- CP-CHWB-27 Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness
- CP-CHWB-30 Preconditioned Cattle Sales
- CP-CHWB-31 Judicious Antimicrobial Use
- CP-CHWB-32 Green & Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs
- CP-CHWB-33 Animal Health Drug Technologies
- CP-CHWB-34 Rural Food Animal Veterinarian Shortage

LIVE CATTLE MARKETING

- CP-LCM-D-31 Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Futures Contracts
- CP-LCM-3 Mandatory Reporting
- CP-LCM-6 Seafood, Meat & Poultry Inspection
- CP-LCM-7 Humane Harvest Practices
- CP-LCM-23 Concentration/Consolidation
- CP-LCM-30 Abandoned Railroad Right-of-Ways
- CP-LCM-37 Value Markets
- CP-LCM-42 Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Feeder Cattle Index
- CP-LCM-43 State Funding for Feeder Cattle Price Reporting Program
- CP-LCM-44 Increasing Price Discovery
- CP-LCM-45 Standards of Delivery
- CP-LCM-46 CME Live Cattle & Feeder Cattle Futures Contracts Price Limits
- CP-LCM-47 Dealer Statutory Trust
- CP-LCM-48 Transparency of Formula Transactions
- CP-LCM-49 Adjusting Reporting Regions
- CP-LCM-50 Next Day Cattle Weights
- CP-LCM-51 Delivery at Packing Plants
- CP-LCM-52 CFTC Resources
- CP-LCM-53 LRP Subsidy Harvesting

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- CP-ST-3 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)
- CP-ST-6 Iowa State University Beef Research & Extension
- CP-ST-8 Iowa State University Extension

CP-ST-11	Environmental Management Education
CP-ST-21	Iowa State University Facilities
CP-ST-28	Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Funding
CP-ST-30	Co-Product in Livestock Diets
CP-ST-31	Iowa State University Agriculture Experiment Station Funding
CP-ST-32	Beef Quality Assurance Auditing

ASSOCIATION SERVICES

AS-1 Membership *(interim policy)*

2026

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association has more than 7,500 members; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Iowa beef industry have maximum representation in a national organization.

WHEREAS, national issues before Congress and federal regulatory agencies have the potential to greatly impact Iowa and U.S. cattle operations; and

WHEREAS, it is more important than ever for the cattle industry to have strong representation at the federal level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association support and encourage grassroots involvement in developing NCBA policy and action through active committee participation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Membership Committee of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourage regular members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to become dues-paying members of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and urge the Officers and Directors of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to work toward that end with the inclusion of an NCBA membership option on future ICA membership form.

BEEF PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

BEEF SAFETY

BP-BS-1 Foodborne Pathogen Research 2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and actively promotes Beef Quality Assurance; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes that Beef Quality Assurance has a significant influence on beef demand; and

WHEREAS, foodborne pathogens that cause human illness are known to exist in cattle populations.

WHEREAS, the beef industry is dedicated to providing safe and wholesome beef products; and

WHEREAS, the beef industry has supported and encouraged a more science based meat inspection system; and

WHEREAS, the beef industry supports the goal of reducing foodborne pathogenic bacteria in beef products using proven scientific methods; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway to develop an extensive on-farm pathogen reduction (pre-harvest) program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports meaningful research directed toward the identification and reduction of foodborne pathogens in beef animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports research to identify:

1. Critical control points in cattle production systems that have the potential to reduce foodborne pathogens; and
2. Preventative management interventions that may reduce the prevalence of foodborne pathogens in cattle. These controls and/or interventions should make statistical, meaningful reductions of foodborne pathogens in a cost-effective manner.

BP-BS-2 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) 2026

WHEREAS, cattlemen are dedicated to the production of safe, wholesome and healthful beef; and

WHEREAS, injectable animal health products, vaccines, biologics, antibiotics, anthelmintics and other pharmaceuticals are essential to maintaining animal health and performance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, management and health procedures, encompassing all facets of production, will address and increase awareness of animal comfort zones including least invasive techniques and cervical injection sites which are subcutaneous whenever possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continues to support the current beef checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages cattle producers, all other segments of the beef industry, and consumers to recognize BQA programs, guidelines and associated audits as the industry standard for beef quality, beef safety, and cattle care and handling.

BP-BS-3 BQA Transportation Training & Certification 2026

WHEREAS, Beef Quality Assurance Transportation is a nationally coordinated, state implemented program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef

consumers of how common-sense husbandry and transportation techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to haul cattle under optimum management and conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continues to support the current beef checkoff-funded BQA Transportation Programs,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA encourages all cattle producers, sale barns, lockers, and meat packers to recognize BQA Transportation programs, guidelines and associated audits as the industry standard for transporting cattle,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the trainings and program to be solely funded by the checkoff; including in-person and online training classes for certification.

BP-BS-13 Safe Food Handling Labels

2025

WHEREAS, the public needs to be aware that some food products and not just meat products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if those food products are mishandled or improperly cooked.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports food labeling and educational programs which inform consumers of the proper method of handling foods to avoid foodborne illness.

BP-BS-18 Beef Products Production Transparency

2023

WHEREAS, Consumers often have a lack of exposure and understanding on how beef products are produced; and

WHEREAS, this void of knowledge can lead to doubts or even worse, a sense that beef producers and processors are hiding something.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports transparency in beef production and processing intended to provide objective, honest, and factual information about modern beef production practices to influencers and consumers in general.

BP-BS-19 Beef Import Safety & Inspection

2022

WHEREAS, the federal meat inspection program was mandated by Congress for the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have consistent inspection of all Beef products produced domestically and imported; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. consumer deserves to know where beef is produced; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is now importing beef from countries with known cases of Foot and Mouth disease; and

WHEREAS, it has been alleged that a minimal percentage of imported beef is inspected by USDA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to work with USDA to enforce the same inspection rules on imported beef that are currently being used on U.S. produced beef.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all imported beef inspected by the USDA should have a certification that identifies the product as imported beef.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the USDA should ensure that imported beef is certified free of foreign disease at port of origin.

GLOBAL CONSUMER MARKETING

BP-GCM-1 World Trade

2025

WHEREAS, increased world trade of beef and beef by-products is probable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages the activities and efforts of the United States Meat Export Federation to research markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Cattlemen's Beef Board, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Promotion Board and Iowa Department of Ag and Land Stewardship to support these efforts encouraging more free trade and elimination of tariff barriers.

BP-GCM-7 U.S. Meat Export Federation

2022

WHEREAS, the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) program has been successful in increasing U.S. beef exports.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and the Iowa Beef Industry Council continue to support the efforts of the USMEF.

BP-GCM-10 Small Processor, Differentiated Consumer & Local Foods Systems Markets 2024

WHEREAS, the cattle industry supports the need and strengths of the local processing industry to serve producers and consumers locally processed and raised beef that is available, safe and healthy, and promotes the good economic growth our communities desire; and

WHEREAS, the consuming public perceives extra value in relationships with locally raised and processed beef which grows a new market segment for the Iowa beef industry and its differentiated beef producers.

WHEREAS, the economic development of these market segments and consumer trends are important to the Iowa beef industry and the producers in the industry.

WHEREAS, the local food system providing these products and services is important in community food capacity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports further research, development and engagement by the beef industry as local food systems and local processing grow to larger markets for our future.

BP-GCM-11 International Markets

2024

WHEREAS, international markets for beef can have a positive impact on U.S. beef production; and

WHEREAS, import quotas and non-tariff trade barriers restrict access of U.S. beef products into many foreign markets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continues its efforts to encourage government officials in negotiating for expanded international markets for beef and beef products and for the elimination of non-tariff trade barriers.

**BP-GCM-27 Export Assistance Funding
2022**

WHEREAS, the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) has received substantial financial assistance per year in export assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Market Access Program (MAP) and its predecessor programs dating back to 1987 have provided the USMEF a source of additional funding to expand U.S. beef exports to over 80 nations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports export assistance programs such as MAP and is in favor of making a high percentage of all export assistance funds available for the export of value-added products such as beef.

**BP-GCM-35 Support for Iowa Beef Checkoff Fund
2022**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Beef Checkoff has been reinstated by a referendum majority vote by Iowa cattle producers as per Iowa Code Chapter 181; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association compiled industry input used to update Iowa Code Chapter 181; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association membership and other industry input was used throughout the process from the fulfillment of a producer petition to the completion of a vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continue to provide support and input to the Iowa Beef Industry Council to ensure funds derived from the assessment are utilized fully for the betterment, success and sustainability of Iowa's beef industry and its producers.

**BP-GCM-36 Usage of Iowa Beef Checkoff Funding
2022**

WHEREAS, Iowa Beef Checkoff funds can be used more flexibly to support and enhance Iowa's beef business outside the scope of National Beef Checkoff funding; and

WHEREAS, Iowa producers have indicated favorable support toward utilizing funds more strategically for Iowa beef industry targeted needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continue to identify industry resource needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the Iowa Beef Industry Council for the betterment of Iowa's beef industry.

**BP-GCM-37 USDA Quality Grades & Consumer Clarity in Retail Marketing
2024**

WHEREAS, USDA Quality Grades of Prime, Choice, and Select have a long history in the beef industry to indicate quality of beef products and have become an inherent part of the beef marketing system in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. consumer uses beef quality grades for product selection; and

WHEREAS, utilizing paralleled terminology when grading meat domestically will cause consumer confusion much like the recent retail cut nomenclature changes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports use of the terms "prime", "choice", and "select" exclusively by the beef industry to indicate level of quality and market product.

BP-GCM-38 Harmony in Beef Promotion

2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association has supported and does support alternative beef markets such as all natural, implant free, humanely treated, antibiotic free, etc. and;

WHEREAS, the absence of health-enhancing and performance-improving technologies such as implants, beta agonists, antimicrobials does not improve beef safety and wholesomeness and;

WHEREAS, certain niche beef marketing programs have promoted their products as safer or more healthful than conventionally produced beef.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work cooperatively with all beef marketers to eliminate beef advertising which promotes niche beef products favorably, while also implying that conventionally fed beef is less safe or wholesome for consumers.

BP-GCM-39 Transparency in Labeling

2026

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports clear retail labeling of beef products to reduce consumer confusion at the point of purchase; and

WHEREAS, the potential for ambiguous labeling of beef products without meaningful audit and verification is a cause for concern among beef producers across the country; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently oversees multiple, voluntary Process Verified Programs (PVPs) that include source of origin claims, and those PVPs have a proven track record of adding value to enrolled cattle, the flexibility to adapt to the needs of producers, and have been designed and tested by cattlemen in real-world production.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports USDA verification of any source of origin claim or label.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the 2024 USDA Final Rule on "Product of USA" labeling as long as the animals are born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.

BP-GCM-40 WTO-Compliant MCOOL for Beef

2022

WHEREAS, consumers deserve to know the origin of their beef; and

WHEREAS, current USDA labeling requirements allow for imported beef to be mislabeled as domestic beef.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the implementation of a World Trade Organization (WTO)-compliant mandatory country of origin labeling for beef.

BP-GCM-41 Animal Care Standards

2024

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers are concerned with the welfare of livestock and recognize that good animal health, care, production, and handling practices are essential to efficient and profitable production; and

WHEREAS, some states have proposed and enacted laws that impose a standard or condition on the preharvest production of agricultural products sold via interstate commerce from other states; and

WHEREAS, beef raised in Iowa is sold throughout the U.S. and any limitation from another state could result in economic damages to producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA opposes efforts by other states to impose standards or conditions related to animal husbandry or welfare.

