

**IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

# ICA Policy Summit

## Policy Packet

### **How does the Policy Summit fit in the ICA Grassroots process?**

The policy day was developed to ensure every ICA member has the opportunity to shape association policy and guide the direction of state and federal advocacy efforts.

Throughout the year, ICA collects policy ideas, issue areas, and member concerns through individual conversations, producer meetings, and industry events. The government relations team organizes these topics and presents them to the relevant policy committees, where the committee members draft and review policy statements. Committees then develop recommendations on both new and expiring policies during their meetings. Policy Committees have been charged with greater responsibility to evaluate, research, and bring forth information for committee, board and member understanding of issues.

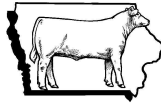
### **Why is the association hosting a policy day rather than hosting policy meetings at the annual convention?**

As an association the goal is to always be evolving and improving. In order to build on the grassroots policy process and develop quality policy that has been thoroughly vetted and researched, ICA is hosting summer committee meetings and hosting a policy day to heighten the grassroots process of association policy development and ensure membership has several opportunities for direct input. Additionally, formalizing policy recommendations earlier in the year gives the ICA Government Relations team ample time to socialize potential policy initiatives or legislation with the relevant government officials ahead of the next year and legislative session.

### **Who are on the policy committees and what is their role in the grassroots process?**

The policy committees are made up of 9 individuals, including the chairs, who have a vested interest and have taken steps to be well-briefed in their respective areas. Chairs are elected from the committee members by the committee members. Committee members are appointed by the ICA Board President and approved by the Board of Directors. Each member serves three-year terms with a max of two-terms.

Each of the policy committees have researched, reviewed, and discussed all expiring policies, new proposed resolutions, and any other policies in need of updating. The committees formalize recommendations based on new, expiring, or amended policy resolutions to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, the committees present their recommendations at the fall policy day in order to gain further input from the full ICA membership.



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### **What happens then at the