NUTRITION HEALTH & INFORMATION

BP-NHI-1 FFA, 4-H, and Other Organized Ag Industry Groups Excused School Absences *(interim policy)*

2026

WHEREAS, there are several opportunities for students and youth, the next generation of the beef industry, to expand their knowledge base directly related to agriculture through FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry groups (i.e. Youth Beef Team),

WHEREAS, there is currently no requirement for schools to allow excused absences for FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry groups,

WHEREAS, students may be penalized for school absences related to activities associated with FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry groups,

WHEREAS, ICA recognizes FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry groups prepare the next generation of the beef industry to be leaders and encourages learning in and out of the classroom.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports codifying excused absences for FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry group activities that may take place during school hours.

BP-NHI-4 Beef Team

2022

WHEREAS, continued efforts of anti-beef campaigns directed at children and young people are being witnessed; and

WHEREAS, many young people with an interest in beef production say they need to address such issues as environmental stewardship, diet/health, food safety, and animal care when conversing with their peers and others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation commit to message development and spokesperson training of Iowa's youth, ages 12 to 18, who are willing to put their training to use on behalf of the cattle industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recommends that once each year the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation select from the trainees up to three (3) "Outstanding Communicators", and recognize their achievements with a scholarship to the college or university of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all county beef queens would be eligible to apply for these scholarship awards along with Youth Beef Team trainees as defined above.

BP-NHI-10 National Beef Checkoff Program

2026

WHEREAS, a strong working relationship between state beef industry councils and state cattlemen associations are necessary; and

WHEREAS, state cattlemen's associations take a very active role in promoting the passage of the federal beef checkoff program; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Promotion and Research Board has passed guidelines intended to clarify the Federal Act and Order; and

WHEREAS, caution needs to be exercised by the Beef Promotion and Research Board to further define the use of the federal beef checkoff program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association oppose any action by the Beef Promotion and Research Board, the Secretary of Agriculture, or any other entity that would pursue action to eliminate the rights of the state beef councils given them in the Beef Promotion and Research Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the National Beef Checkoff Program as it currently exists with USDA-AMS oversight and outline of duties assigned in the Beef Act & Order.

BP-NHI-11 Food Safety

2025

WHEREAS, there is an increasing incidence of foodborne pathogens reaching consumers through a variety of foods they eat including such foods as fruits, vegetables, juices, meat and poultry, water, eggs, cereal; and

WHEREAS, the cause of foodborne illness can be traced to all levels of the food chain, from farm to processing to manufacturing to distribution to foodservice to retail to home preparation; and

WHEREAS, consumers have a responsibility for understanding how to handle food safely, yet have a lower level of food handling and preparation skills.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the beef industry supports and should take part in Iowa's Food Safety Task Force that brings all segments of Iowa's food system together to share expertise and information within member organizations and with consumers to help insure that Iowans have a safe food supply and know how to properly handle food.

BP-NHI-12 Public Education

2025

WHEREAS, information regarding the cattle industry's effects on the environment and other pertinent information concerning food safety, human safety, etc. is often misstated through electronic, digital, and print media, and has a negative impact on the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, working with the media, as well as conservation and wildlife organizations, would enhance our communication efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association utilize all materials and publications available and applicable to increase public awareness on the benefits of the cattle industry has concerning the environment, wholesomeness and availability of our food supply, and human health.

BP-NHI-13 Beef in Nutritional Programs

2025

WHEREAS, dietary guidelines for school lunches and other public nutrition programs are being re-evaluated by public agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the beef industry leaders encourage these agencies to include nutritious beef in their programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports schools purchasing beef directly from local producers through a farm to school program.

BP-NHI-14 Media Coverage

2025

WHEREAS, some public news releases, stories, documentaries, and other news programs give only one side of the story or otherwise project incorrect information and impressions on the public with respect to food and its production and distribution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages all media to present factual and complete information including photographs and visual footage on food and its production and distribution; further pledge the assistance of the Association toward this end and encourage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to do the same.

BP-NHI-15 Health/Obesity

2025

WHEREAS, the prevalence of American obesity threatens the health of both adults and children; and

WHEREAS, the beef industry, through beef checkoff funded programs, has been proactive in communicating the nutritional benefits of beef to consumers, health professionals, the media and educators.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the beef industry continue efforts with government agencies, health organizations and the media, to make naturally nutrient-rich foods, including beef, a part of the solution to our state's/nation's obesity problem.

BP-NHI-16 Alternative Proteins

2024

WHEREAS, the interest and investment in cellular agriculture, and synthetically produced muscle fibers, and plant-based alternative proteins has increased; and

WHEREAS, product described above has been referred to as 'meat' in an effort to indicate replacements for animal protein sources; and

WHEREAS, if economically feasible, 'FAKE MEAT' could greatly impact the cattle market; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of scientific research to ensure the health and safety of cellular agriculture products; and

WHEREAS, the FDA and USDA has no current regulatory measures in place to monitor the development of the technology; and

WHEREAS, utilizing terminology traditional to the meat and livestock industry to describe proteins created through cellular agriculture will cause consumer confusion; and

WHEREAS, cattle producers have an interest in protecting consumer confidence in beef produced from live animals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports oversight of alternative protein products by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA advocates for the following:

1. The definition of "beef" shall be limited to flesh from cattle born, raised, and harvested in a traditional or conventional manner.
2. The definition of "beef products" shall be limited to edible products produced in whole or part from beef from cattle born, raised, and harvested in a traditional or conventional manner.
3. Alternative proteins produced in a laboratory shall not be defined as "beef" or "beef products."
4. Nomenclature for slaughtered meat established by common usage, statute, or regulations should not be included in the names or standards of identity for alternative proteins. This includes, but is not limited to, the names of cuts of beef designated by physical location and/or characteristics only found in cattle.
5. The Food Safety Inspection Service shall establish a regulatory standard of identity under its authorities in the Federal Meat Inspection Act for foods containing cultivated or lab-grown animal cells.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, alternative proteins shall be ineligible for research or promotional efforts by the state and federal Beef Checkoff programs.

BP-NHI-17 Government Funding for Alternative Proteins

2024

WHEREAS, USDA has invested millions of dollars into research and development of cultivated protein; and

WHEREAS, USDA has approved the sale of lab-grown “chicken” to consumers; and
WHEREAS, beef produced from cattle on farms and ranches is nutritious, safe, and environmentally sound; and

WHEREAS, research and development of cultivated or lab-grown alternative proteins threaten beef cattle production.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA opposes the use of taxpayer money through government programs to support research and development of cultivated or lab-grown proteins.

BP-NHI-18 Agriculture Education in Public Schools

2025

WHEREAS, agriculture is the lifeblood of our rural communities and Iowa’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the future of Iowa’s beef cattle industry is our youth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA recommends school districts make career and technical agriculture education available to students, which may include: vocational agriculture, agricultural education, and industrial technology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports dedicated funding to aid our school districts in providing career and technical agriculture education to students.

BUSINESS ISSUES COMMITTEE

AGRICULTURE POLICY

BI-AP-D-14 CRP

2026

WHEREAS, 5 percent of Iowa’s pastureland was converted to cropland from 2012 to 2017 and economic pressures continue to accelerate conversion of grazing lands for competing uses; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, current CRP rules provide landowners restricted access to periodically hay or graze forage from CRP acres; and

WHEREAS, adapting CRP rules to encourage livestock on the land and provide greater flexibility to hay and graze may maximize environmental benefit; and

WHEREAS, incorporating cattle into perennial grasslands can contribute to conservation goals.

THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, the ICA Cow-Calf Council shall consult the NRCS, FSA, and other stakeholders for opportunities to provide more flexibility to CRP for Iowa’s cattle producers.

BI-AP-D-15 Interstate Weight Limits Task Force

2026

WHEREAS, ICA supports an increased weight limit on the interstate road system.

THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, ICA shall establish a task force comprised of livestock haulers and other stakeholders from the trucking industry to develop a strategy to amend federal law to authorize the Federal Motor Carrier Administration to increase the weight limit on the interstate road system.

BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, the task force shall report back to the membership on or before the next Annual Meeting.

BI-AP-1 Support Forage Experiments
2023

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes the importance of grass and forage establishment to the cattle industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes and supports ongoing forage research and experiments conducted by all entities in the State of Iowa.

BI-AP-2 Dairy Policy
2023

WHEREAS, Congress has spent considerable time and resources on dairy policy and a satisfactory solution has not been forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, the solution may have significant economic impact on both the dairy and beef industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association urges the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to continue to work with the dairy industry in finding a long-range solution to dairy policy that will be beneficial and acceptable to both the dairy and beef industry.

BI-AP-3 ATV-UTV-OHV Road Regulations
2026

WHEREAS, public safety is critical for vehicles and people on Iowa roadways,

WHEREAS, as long as the ATV, UTV, or OHV is utilized as an implement of husbandry, there is a registration exemption,

WHEREAS, ATVs, UTVs, and OHVs must be used within a 2 mile radius of the farm before needing a Class C license,

WHEREAS, implements of husbandry must travel 35 mph or slower and have a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) sign,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the registration exemptions for ATVs, UTVs, and OHVs must be maintained and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the radius from the farm must be expanded to 10 miles before needing a Class C license.

BI-AP-4 Government Incentive Payments (*interim policy*)
2026

WHEREAS, cattle cycles are a natural and necessary function of the beef industry that reflect biological realities and market signals,

WHEREAS, government payments intended to incentivize the retention of breeding animals artificially distort markets and undermine producer autonomy,

WHEREAS, efforts to artificially expand the cattle herd through government intervention risk oversupply, price volatility, and long-term economic harm to cattle producers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association strongly opposes any government program or policy that provides payments or incentives to encourage the retention of breeding animals for the purpose of artificially expanding the cattle herd.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA urges policymakers to prioritize policies that strengthen risk management tools, enhance market transparency, and reduce regulatory burdens rather than incentives that interfere with market-driven production decisions.

BI-AP-7 Compulsory Union Membership
2024

WHEREAS, compulsory union membership is contrary to the basic principles of individual freedom upon which this nation was founded.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will defend the provisions of state and federal law which assures enactment of "Right to Work" laws, and insists the law be enforced against secondary boycotts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any existing legislation or legislation which may be proposed, that would extend the authorization of compulsory unionism to all related agricultural employees or to any other employees not now covered by such provision.

BI-AP-9 Federal Grazing Fees

2026

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports economic equality in all regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and competition for public lands may cause reassessment of grazing fee formulas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors establishment of federal grazing fees at fair rates.

BI-AP-10 Disaster Assistance

2026

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, disaster assistance payments shall accurately reflect grazing losses based on the carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land, not the average carrying capacity within a county.

BI-AP-11 Loss of Market Competition

2024

WHEREAS, the trend of mergers and mega mergers within the economic structure of world business continues at an unprecedented pace; and

WHEREAS, the result of these mergers results in fewer and fewer choices in the fields of finance, supply and product processing, thereby reducing competition in all areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports preservation of a competitive business climate for all producers.

BI-AP-13 Hunting Access

2024

WHEREAS, Iowa cattle producers are private property landowners; and

WHEREAS, many Iowa cattlemen voluntarily allow people to hunt, or lease hunting rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work to ensure that cattle producers are not forced to give unrestricted public access to private land which has received federal funding related to conservation assistance and farm programs.

BI-AP-14 Grazing Land Availability

2024

WHEREAS, Iowa's beef industry is competing for pasture ground with government programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continuously monitor the implementation of the new Farm Bill and state policies and regulations and make interim policy as necessary to encourage the continuation of Iowa's beef industry.

BI-AP-15 Definition of Crop
2025

WHEREAS, the harvested crop is the grain and the residue including corn stalks, corn cobs, bean straw, oat straw, wheat straw, etc.; and

WHEREAS, corn stalk and soybean straw are important bedding materials, feed stuffs and material for cellulosic ethanol plants and anaerobic digesters; and

WHEREAS, confusion may exist as to what constitutes a crop for farm lease purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the definition of crops to include harvested residue.

BI-AP-24 Cattlemen Serving as Local Leaders
2022

WHEREAS, involvement in farm program administration is important.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages 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-26 Right-of-Way Fencing
2023

WHEREAS, federal interstate highways and railroads are all bordered by fences originally constructed by the right-of-way holder; and

WHEREAS, those fences have fallen into disrepair.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work to encourage these entities to repair and maintain these fences.

BI-AP-27 Farm Programs
2023

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association believes that the federal government's involvement in agriculture through feed grain programs are often detrimental to the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, government programs of the past have benefited one segment of agriculture without considering the impact on another.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association provides the following recommendations to Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for formulating and administering future farm policies:

1. Eliminate from all farm programs discrimination against the cattle industry in the area of base acreage and normal crop acres, base yields, loan privileges, including hay and silage loans, and soil conservation.
2. Farm policies should be developed having both long and short term objectives.
3. The intent of American farm policy should be profitable markets with emphasis on producing and exporting value added products.
4. Farm programs should be market oriented though providing a price safety net somewhere below the variable cost of production which could be adjusted seasonally.

5. Strategic reserves should be maintained as hedges against disaster and to assure the world that the United States is a reliable supplier. Reserves should NOT be used to control or influence prices.
6. Farm policy must promote soil conservation, soil health, and the best management practices to protect and preserve our natural resources.
7. Policies should not be formulated so as to favor one segment of agriculture over another.
8. Federal Crop Insurance must become more cost efficient and coverage should be expanded to cover the commonly produced pasture and hay crops. Yield coverages must be raised and should be calculated on a field-by-field and farm-by-farm basis.
9. Fiscal responsibility is a concern of Iowa cattlemen. We recognize that all segments of our economy will have to respond by decreased spending to facilitate balancing the budget; however balancing the federal budget with proportionate cuts in spending should not be accomplished at the expense of the cattle industry and agriculture.
10. We endorse efforts to reduce the real interest rates for agriculture.
11. Future farm legislation should be announced prior to the expiration or continuation of the current farm bill.
12. The importance of local governance and oversight at Farm Services Agency offices increases with the complexity of current farm programs (e.g. LDP payments). Iowa Cattlemen's Association strongly urges that local boards be empowered to make decisions regarding strictly local issues and/or entities.
13. A minimum of 60% of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds be spent on livestock conservation and incentive production projects on a federal basis.

BI-AP-29 Regents & IDALS Funding

2025

WHEREAS, Iowa agriculture depends on Iowa State University to educate our young people interested in careers in agriculture, to conduct agricultural research, and to deliver information to the citizens of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Iowa citizens depend on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for a wide variety of protection programs including meat processing, commercial feed and fertilizer, pesticide application, weights and measures and animal health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the State of Iowa to prioritize funding to the Board of Regents and IDALS to address these critical agricultural issues.

BI-AP-31 Iowa Fence Law

2022

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the current Iowa fence law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, landowners should be encouraged to reach a written agreement regarding their border fences and file them with the county recorder.

BI-AP-33 Iowa State University Support

2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Iowa State University Bioeconomy Institute, and the College of Veterinary Medicine recognize the importance of future science and technology needs for animal agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (including the Animal Science Department), the Iowa State University Bioeconomy Institute, and the College of Veterinary Medicine have asked for industry partners to develop strategies for identifying and funding these critical technologies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages efforts to secure sufficient funding at Iowa State University to help strengthen sustainability for Iowa's beef cattle industry.

BI-AP-34 Regulation of Livestock Haulers

2025

WHEREAS, cattle producers in Iowa purchase cattle that require transportation over long distances; and

WHEREAS, getting livestock to the intended destination in a timely manner is critical for the livestock and the owner; and

WHEREAS, increased regulation of hours of service will increase freight cost of cattle coming into Iowa; and

WHEREAS, unloading livestock and waiting until the hours of service may resume to continue to the desired destination further increases risk and liability for the producer and freight hauler.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports an exemption of Hours of Service and Electronic Logging Device requirements for livestock haulers.

BI-AP-35 Immigration

2024

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is important to the economic vitality of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's cattle producers are in constant need of farm workers of all skill levels to provide stability of the agricultural workforce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports immigration policy that provides a legal and efficient way for immigrant workers and their immediate families to enter the U.S. to work as guest workers and be able to renew that guest worker status as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports policy that uses these legal entrances as a pathway to citizenship and encourages immigrants to enter our country legally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports policy that allows guest workers to obtain a driver's license to be able to commute to their employment.

BI-AP-36 Interstate Highway Weight Limits

2025

WHEREAS, other states in the union allow interstate travel of triple and spread axle trucks with weight limits over 80,000 lbs.; and

WHEREAS, in Iowa it is legal to travel on state roads with triple and spread axle trucks over 80,000 lbs. gross; and

WHEREAS, any livestock trucks weighing over 80,000 lbs. have no feasible way to travel through Des Moines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, should the opportunity arise, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should work towards instituting the travel of triple and spread axle trucks grossing over 80,000 lbs. on interstate highways.

BI-AP-37 Rainfall Index & Grid System

2022

WHEREAS, Rainfall Index (RI) reflects how much precipitation is received relative to the long-term average for a specified area and timeframe, based on rainfall monitors within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center grid system; and

WHEREAS, various insurance programs, such as the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) and Annual Forage Programs, utilize the RI and the grid system to determine eligibility for indemnity payments; and

WHEREAS, insurance programs insure based on general geographic area, not individual farm location; and

WHEREAS, a rainfall monitor in close proximity to an individual farm may not be in the same grid; and

WHEREAS, a singular, high-intensity rain event may disproportionately influence data used to determine eligibility for indemnity payments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall consult the Risk Management Agency regarding opportunities to suggest improvements to the current RI and grid system.

BI-AP-38 Climate Change 2024

WHEREAS, national and international publications on modern livestock production, environmental activists, entities that produce plant-based meat alternatives, and animal rights activists have accused animal agriculture of being a primary contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and

WHEREAS, some states have promulgated regulations to mandate reductions of GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, cattle upcycle cellulose and carbon through enteric fermentation, releasing methane as part of the biogenic carbon cycle; and

WHEREAS, methane has a shorter lifespan in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, cattle producers are the original stewards of the land and natural resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports research related to cattle and climate-smart agricultural practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall support the development of a voluntary, science-based carbon credit program, providing credits for practices already implemented by early adopters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall oppose efforts to regulate GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any legislation, regulation, trade agreement, or international treaty that would regulate carbon or greenhouse gases in the cattle industry, including but not limited to the reporting of agricultural GHG emissions.

BI-AP-39 CRP Guiding Principles 2024

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association will:

1. Work to reduce economic pressures that accelerate the conversion of grazing lands for competing uses.
2. Oppose efforts to increase the total number of CRP contract acres.
3. Encourage managed grazing of CRP contract acres throughout the entire grazing season, which includes the primary nesting season.
4. Work with key stakeholders, including wildlife groups, to promote best management practices that balance the needs of cattle, wildlife, and our natural resources.
5. Educate producers on the importance of managed grazing and using CRP as a recovery tool to improve existing pastures.
6. Continue to support non-emergency haying and grazing of CRP contract acres and when necessary, emergency haying and grazing of CRP contract acres, as part of a NRCS management plan, while advocating for no payment reductions.

7. Advocate for the approval to emergency hay and graze CRP acres that are included in State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) when emergency haying and grazing is approved for CRP due to weather conditions.

We believe:

1. CRP should be targeted for marginal land, not productive acres or entire farms.
2. Government programs, like CRP, should not compete with farmers and ranchers and should not price pasture out of production. CRP rental rates should be less than private sector pasture rental rates within the county where contract acres are located.
3. Legumes and cool- and warm-season forage mixes should be prioritized on CRP contract acres.
4. Managed grazing can suppress noxious weeds.
5. Local program oversight is important.
6. Cattle producers should influence farm programs, like CRP, at the local level through FSA county committees.
7. Cattle producers should comply with NRCS conservation and management plans on CRP contract acres.
8. CRP buffer strips, headlands, and waterways may be grazed as a management practice.
9. State agencies/third parties must not influence federal USDA programs or contracts for programs between landowners and USDA. This shall include, but is not limited to: determining eligibility and/or authorizing for emergency haying and grazing of CRP during drought conditions, non-emergency haying and grazing of CRP, or management of CRP.
10. Emergency haying and grazing allowances as provided under D2 drought conditions shall continue as drought intensity increases.
11. Emergency haying and grazing of CRP shall not limit eligibility for non-emergency haying and grazing in subsequent years.
12. Under emergency haying and grazing conditions, hay may be harvested from CRP and used to feed livestock, but shall not be sold by private treaty or to the public via hay auction. CRP hay may be gifted or donated, but not sold. Landowners with CRP contracts must agree to not sell hay or sell haying or grazing rights, which would result in forfeiture of their CRP contract with USDA.
13. If a payment reduction is in effect for non-emergency use, a landowner may lease haying or grazing rights for an amount not to exceed the payment reduction (i.e., 25 percent penalty for non-emergency use).
14. Newly seeded CRP must be mowed and baled or grazed within six months to allow for regrowth of forage.
15. If a county is deemed eligible for emergency haying of CRP on the Thursday prior to the September 1 deadline, a two-week grace period must be provided by USDA to allow landowners to hay CRP contract acres.

BI-AP-40 Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land 2024

WHEREAS, current federal law imposes no restrictions on the amount of private U.S. agricultural land that can be foreign-owned; and

WHEREAS, some states, like Iowa, have instituted restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural land, but many have not; and

WHEREAS, USDA has reported that foreign investors hold more than 40 million acres nationwide, which is greater in size than the entire state of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, there has been increased foreign investment in the U.S. food and agriculture sector.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA urges Congress to restrict foreign ownership of agricultural land from all foreign persons and entities on the basis of food security and national security interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA urges the State of Iowa to enhance its restrictions on agricultural land holdings by:

1. Reporting to the public the following:
 - a. A listing of all land holdings by non-resident aliens and/or entities, to include details on ownership structure, list of owners, purpose of ownership, purchase price, and market value of the land
 - b. Contact information for the entity's home-country agent or agency
 - c. Nationality and birthplace of the nonresident alien, agent, trustee, and fiduciary
2. Granting subpoena authority to the Iowa Attorney General to investigate relevant documents and determine whether or not to bring enforcement actions; and
3. Increasing penalties for violations of Iowa Code Chapter 9I.

BI-AP-41 State-Owned Agricultural Land
2024

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa farms and owns land that is currently leased to farmers and ranchers for agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, this land may be sold and utilized or developed for purposes other than agricultural production.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA encourages the establishment of criteria that would require agricultural land previously owned by the State of Iowa to remain in agricultural production of crops or livestock if sold.

BI-AP-42 Recognition of Farm Plates in Neighboring States
2024

WHEREAS, exemptions for commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) operating as “covered farm vehicles” provide regulatory relief for farmers who transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery, and/or supplies to and from their farm or ranch; and

WHEREAS, CMVs more than 26,000 pounds can be operated anywhere in Iowa and across state lines, when operated within 150 air miles of the farm/ranch; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cattlemen in counties that border other states benefit from hauling across state lines for personal farm use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports maintaining reciprocity from all neighboring states for covered farm vehicles to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and ranchers in bordering counties.

BI-AP-44 Approved Commodities for Farm Haulers
2024

WHEREAS, farm supplies for agricultural purposes means products directly related to the growing or harvesting of agricultural commodities and livestock feed at any time of the year; and

WHEREAS, gravel is not an approved farm supply for agricultural purposes despite its necessity on farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa has the authority to determine approved farm supplies for agricultural purposes and currently provides exceptions for some processed grains, including distillers grains.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports the inclusion of aggregate materials as approved farm supplies for agricultural purposes to maintain personal driveways on farms and ranches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 25 percent registration weight tolerance for raw agricultural products shall also apply to processed livestock feed products hauled back to the farm for personal use.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE LANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

BI-PPLEM-1 Land Restoration
2026

WHEREAS, pipeline, transmission, utility, underground natural resources, or any other large-scale projects may disrupt working lands during construction and potentially during operation,

WHEREAS, construction of these projects can lead to habitat, pasture, and property disruption; fragmentation; and ecosystem degradation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports legislation that requires companies conducting pipeline, transmission, utility, underground natural resources, or any other large-scale projects to restore disrupted working lands to original or improved conditions,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, producers who experience productivity reductions due to pipeline, transmission, utility, underground natural resources, or any other large-scale projects on property should be fairly compensated for those losses.

BI-PPLEM-4 Criminal Trespass Law
2023

WHEREAS, prior written permission to enter property would provide an evidentiary basis for enforcement of the trespass law as well as providing a potential legal basis for reduced personal liability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association recommends any further change of trespass law to require written permission to enter any property.

BI-PPLEM-5 Underground Water Supplies

2024

WHEREAS, the cattle industry in Iowa depends heavily on underground water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the potability of such underground water is important to Iowa's beef cattle producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association urges its members to take whatever steps they can to prevent the pollution of underground water supplies by building properly constructed wells, plugging abandoned wells, using best environmental management practices for organic nutrient utilization and nitrogen management and proper surface water drainage systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the goal of non-degradation of groundwater is supported by the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, but until adequate research is completed upon which to base decisions, we urge restraint in developing rules to achieve this goal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports funding for costs incurred from additional regulations or guidelines applied by state or local agencies concerning the correct plugging of abandoned water wells.

BI-PPLEM-6 Separation Distances

2024

WHEREAS, current laws require that new confinement feeding operations are required to maintain a separation distance from existing dwellings and public use areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, new residences, subdivisions and public use areas in rural areas should be required to meet the maximum separation distances from existing confinement feeding operations that new confinement feeding operations must meet from existing residences. Residential and subdivision owners may obtain a recorded waiver from the separation distance from the neighboring confinement feeding operation.

BI-PPLEM-9 Endangered Species

2025

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) endangered species protection program places unwarranted and potentially devastating restrictions on the cattle industry and all agriculture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports a complete delay on listings until:

1. A Federal Register Notice is issued soliciting public comment on each new listing;
2. A complete public review of all U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Jeopardy Opinions for any species being listed;
3. An Economic Assessment of the impacts to agriculture;
4. An Environmental Impact Study has been prepared;
5. National, state and local hearings are conducted for each new listing;
6. All endangered species ranges are updated, justified and verified;
7. Clear goals for recovery and criteria for de-listing of a species are developed prior to listing of that species; and
8. Alternate programs are explored.

BI-PPLEM-11 Land Use

2026

WHEREAS, the issue of land use in Iowa becomes increasingly important as Iowa population grows and the use of its land becomes more intensified; and

WHEREAS, the cattlemen of Iowa have distinctive problems and interests in the use of land for production of beef cattle; and

WHEREAS, the complexities of the many issues and interests involved are substantial, not the least of which are the preservation of private property rights and the location of control over land-use decisions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, land suitable for the grazing of livestock should be deemed agricultural land worthy of preservation and that grazing be given preference over recreational, industrial, and/or urban uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, public lands should be subject to the same laws, rules and regulations as privately-owned lands.

BI-PPLEM-13 Environment & Property Rights Representation

2022

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

2022

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-18 Land Acquisition

2024

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa is primarily comprised of agricultural land consisting of row crop, pasture and timberland; and

WHEREAS, much of the state-owned land including state parks, recreational areas and preserves needs to be improved and repaired; and

WHEREAS, ownership of ground by the state relinquishes it from the tax rolls which inevitably raises taxes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA discourages the purchases of agricultural land by the federal, state, county, and/ or local governments and encourages the use of acquisition funds for improving existing properties.

BI-PPLEM-22 Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) Congress

2022

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-PPLEM-28 Zoning Exemption for Agricultural Facilities

2025

WHEREAS, counties may attempt to circumvent the Iowa Code by zoning agricultural facilities; and
WHEREAS, controversies regarding concentrated livestock facilities have escalated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the continuation of the zoning exemption for agricultural purposes as contained in Chapter 335 of the Iowa Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, agricultural purposes should be determined by definition contained in Chapter 701.71(3) of the Iowa Administrative Code.

BI-PPLEM-31 Iowa Slough Bill

2022

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-PPLEM-33 Pilot Projects/Public Grazing

2026

WHEREAS, managed grazing on public or private lands can both enhance the wildlife carrying potential of the land and allow for expansion of the cattle industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the implementation of managed grazing projects between public agencies and private cattle producers, in a feasible and practical manner for all parties.

BI-PPLEM-36 Livestock Feeding Regulations

2025

WHEREAS, Iowa's current environmental regulations are comparable to other major livestock producing states. In order to expand our livestock base, environmental concerns must be balanced with economic reality. New restrictions will drive the industry away from Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Iowa has a substantial portion of our nation's prime farmland and the ability to add value to the crops produced on that land through a thriving cattle industry which is vital to Iowa's economic success; and

WHEREAS, unreasonable environmental regulations will only impose more costs on our cattle producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any changes to current state and federal regulations which would be adverse to the cattle industry, unless the changes are based on sound scientific and economic data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages environmental research by Iowa State University, including the Bioeconomy Institute, and other entities that will provide viable economic solutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall work closely with the DNR to further develop alternative technologies to enhance, and improve water quality at livestock operations.

BI-PPLEM-37 Environmental Planning

2025

WHEREAS, cooperation and attitudes are important to good working relationships; and

WHEREAS, environmental concerns and the regulations relating to them are becoming increasingly important and sometimes controversial.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continues the policy of proactive participation with other organizations and governmental entities in environmental planning, stewardship, conservation, and resource enhancement.

BI-PPLEM-39 Accidental Spills Penalties

2023

WHEREAS, clean water is important to everyone including Iowa's beef industry; and

WHEREAS, civil and criminal penalties are necessary to help ensure compliance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the Iowa Legislature, EPA, and DNR to identify and deter intentional and repetitive violators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that accidental manure spills should be no more than a civil penalty.

BI-PPLEM-40 Wetland Definition

2024

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is directly impacted by pastureland vs. cropland that may be designated wetlands; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable confusion in determining the wetland definition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the definition of wetlands by simultaneous actual presence of three naturally occurring criteria: hydric soils, hydrophilic vegetation and surface inundation for a significant portion of the growing season of every year under normal precipitation.

BI-PPLEM-41 Wildlife Control

2024

WHEREAS, wildlife has the potential to cause damage to real and/or personal property in both the private and public sectors and may threaten human health and safety on occasion; and

WHEREAS, prevention and/or control of wildlife damage is an essential and responsible part of wildlife management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the State of Iowa provide an effective wildlife management program in Iowa that includes controlled hunting, trapping, and educational and research projects.

BI-PPLEM-42 Predators

2022

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-PPLEM-46 Non-Point Source Pollution

2023

WHEREAS, it is generally recognized that the use of best management practices reduce non-point source pollution; and

WHEREAS, control of non-point source pollution is dependent on scientifically based, site-specific application of best management practices; and

WHEREAS, research data is inadequate to scientifically outline what criteria should be established in developing mandatory regulations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favor the voluntary use of best management practices for non-point pollution control and encourages its members and all segments of society to implement these practices whenever and wherever possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes the implementation of mandatory regulations for non-point sources of agricultural pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if mandatory non-point source regulations are imposed over the Iowa Cattlemen's Association's objection, it is necessary that regulations be funded and be developed at the state level based on sound science where such decisions can best be made.

BI-PPLEM-47 Environmental Quality/Local Control

2023

WHEREAS, clean water and air are essential to the health and well-being of all producers in the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, water and air are precious resources that we manage to the benefit of social, environmental and economic values that are important to the stability of our industry and with the understanding of our unique needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the appropriate agencies recognize the state's abilities to best manage the resources within their jurisdictions and that environmental laws shall not be interpreted to be more restrictive than statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Iowa environmental quality protection standards and regulations be established at the state level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes local control of environmental standards and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports statewide consistency of the Master Matrix application for counties that adopt the Master Matrix.

BI-PPLEM-48 Nuisance Lawsuits

2022

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.

BI-PPLEM-49 Wildlife Carcass Disposal

2023

WHEREAS, improper disposal, removal and cleanup of wildlife carcasses and remains has potential to cause human and cattle health problems by threatening and contaminating our water sources, proper disposal must be an essential part of Wildlife Management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Transportation to enforce and carry out proper disposal of wildlife carcasses.

BI-PPLEM-50 Clean Air

2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports working with commodity and farm associations/groups to assure that sound science is utilized in developing regulations that are transparent, workable and practical for future air quality standards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages national and state committees and farm groups working together to achieve such standards based on sound science.

BI-PPLEM-51 Nutrient Reduction Strategy

2025

WHEREAS, a voluntary strategy to reduce nutrient escape has been developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa State University for the state of Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages voluntary efforts to reduce nutrient escape in order to maintain and improve water quality in the state of Iowa and Gulf of Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports funding through the state legislature for cost-share initiatives, educational outreach, water quality projects, and manure management best practices that are available to producers to reduce nutrient escape.

BI-PPLEM-52 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Use

2025

WHEREAS, the public and private use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), also known as remotely piloted aircraft and drones, in society will continue to intensify; and

WHEREAS, this technology has the capability to infringe upon private property rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports the development and integration of UAV technology in our state, provided this technology does not infringe on private property rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports restricting UAV surveillance of livestock facilities, farmland, and residences without the permission of the property owner.

BI-PPLEM-53 Land & Water Stewardship

2024

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the protection of private property rights and our state's natural resources through provisions of the Clean Water Act as it was written by Congress and has been interpreted by the Supreme Court.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports working with the Environmental Protection Agency to identify water quality solutions that do not impose burdensome mandates on cattle producers and all of the agricultural community.

BI-PPLEM-54 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2025

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to promote regulations that alter the normal flow of the Missouri River to create better habitat for wildlife and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, land adjacent to the Missouri River is primarily used for agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policies have resulted in widespread flooding and decimation of cropland, pasture, and communities along the river.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports amending the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Manual to restore flood prevention and protection of property as the top priorities.

BI-PPLEM-55 Anaerobic Digestion Systems

2025

WHEREAS, manure management and manure valuation in cattle operations may present challenges; and

WHEREAS, environmental impacts and regulations relating to cattle operations are becoming increasingly important and sometimes controversial; and

WHEREAS, anaerobic digestion systems and similar technology provide economic and environmental benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association support the research and development of anaerobic digestion systems and similar technology and encourage the equitable monetization of dairy and beef cattle manure.

BI-PPLEM-56 Waters of the U.S.

2025

WHEREAS, clean water is a state and federal priority; and

WHEREAS, cattle producers should be able to use their land for production to the greatest extent; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule would have given the federal government authority to regulate water on 97 percent of land in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule defines WOTUS and establishes clear rules for compliance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes regulations and/or legislation to expand federal jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

BI-PPLEM-57 Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Setback Distance

2023

WHEREAS, producers have a responsibility to protect the health and well-being of our livestock; and

WHEREAS, hazardous liquid pipelines, as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, are built to contain material, but may be compromised; and

WHEREAS, a hazardous liquid may cause risk for livestock and humans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. DOT PHMSA has established that no pipeline may be located within 50 feet of any private dwelling, or any industrial building or place of public assembly in which persons work, congregate, or assemble, unless it is provided with at least 12 inches of cover in addition to standards prescribed in 49 CFR § 195.248; and

WHEREAS, neither the Iowa Code nor the Iowa Utilities Board rules have defined setback distance requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the establishment of a setback distance for hazardous liquid pipelines in Iowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the setback distance for new hazardous liquid pipelines shall be a minimum of 1250 feet, barring scientific evidence proving otherwise, from any residence or location where livestock are housed, kept, located, or grazed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, individual landowners may voluntarily choose to agree to a hazardous liquid pipeline in closer proximity than the established setback distance.

BI-PPLEM-58 Eminent Domain

2024

WHEREAS, in recent years, municipalities have used the 'eminent domain' process to condemn and seize private property for private economic development and resale to the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the ability of government entities to forcibly take private property from a citizen and then convey that seized property to other citizens or private corporations in the name of economic development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA shall support federal and state legislation that prevents government entities from taking private property through the eminent domain process for the purpose of conveying that property to other private individuals or entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA shall support legislation to change the appraisal standards for federal and state appraisals to include fair market value based on highest economic value for the compensation for the taking of private property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all regulations which affect the use or value of property should be reviewed to insure that they do not restrict an owner's use of that property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA shall vigorously oppose the use of eminent domain for private use.

BI-PPLEM-59 Utility-Scale Solar

2024

WHEREAS, economic pressures continue to accelerate conversion of agricultural land for competing uses; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes in preserving agricultural land to support cattle production; and

WHEREAS, utility-scale solar electricity generating facilities of several hundred acres in size are proposed to be developed in Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, solar electricity production shall not supersede agricultural production on established agricultural land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA opposes the rezoning of agricultural land to develop utility-scale solar.

TAX AND FINANCE

BI-TF-1 State Minimum Cell Phone Coverage

2026

WHEREAS, there are gaps in cell phone coverage across the state, particularly in rural areas due to topography and lack of population density,

WHEREAS, cell phone coverage is vital to the safety of cattle producers as accidents may occur and help or emergency response is needed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports a statewide minimum for cell phone coverage of at least 25-99 mbps,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the expansion of cell phone coverage by carriers in rural and remote areas.

BI-TF-2 Single-Use Livestock Facility Sales Tax Exemption

2026

WHEREAS, since 2020, the cost of construction materials have increased at an average of 19%,

WHEREAS, in the State of Iowa, construction materials for grain bins are sales tax exempt under Iowa Code 423.3,

WHEREAS, single-use livestock barns, similar to grain bins, have one purpose,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports efforts to make construction materials or the sale of single-use livestock barns to be sales tax exempt to reduce the burden of costs associated.

BI-TF-3 Balanced Budget

2022

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-4 CRP Payment Taxation

2026

WHEREAS, corporate entities and inactive farmers are not subject to social security tax on income received from participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), but individual active farmers may be subject to the tax, and

WHEREAS, ICA believes CRP payments are rental income, and

WHEREAS, CRP payments must be considered self-employment income and taxed as such, and

WHEREAS, throughout changing administrations at the federal level, there has been a push for enrolling acres in CRP, and

WHEREAS, there are Iowa cattlemen and non-active farmers with land enrolled in the CRP.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association seeks a complete exemption from social security taxes on income received by active farmers who receive payments from enrolled acres in CRP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA does not view CRP participation alone as meeting the definition of actively farming; though haying and grazing should be recognized as qualifying practices.

BI-TF-7 Job Creation

2024

WHEREAS, the creation of jobs is a top priority in the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, further processing of farm commodities would increase jobs in Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports further processing of farm products.

BI-TF-9 School & Bond Issues

2023

WHEREAS, it has been proposed that current Iowa law requiring a 60 percent approval to pass a bond issue be reduced to a simple majority.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports retention of the current 60 percent approval requirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports allowing local school districts, upon a favorable vote, to retire future school bond indebtedness using no more than 50 percent property tax revenue.

BI-TF-13 Property Tax Exemption for Pollution Control Systems

2024

WHEREAS, there is currently a property tax exemption on land holding pollution control systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should work to retain the existing property tax exemption on pollution control containment systems.

BI-TF-15 Foot & Mouth Disease Indemnity Fund

2022

WHEREAS, the federal government has an indemnity fund to pay producers for their livestock in the event of a 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-18 Road Use Tax Fund

2023

WHEREAS, the Road Use Tax Fund is constitutionally protected to repair and maintain Iowa's roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, the Road Use Tax Funds are distributed according to a state mandated formula.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any changes to the formula that would jeopardize funding for use on rural Iowa road and bridge infrastructure.

BI-TF-20 Incentives for Livestock Facilities

2025

WHEREAS, recent studies completed by various groups and organizations report "the best way to generate economic activity and revitalize rural and small town Iowa is to expand the livestock industry"; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown the greatest financial return to management is through a livestock operation; and

WHEREAS, modern livestock production systems can benefit the environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in order to furnish an incentive for modernizing existing livestock facilities and to encourage building new livestock facilities, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the Iowa Legislature, and other states, to create incentives to encourage modernization and construction of improved pollution control, manure management, and livestock production systems.

BI-TF-30 Livestock Production Incentive Refund

2024

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is essential to Iowa's economy; and

WHEREAS, taxes on these receipts are not equitably returned to county governments; and

WHEREAS, the beef cow herd provides environmental and economic benefits to the state by adding value to our fragile lands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports the individual livestock incentive refund where the individual receives a payment from the state general fund which reflects the number of cows, bulls and bred heifers in inventory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Legislature should move toward fully funding the Iowa Production Credit without regard to individual or business structure income or net worth factors.

BI-TF-31 Agricultural Tax Credit

2026

WHEREAS, our present system of property tax in Iowa is not operating fairly and adequately.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports improvements in the productivity formula to initiate county-by-county calculations using productivity values to more accurately reflect actual farm finances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors continuation of the limit on increases in assessed value of agriculture property and structures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors continuation of the homestead tax credit, the beginning farmer tax credit, and family farm tax credit unless it could be replaced with a fully funded livestock value-added tax credit, or similar legislation which encourages cattle and other livestock production which includes pasture and forage production and protection of the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the present fixed seven percent capitalization rate be changed to a flexible rate to better reflect the actual situation.

BI-TF-32 Social Security Exemption on Cooperative Dividends
2026

WHEREAS, corporate entities which are members of cooperatives are not subject to social security tax on income they receive from earnings distributed to them by a cooperative, but individual farmer-members are subject to the tax, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association requests Congress grant a complete exemption from social security taxes on income received by farmers on income received from earnings distributed to them by cooperatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will work for an equitable solution to the social security tax on earnings distributed by cooperatives.

BI-TF-33 Property Tax Levies
2025

WHEREAS, county property tax levies are rising in part due to exemption of some private property from taxation; and

WHEREAS, exempt lands still require roads, fire and police protection; and

WHEREAS, exempt lands are generally assessed at relatively low valuations such that the tax that would be collected would unlikely cause undue economic hardship on the owners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports legislation that would alter the property tax exemption on Woodland Reserve, Wetlands Reserve, Native Prairie and Iowa Slough Bill lands, such that a more equitable treatment of these lands with respect to Iowa's cattle industry be achieved.

BI-TF-34 Federal Estate Tax
2022

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, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association:

1. Support, first and foremost, full and permanent repeal of the Estate Tax,
2. Oppose any proposal to increase the gift or estate tax liability of farmers and ranchers,
3. Oppose any proposal to repeal the stepped-up basis provisions not tied to repeal of the estate tax, and
4. 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 should be indexed to inflation going forward.

BI-TF-35 Gift Exemption
2023

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult to own and operate a small business or family farm in this country; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of ownership of these vital businesses has been restricted for years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to support raising the annual gift exemption and once raised, that the increase be indexed to inflation for the future.

BI-TF-36 Renewable Fuels & Co-Products

2025

WHEREAS, the production of renewable fuels and their co-products in the state of Iowa is beneficial to the Iowa cattle industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports renewable fuels production and legislation that promotes growth in renewable energy and supports initiatives which maximize access to co-products for Iowa's cattle industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports inclusion of beef cattle manure in California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard as a way to provide equitable treatment of all manure sources in this renewable fuel program.

BI-TF-37 Capital Gains

2023

WHEREAS, the average age of farmers and landowners is increasing and most livestock is raised by younger farmers; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in capital gains taxes on farmland and livestock would enhance the transfer of these assets thereby increasing livestock numbers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the reduction of federal and state capital gains taxes on farmland and livestock.

BI-TF-38 Fuel Taxes & Pickup License Fees

2023

WHEREAS, the Iowa State Legislature is looking for ways to improve Iowa transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes that rural Iowa road infrastructure is in need of repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes additional resources are necessary to complete such repairs and maintenance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports efforts that increase funding for rural road infrastructure and state and county funds collected be used for their intended purpose.

BI-TF-39 Agricultural Property Tax Adjustment

2022

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.

BI-TF-40 Support for Section 179 Depreciation

2025

WHEREAS, large capital expenditures are necessary and normal for cattle producers; and

WHEREAS, these large expenditures have significant tax implications; and

WHEREAS, Section 179 allows for an expedited depreciation schedule.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the permanent implementation of Section 179 deduction.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the coupling of the federal and state section 179 tax.

BI-TF-41 State of Emergency & Essential Workers

2026

WHEREAS, health and disaster emergencies significantly impact our way of life, as experienced in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is evident that specific industries, to include food and agriculture, must continue to operate during natural disasters, pandemics, or other crises in order to provide life-sustaining services and/or products to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes the vital roles of each component within the beef supply chain.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the "essential" designation of the following businesses: veterinary clinics, feed mills, livestock auction markets, haulers (live cattle, feed, veterinary supplies, or finished beef products), meat processing plants, and retailers, during a state of emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the aforementioned "essential" agricultural businesses and meat processing plants must be allowed to conduct business as close to normal as safely possible during a state of emergency in order to maintain continuity within the beef supply chain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages elected officials to proactively advocate for resources and prioritize the distribution of resources aimed to protect the health and well-being of agricultural and meat processing plant workers.

BI-TF-42 Rural Broadband

2022

WHEREAS, high-speed internet access is necessary to assure competitiveness of rural economies and industries; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of Iowa's counties are broadband deserts with little to no access to high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of Iowa households do not meet the 25/3 megabits per second (Mbps) benchmark for broadband speed identified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and

WHEREAS, Iowa ranks 45th in the nation in broadband access and the second-slowest internet speed nationwide; and

WHEREAS, limited internet access may impede cattle producers' ability to engage in comprehensive marketplaces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association:

1. Supports funding for rural broadband infrastructure, with special emphasis on fiber-optic networks;
2. Supports initiatives that prioritize unserved and underserved areas by meeting or exceeding the FCC's minimum of 25 Mbps for download and 3 Mbps for upload; and
3. Supports state and federal actions which reduce regulatory burdens to achieving broadband access.

BI-TF-43 Federal Student Aid

2024

WHEREAS, changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) were enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the adjusted value of a family farm or small business is now used when calculating expected financial contributions from parents in the FAFSA; and

WHEREAS, the assets of farmers and ranchers often exceed cash on hand; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of farm assets may make receiving need-based scholarships harder for children of farmers and ranchers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA shall advocate to bring back the exceptions for family farms and small businesses with fewer than 100 employees from the term “assets.”

BI-TF-44 Bank Lending Rates

2024

WHEREAS, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed to require companies to disclose greenhouse gas emissions from upstream and downstream activities in their respective value chains, known as Scope 3 emissions; and

WHEREAS, some banks have committed to net zero emissions goals; and

WHEREAS, some banks now require clients to agree to emissions targets for loan eligibility, thus reducing their Scope 3 emissions; and

WHEREAS, access to capital, specifically provided through lending, is a vital support for the start of new and growth of existing farm and ranch businesses; and

WHEREAS, financial risk is based on the borrower’s overall ability to repay a loan, which is based on factors such as debt load, income, and collateral, not greenhouse gas emissions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, bank lending rates shall only be based on financial risk.

BI-TF-45 Livestock Capital Gains

2024

WHEREAS, a capital gains deduction from the sales of cattle, horses, and other breeding livestock was provided by the State of Iowa since 1998; and

WHEREAS, an Iowa Department of Revenue Study for the 2015 tax year found that more than 3,000 returns used the livestock deduction for an average amount of \$14,000; and

WHEREAS, state income tax changes implemented in 2018 led to the elimination of livestock capital gains deductions in 2023; and

WHEREAS, livestock is now only deductible if sold when a farmer retires from active farming.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA encourages the Iowa Legislature to reinstate the livestock capital gains deduction.

BI-TF-46 Property Tax Exemption on Reservations

2024

WHEREAS, current Iowa Code authorizes a 100 percent property tax exemption for forest and fruit tree reservations; and

WHEREAS, the value of this property tax exemption was calculated to be more than \$15 million in fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, several counties have more than 20,000 acres exempt from property taxes on these reservations; and

WHEREAS, livestock are not permitted on forest and fruit tree reservations, and the reservations cannot be used for economic gain other than the gain from raising forest or fruit trees; and

WHEREAS, these exemptions place a greater tax burden on landowners, many of whom are farmers and ranchers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports reducing the tax exemption for forest and fruit tree reservations.

CATTLE PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING

CP-CHWB-D-6 Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) Priorities 2026

WHEREAS, beef representatives on the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) have requested priorities for bovine research.

THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, the following are research and education priorities: Anaplasmosis, Digital Dermatitis (hairy heel wart), Trichomoniasis, Animal Well-being Issues, BRD/Mycoplasma Bovis, New World Screwworm, Theileria, and Cryptosporidiosis.

CP-CHWB-2 Brucellosis Vaccination 2024

WHEREAS, brucellosis is an infectious and contagious disease which can cause economic hardship to the Iowa cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, the threat of reintroduction into herds continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, loss of Iowa's brucellosis-free status would impede sale of Iowa cattle within and across state lines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports continued brucellosis calfhood vaccination and accompanying state funding.

CP-CHWB-3 Stray Voltage 2026

WHEREAS, stray voltage may arise in farm environments due to the leakage of electrical currents from the myriad of equipment and public utility infrastructure used daily,

WHEREAS, animals impacted may have significant repercussions to immune systems, reduced feed intake, have a higher incidence of mastitis, and overall poorer health,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports increasing the awareness of stray voltage and its potential impacts in the industry,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA encourages utility companies to conduct research to reduce stray voltage,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the expansion of usage for products to prevent and manage stray voltage in livestock operations in addition to regular maintenance and monitoring of equipment and infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA believes utility companies should be responsible for stray voltage by providing adequate protection and compensation.

CP-CHWB-4 Law Enforcement Animal Welfare Training 2026

WHEREAS, law enforcement may be involved in responding to truck roll-overs, on-road accidents with livestock, and may conduct animal welfare checks,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports the Iowa animal agriculture industry in ensuring law enforcement responders, emergency management services, or DNR officers, maintain a high standard of education on animal welfare, handling, and well-being,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports IDALS in carrying out regular training and utilizing the IDALS Animal Welfare Handbook for law enforcement on livestock handling, well-being, and on-road accident response involving livestock.

CP-CHWB-5 Cattle Theft
2026

WHEREAS, livestock and cattle theft has been an ongoing issue around the state, either from those who would benefit from sales and/or animal activists,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA will continue to maintain a cattle theft reward program for Iowa Cattlemen members,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA believes that anyone convicted of cattle theft should be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed.

CP-CHWB-7 Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council
2024

WHEREAS, the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC) was formed to monitor disease research of food-producing animals at Iowa State University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports increased funding for ILHAC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the current definition of the term livestock utilized in Section 267.1, Subsection 1, Code 1985, and further, that ICA supports the current composition of membership of the ILHAC, specifically excluding the canine, equine, ratite, bison, cervids, camels and llamas.

CP-CHWB-9 Ultrasound, Bovine Fetal Aging, Carcass Measurement & Embryo
Transfer Technicians

2025

WHEREAS, the beef cow-calf and registered seedstock industry segments are an important and significant part of Iowa's cattle industry and economy; and

WHEREAS, there is a current and projected shortage of livestock veterinarians available to specialize in providing ultrasound, bovine fetal aging, carcass-trait measurement, and embryo transfer services to the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, expectations and competition for veterinarian and technician services continue to rise from all animal owners and limit most veterinarians' ability to specialize and therefore become more accurate with bovine ultrasound; and

WHEREAS, there is a projected need for more qualified, competent, and experienced ultrasound technicians or veterinarians to meet the increasing cattle industry demand for these affordable, cost-saving, and value-adding services, within a time-sensitive period in Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continue their efforts to reach an agreement providing for a practical solution to this issue with the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine and Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) that will allow certified, competent technicians and veterinarians to offer ultrasound services in Iowa, including those required for fetal aging, carcass measurement, and embryo transfer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine, IVMA, ISU Dept. of Animal Science, ISU Veterinary College, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to develop a reasonable and effective Iowa

Reproductive Ultrasound Training and Certification Course for technicians and veterinarians to validate skill and accuracy levels of all those individuals providing ultrasounds services to cattlemen, for a fee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association fully and completely supports the continuance of ultrasound fetal aging, carcass trait measurement, and embryo transfer by certified, competent, and experienced technicians and veterinarians, within the previously established Iowa regulations for the use of prescription-only drugs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if any proposed regulation changes for any Iowa rules pertaining to bovine ultrasound use and embryo transfer, fail to allow the legal offering of these services, for a fee, by qualified, certified, competent, and experienced technicians, then the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will initiate legislation to allow these services by competent, certified technicians as a legal Iowa service business and seek the support of other farm and livestock groups with similar policy.

CP-CHWB-11 Humane Animal Practices 2026

WHEREAS, the members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association make the health and well-being of their livestock the number one priority.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should pursue opportunities to educate the citizens of Iowa regarding the humane practices which Iowa cattlemen use to ensure the welfare, safety, and good health of their cattle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports individual cattlemen who observe animals in need of assistance and/or contact individuals or organization to provide such assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if, for any reason, an Iowa farmer finds he is unable to provide adequate care for his cattle, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should assist in providing for the sale or harvest of said cattle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages prosecution of individuals or organizations that trespass or gain employment in animal production operations to collect information to use in a negative manner.

CP-CHWB-16 Iowa Beef Center 2026

WHEREAS, the Iowa Legislature provides funds for the Iowa Beef Center; and

WHEREAS, Iowa beef producers have approved a state checkoff that expands producer funding to include production education and research;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Beef Center has the support of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association in its effort to help improve the beef industry in the state of Iowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports increased appropriations for the Iowa Beef Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourage the Iowa Beef Industry Council to prioritize producer education funding of the Iowa Beef Center through the use of state checkoff funds they administer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association fully utilize the Iowa Beef Center to direct effective educational programming to Iowa cattlemen to increase management and adoption of technology that will improve producer profitability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that collaborative systems be established to identify producer needs for educational topics among Iowa State University departments that contribute to the mission of the Iowa Beef Center, Iowa Cattlemen's Association and Iowa Beef Industry Council.

**CP-CHWB-18 Foreign Animal Disease Response
2022**

WHEREAS, bioterrorism and agro-terrorism could result in a devastating problem for the livestock industry in Iowa through diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease and others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association fully supports and encourages state agencies and involved institutions to maintain an aggressive and coordinated response.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourage the coordination of the development of comprehensive federal, state and local emergency response plans, including the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state counterparts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports additional funding at the state level for animal disease preparedness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the work of the Center for Food Security and Public Health and the Secure Beef Supply Plan to further prepare the United States and Iowa for an animal disease outbreak.

**CP-CHWB-21 Ionophore Classification
2024**

WHEREAS, polyether ionophores (monensin, lasalocid, and laidlomycin) do not function as therapeutic or sub-therapeutic antibiotics when fed to cattle, are not used as therapeutic agents in human medicine, and are not a concern for antibiotic resistance in humans or cattle, and

WHEREAS, some beef marketing claims focus on animal production without use of antibiotics and such claims jeopardize the use of polyether ionophores, and

WHEREAS, United States producers are placed at a competitive disadvantage to producers in the European Union and Australia due to different reporting and regulatory requirements for ionophores,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should utilize all avenues to maintain beef cattle producers' ability to utilize polyether ionophores and develop strategies with input from all stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association should work to educate consumers, retailers, policy makers, and other interested parties that polyether ionophores are not considered to be medically important to humans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports separate reporting by the Food and Drug Administration and other agencies of polyether ionophores and other antimicrobials not medically important to humans from those that are medically important to humans.

**CP-CHWB-24 Nationwide Cattle Identification
2025**

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal ID plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, a goal should be to enable the cattle industry and state/federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern, and

WHEREAS, the proposed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service animal disease traceability framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs, and

WHEREAS, having a system to quickly and effectively address disease outbreaks protects animal health and provides confidence for consumers both domestically and internationally, and

WHEREAS, most major beef-exporting countries have implemented animal ID and traceability systems and are using their systems to differentiate themselves from the United States (U.S.) with customers in global markets, and

WHEREAS, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) has adopted guidelines on animal ID and traceability that establish basic principles which any traceability system should satisfy, and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2025 cattle industry Long Range Plan emphasizes the cattle industry should secure the broad adoption of individual animal ID disease traceability system(s) to equip the industry to effectively manage a disease outbreak while enhancing both domestic and global trust in U.S. beef.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, an effective animal disease traceability program should:

1. Be compatible with private sector animal ID and verification programs backed by the USDA.
2. Be compatible with the general traceability principles of the OIE.
3. Recognize existing USDA programs for beef exports.
4. Be built using infrastructure that supports other potential uses of ID.
5. Utilize low cost electronic official tagging devices and equipment paid for by federal and/or state funds, when possible.
6. Require that cattle ID information for disease traceability be kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.
7. Protect ownership information from disclosure to future owners.
8. Protect producers from liability for acts of others, after the cattle have left the producer's control.
9. Operate at the speed of commerce.
10. Not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.
11. Work within a framework to accommodate all classes of cattle.
12. ICA supports a voluntary ID program.
13. Cost for implementation and services by vet should not be passed on to the producer.

CP-CHWB-26 Trichomoniasis Testing

2023

WHEREAS, Trichomoniasis is a devastating disease for cow/calf operators upon which there is currently no treatment post-diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the disease has been detected in an increasing number of Iowa herds across the state; and

WHEREAS, other states with significant cow/calf herds have mandated mandatory testing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports increased testing for Trichomoniasis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to educate and increase awareness about the importance of testing for Trichomoniasis and the impact the disease can have on individual cow herds and on the state's cattle industry as a whole.

CP-CHWB-27 Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness

2022

WHEREAS, U.S. livestock producers face continual threat from common livestock diseases, as well as new threats from exotic foreign animal diseases and

WHEREAS, a foreign animal disease outbreak would devastate the beef cattle industry and

WHEREAS, rapid diagnosis, prompt movement restrictions, implementation of federal, state and local emergency management plans and indemnity programs can often forestall outbreaks of epidemic or quasiepidemic proportions and

WHEREAS, implementation of sound biosecurity measures on livestock operations can be an effective tool in preventing and mitigating livestock disease risks

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association requests that USDA place a high priority on the development of improved and validated FMD vaccines, including funding for production of an adequate supply and surge capabilities of the vaccines

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports mandatory Premise Identification registration with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for all livestock facilities, provided that:

1. Information is kept confidential
2. Information is used only for animal health purposes including animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication and indemnification processes

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association works to educate the cattle industry on appropriate biosecurity practices and encourage producers, livestock haulers, feed companies, etc., to incorporate stronger biosecurity into their management practices

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the development of rapid, practical diagnostic and surveillance tools for foreign animal diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the U.S. CattleTrace.

CP-CHWB-30 Preconditioned Cattle Sales

2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association endorses preconditioned feeder calf sales.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association adopts the following changes in procedure to be recommended for all Iowa Cattlemen's Association endorsed preconditioned cattle sales.

Procedure:

1. All cattle marketed will be accompanied by an official Iowa preconditioning certificate and identified by an official green and/or gold preconditioning ear tag.
2. No trader cattle allowed at sale. All cattle must be in the owner's possession at least 60 days prior to the sale. Further, no cattle shall have been in a market less than 60 days prior to sale.
3. Minimum of 500 head is recommended for a sale with the maximum number determined by auction facilities.
4. Preliminary commitment to sell should be given to the auction coordinator.
5. Contracts will be inspected by members of the Preconditioned Feeder Calf Committee and a veterinarian. Any cattle deemed non-conforming will be sold at end of sale.
6. Calves will be weighed immediately prior to entering sale ring and sold in order determined by sale coordinator. In the case of co-mingled or sorted sales, weighing conditions will be specified prior to sale.
7. Sales will be advertised to indicate approximate number of cattle and will be announced from the block if any optional vaccinations have been given.
8. The offering will be designated as an Iowa Cattlemen's Association endorsed endeavor. All sellers must be members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these minimum requirements of preconditioning of 30 days (45 days for gold tag) weaning and bunk adjustment will be mandatory for cattle to be sold at an Iowa Cattlemen's Association endorsed sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and Iowa Livestock Marketing Association to encourage their members to uphold all aspects of Iowa preconditioned calf sales.

CP-CHWB-31 Judicious Antimicrobial Use
2025

WHEREAS, the use of antimicrobial agents is necessary at times to preserve life and prevent suffering in the face of disease in cattle; and

WHEREAS, indiscriminate use of antimicrobials may select for bacterial resistance; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association recognizes that cattle producers have an obligation to protect animal health; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association further recognizes the obligation to protect human health by promoting food safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association advocate the judicious use of antimicrobials and issues involving the use of antimicrobials in animals and humans, which must be resolved using sound science without influence of emotion or political agendas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cattle producers should strive to limit the need for antimicrobial use through sound husbandry and preventative practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association call for on-going continuing education for both producers and veterinarians in the area of judicious antimicrobial use.

CP-CHWB-32 Green & Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs
2026

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) initiated and have continually updated Iowa's preconditioning programs since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the Green and Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs have encouraged the use of research-driven, best practices preconditioning protocol; including but not limited to vaccine protocol and weaning periods; and

WHEREAS, the Green and Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs were designed to increase animal health and performance as well as bolster economic value and financial return to cattle producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall establish a task force comprised of producers and representatives from allied industry partners, to include the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) and IVMA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force will meet on an annual basis with the purpose of making recommendations to improve the Green and Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA, LMA and IVMA shall publish the Green and Gold Tag Preconditioning Program Guidelines and Protocols on their websites and other media to inform cattle producers.

CP-CHWB-33 Animal Health Drug Technologies
2026

WHEREAS, special interest groups and the public may not understand the science behind the use of specific vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, parasiticides, and biologics in cattle production; and

WHEREAS, misinformation regarding vaccine, antibiotic, insecticides, and biologics technologies can be a detriment to the health and well-being of cattle and the profitability of producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the use of vaccine, antibiotic, insecticides, parasiticides, and biologics technologies that is approved for use by the appropriate regulatory agency and protects and/or improves the health and well-being of beef cattle.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports utilizing Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) through appropriate regulatory agencies for vaccine, antibiotic, insecticides, parasiticides, and biologics technologies that have been scientifically proven to protect and/or improve the health and well-being of beef cattle and human health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) conditional approvals through appropriate regulatory agencies for vaccine, antibiotic, insecticides, parasiticides, and biologics technologies that have been scientifically proven to protect and/or improve the health and well-being of beef cattle.

CP-CHWB-34 Rural Food Animal Veterinarian Shortage

2025

WHEREAS, Iowa cattlemen recognize the necessity of rural veterinary services; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of veterinarians, particularly those who specialize in food animals, in our rural communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports policies and legislation that encourage and attract food animal veterinarians to practice in Iowa.

LIVE CATTLE MARKETING

CP-LCM-D-1 Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Futures Contracts Directive

2026

WHEREAS, fed cattle futures provide an important risk management tool for Iowa cattlemen; and

WHEREAS, cattle feeding in Iowa continues to enjoy a resurgence because of ethanol co-products and feed availability; and

WHEREAS, the CME continues to unnecessarily discount deliveries of live beef cattle from Iowa/Minnesota/South Dakota at \$1.50/cwt during October contract months; and

WHEREAS, the CME standards for deliverable weights are between 1,050 lbs. and 1,600 lbs. for steers and between 1,050 lbs. and 1,350 lbs. for heifers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,:

1. Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any changes by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) that would adversely affect Iowa cattle feeders' ability to deliver on CME contracts;
2. CME allow heifers to be delivered to meet futures market obligations;
3. CME lower the weight spec on steers to 1500 lbs;
4. CME Increase the choice spec to 70%;
5. CME Increase the yield spec to 63%;
6. CME continue the existence of the Worthing, South Dakota delivery point for CME Live Cattle futures contracts and reject any discounting of cattle delivered to the Worthing, South Dakota delivery point;
7. CME add more delivery points for cattle on the Live Cattle Futures Contract;
8. CME avoid creating a cash settled Live Cattle Futures Contract;
9. CME increase transparency, level access to information, and transactions, and foster an environment that builds confidence in the ability to use the Live Cattle Futures Contract;
10. NCBA should retain staff and budget resources to investigate and represent cattle industry issues to the CME;
11. Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with NCBA to further explore a long demand option;
12. Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with NCBA to further explore dynamic contract specifications for settlement including weight; and
13. CME should require that short delivery occur as early as possible upon expiration of the contract.
14. CME should eliminate the reclaim feature of the delivery specifications.

CP-LCM-3 Mandatory Reporting

2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association has always supported a competitive, free and open market system; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory Price Reporting (MPR) is a valuable tool to allow participants in the beef industry to view historical price and volume data; and

WHEREAS, the negotiated transaction reported by MPR are used by some to price and formulate the value of cattle; and

WHEREAS, at times there are daily reports that have volumes that are too small to represent true price discovery;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work to eliminate all daily fed cattle reports and compile all price and volume data into weekly reports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the release of the weekly fed cattle reports be delayed at least one week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports all national and regional negotiated trade reports for price and volume be broken into categories of 0-14 and 15-30 day delivery periods.

CP-LCM-6 Seafood, Meat & Poultry Inspection

2026

WHEREAS, the federal meat inspection program was mandated by Congress for the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have consistent inspection and labeling of all meat products; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and other commodity organizations to initiate legislation to have fish, seafood, and shellfish, including imports, subject to the same types of inspection as are included in the Meat Inspection and Poultry Inspection Acts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all meat inspection and labeling programs should be under the authority and jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CP-LCM-7 Humane Harvest Practices

2026

WHEREAS, Iowa cattlemen are active proponents of animal care and well-being, and

WHEREAS, the humane harvest of all animals entering the food chain is important to all consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Humane Slaughter Act provides for accepted practices and guidelines for live animal harvesting and disposal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to monitor and support the humane harvest of all livestock.

CP-LCM-23 Concentration/Consolidation

2022

WHEREAS, the Iowa cattlemen are very concerned about pending and future mergers, acquisitions and consolidation of agri-businesses; and

WHEREAS, beef packers currently are as concentrated as at any time in history; and

WHEREAS, a competitive market structure is needed to promote price discovery in the fed cattle market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association demand the federal government more closely monitor mergers and acquisitions in the packing, processing and retailing industries because of increased potential for anti-trust violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Packers & Stockyards Administration be requested to continue to closely monitor price movements and sector margins to assure that price changes are the result of market signals and not the exercise of market power. U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Justice assure that:

1. No merger be allowed that would decrease competition for cattle or other commodity or reduce access; and
2. The fed cattle market is a fair and competitive market place with robust weekly participation by all packers.

CP-LCM-30 Abandoned Railroad Right-of-Ways 2023

WHEREAS, Iowa agriculture is dependent on rail transportation, yet railroad companies continue to request that lines be abandoned.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, abandoned railroad right-of-ways acquired by lease arrangement or easement is the rightful property of adjoining property owners. The Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors giving adjoining property owners the first option to purchase said right-of-way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors enactment of legislation to require that any public agencies, individuals, or organizations which do take title to abandoned railroad right-of-way be responsible for maintaining fences, drainage systems, crossings and weed and brush controls of any such acquired railroad right-of-way.

CP-LCM-37 Value Markets 2023

WHEREAS, producers in Iowa have taken advantage of value-based programs; and

WHEREAS, value-based programs allow all producers to capture more value for their cattle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association strongly encourages a complete and competitive value-based marketing program consisting of, but not limited to, total seedstock evaluation, individual carcass data collection with industry pass through, age and source verification, development and promotion of new and existing beef programs.

CP-LCM-42 Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Feeder Cattle Index 2026

WHEREAS, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) feeder cattle contract is often used as vehicle to aid in price discovery of the cash feeder cattle market, and;

WHEREAS, the CME feeder cattle contract is a cash settled contract, and;

WHEREAS, the cash feeder cattle market index acts as an objective target for the CME feeder cattle contract to settle to, and;

WHEREAS, the current index composition lists a number of exclusions based upon body and/or flesh condition in addition to breed type, and;

WHEREAS, Iowa Cattlemen feels the index may not be fully representative of the cash market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture to eliminate all exclusions due to condition and include all cash sales of feeder cattle which are predominately of beef breeding in the calculations to determine the feeder cattle index.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Iowa supports using statistical analysis to exclude market outliers and reduce index volatility.

CP-LCM-43 State Funding for Feeder Cattle Price Reporting Program

2026

WHEREAS, Iowa Cattlemen members in numerous segments of the industry find the information provided through U.S. Department of Agriculture's Iowa feeder cattle price reporting program to be a valuable decision making tool; and

WHEREAS, price and volume data published through the program is essential to the calculation of the "cash index price" which is used for cash settlement of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Feeder Cattle futures contract; and

WHEREAS, the federal and private funding that is allowing the program to continue operating was intended to be temporary financial support to allow the program to operate until state funding is restored.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall continue to support state funding for the feeder cattle price reporting program.

CP-LCM-44 Increasing Price Discovery

2023

WHEREAS, the Iowa cattlemen who sell their cattle on the open market rely on competitive price discovery to get a fair price for their cattle; and

WHEREAS, most independent Iowa cattlemen wish to avoid vertical integration that is evident in the pork and poultry sectors; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of packer formula pricing based on the weighted average limits negotiations on the open market; and

WHEREAS the recommended amount of cash negotiated trade varies by region across the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with its membership, as well as other cattle industry stakeholders, to require packers that slaughter an average of no less than five percent of fed cattle nationally to purchase no less than the average percentage of negotiated trade for the past two years within a covered reporting region at the plant level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cattle sold via negotiated means shall be delivered within 14 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Iowa Cattlemen's Association and NCBA encourage members to utilize voluntary price reporting of fed cattle prices.

CP-LCM-45 Standards of Delivery

2022

WHEREAS, currently producers are forced by buyers to hold purchased cattle for three or more weeks; and

WHEREAS, the packer is using purchased cash negotiated cattle as captive supply.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Iowa producers should not agree to cash negotiated cattle sales further than two trading weeks out.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if cattle are held past the agreed two weeks, the buyer will pay a fee of \$3 or more per head per day.

CP-LCM-46 CME Live Cattle & Feeder Cattle Futures Contracts Price Limits

2023

WHEREAS, the current daily price limit for Live Cattle is \$5.75 and Feeder Cattle is \$7.00; and

WHEREAS, the current rules allow for daily limits to expand to \$8.50 on Live Cattle and \$10.50 on Feeder Cattle on the next day following a limit's close; and

WHEREAS, the current limits and expanded limits have on most occasions allowed the market to function and trade on the second day; and

WHEREAS, the CME has the ability to temporarily expand daily price limits in times of extreme market conditions; and

WHEREAS, wide limits increase volatility and margin requirements while potentially discouraging market participants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes any increase to daily price limits to Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle.

CP-LCM-47 Dealer Statutory Trust

2025

WHEREAS, during the past 10 years, there have been dozens of livestock dealer defaults that cost creditors, including producers, auction markets, and other dealers, hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, when such defaults occur, producers who have recently sold livestock are often not paid for the sale of their animals; and

WHEREAS, a seller's protection is often limited to a bond, which has historically compensated unpaid sellers less than fifteen cents for every dollar in losses; and

WHEREAS, the Livestock Marketing Association has sponsored legislation creating a Dealer Statutory Trust, similar to the existing Packer Statutory Trust.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports federal legislation creating a Dealer Statutory Trust that gives unpaid cash sellers first priority in livestock and the proceeds or accounts receivable from the sale of such livestock prior to other creditors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a buyer in the ordinary course of business purchasing from a dealer will continue to take clear title of livestock.

CP-LCM-48 Transparency of Formula Transactions

2025

WHEREAS, formula transactions have increased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the details of formula transactions, including the base price and any premiums applied, are not reflected in Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports increased transparency in formula transactions by publicly reporting the details of the transactions including the net price, base price, and any premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the Cattle Contracts Library.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA encourages USDA-AMS to improve the Cattle Contracts Library by:

1. Requiring participation from all federally-inspected cattle processing plants that slaughtered an average of at least 125,000 head of cattle per year during the immediately preceding five calendar years;
2. Utilizing weighted averages instead of simple averages to better describe the volume of cattle traded on specific contracts; and
3. Separating contracts with specs based on quality, yield grade, dressing percentage, brand (CAB), breed, management program (All Natural, NHTC, GAP), source verified, and export certification from contracts with specs based on packer financing, profit sharing, risk management, supply relationship, and volume threshold.

CP-LCM-49 Adjusting Reporting Regions
2025

WHEREAS current confidentiality rules in Livestock Mandatory Reporting prevent market transparency; and

WHEREAS adjusting reporting regions would increase the quantity of reported fed cattle sales.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports adding South Dakota and Illinois to create an IA/MN/SD/IL regional market.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports combining Colorado and Wyoming for price reporting.

CP-LCM-50 Next Day Cattle Weights
2025

WHEREAS, Livestock Mandatory Reporting requires reporting of carcass weights; and

WHEREAS, average carcass weights are not reported publicly until 13 days later; and

WHEREAS, slaughter data provides valuable information to cattle producers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports an 11:00 a.m. daily LMR report providing the average carcass weight of cattle harvested the previous day.

CP-LCM-51 Delivery at Packing Plants
2025

WHEREAS, animal welfare at all stages of production is a critical consideration for Iowa cattle producers; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cattle producers depend on timely delivery of cattle to packing plants to maximize animal welfare, especially in times of extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, time spent waiting to unload cattle at a packing plant significantly impacts shrink and ultimate value of cattle sold.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Iowa Cattlemen's Association encourages packing plants to implement delivery systems that minimize wait times and accept cattle in a timely manner.

CP-LCM-52 CFTC Resources
2026

WHEREAS, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) provides important regulatory oversight and enforcement of agricultural futures and options contract specifications and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the CFTC lacks sufficient resources (i.e. computer hardware/ software and staff) to provide complete surveillance and oversight of electronically traded contracts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association work to secure adequate funding for these CFTC needs and activities through Congressional authorization and appropriations as soon as possible.

CP-LCM-53 LRP Subsidy Harvesting
2024

WHEREAS, the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program is beneficial to producers; and

WHEREAS, USDA offers a 35 percent subsidy for producers using the LRP insurance product; and

WHEREAS, feeder cattle LRP prices align with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) feeder calf index; and

WHEREAS, the LRP available dates can align with a corresponding CME feeder cattle option; and

WHEREAS, a producer can buy a LRP policy on cattle owned and also sell the same coverage in the options market; and

WHEREAS, this strategy, known as “subsidy harvesting,” inappropriately uses taxpayer dollars to offset risk by guaranteeing a minimum return or breakeven, no matter market fluctuation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports a change to the LRP that would prevent LRP policies from lining up with CME futures expiration dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA encourages the USDA Risk Management Agency to withhold LRP prices the day prior, the day of, and day after CME expiration dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports limiting the amount of transactions to 5,000 per day and 10,000 head per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, proof of ownership must be third-party verified (i.e., bank draft, bank statement, transfer of funds).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CP-ST-3 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) 2025

WHEREAS, consumer acceptance of beef and beef products depends on consumer confidence in the safety and wholesomeness of beef products; and

WHEREAS, consumer confidence depends on the knowledge that producers are following all guidelines for proper management techniques.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association supports the recommendations of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Committee and Programs in their continuing efforts to educate producers as to proper management techniques to assure continued production of safe and wholesome beef products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association urges its members to adopt the proper BQA practices to assure consumers that beef is a safe product.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association encourages meat processors to utilize the BQA program as a foundation for developing animal welfare audit and evaluation programs.

CP-ST-6 Iowa State University Beef Research & Extension 2025

WHEREAS, the Iowa cattle industry generates \$6.3 billion in farm receipts annually; and

WHEREAS, virtually all Iowa cattle farms are family owned and operated (98%); and

WHEREAS, climate and soil conditions are integral in developing and evaluating crop and cattle production systems; and

WHEREAS, Iowa is a diverse agricultural state and needs to maintain scientific research in the industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association strongly encourages Iowa State University to support the beef cattle research and extension program at Iowa State University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Iowa State University shall maintain a network of outlying research farms to conduct applied research that reflects soil and climate conditions across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University continue to be responsible for extension education and delivery of research-based information for Iowa cattle producers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association supports the development, improvements and maintenance to support educational facilities enhancing a student’s experience with the Beef Teaching and Research Farms as part of ISU.

**CP-ST-8 Iowa State University Extension
2022**

WHEREAS, agriculture is a highly technical business and the largest industry in Iowa; and
WHEREAS, technology is constantly developing and changing; and
WHEREAS, Iowa State University Extension Service plays an important role in the adoption of developing technology from an unbiased position.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the continuation of the Iowa State University Extension Specialists to disseminate the adopted technology on a timely basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association urges that agriculture be given the highest priority possible in applied research and education efforts of Iowa State University.

**CP-ST-11 Environmental Management Education
2025**

WHEREAS, cattlemen need access to current environmental regulations and compliance requirements that are critical to alleviating pressures and concerns of special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, action of the Attorney General's office to prosecute violators under the criminal rather than civil section of the Iowa Code places these producers in jeopardy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association continue to inform cattlemen on the regulations, resources and technology available to environmentally manage their cattle operations.

**CP-ST-21 Iowa State University Facilities
2022**

WHEREAS, facility quality is critical to continued animal science and veterinary medicine activities at Iowa State University (ISU); and

WHEREAS, a recent external peer review by the accreditation committee of the American Association of the Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians identified potentially serious concerns related to biosafety, biocontainment and adequacy of the amount of space to meet current and future need in diagnostic medicine at the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, a professional needs assessment and program planning study for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory concluded a new \$100 million is needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association strongly encourages the Governor of Iowa, Iowa Legislature and Board of Regents to give adequate funding to maintain and improve the Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine facilities at ISU.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association strongly encourages the Governor of Iowa, Iowa Legislature and Board of Regents to fund the expansion of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

**CP-ST-28 Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Funding
2022**

WHEREAS, the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is one of the crucial links in evaluating and controlling livestock diseases in Iowa and education of food supply veterinarians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports increased funding for the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

**CP-ST-30 Co-Product in Livestock Diets
2024**

WHEREAS, the cattle industry is an important segment of the Iowa economy; and

WHEREAS, the ethanol industry provides an abundant feed co-product for the cattle industry; and
WHEREAS, additional research is needed to improve utilization, safety, impact on product quality and rapid test technology on feed characteristics of co-product for the cattle industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the continued research funding for utilizing co-products in the cattle industry.

**CP-ST-31 Iowa State University Agriculture Experiment Station Funding
2024**

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is important to Iowa's economy; and

WHEREAS, the development and adoption of technologies are necessary for Iowa's beef industry to stay competitive; and

WHEREAS, increased budgets for Iowa State University (ISU) Ag Experiment Station and ISU Extension are necessary to accomplish research necessary to improve the beef industry; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work aggressively with the Iowa Legislature to increase funding for animal agriculture research for the ISU Experiment Station and ISU Extension.

**CP-ST-32 Beef Quality Assurance Auditing
2024**

WHEREAS, the industry is moving towards third party audited systems that potentially could have varying audit points; and

WHEREAS, beef producers are expected to keep written records for the audit process and cannot be tied to multiple record systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports utilizing the current Beef Quality Assurance program as the accepted record keeping for such third party audits.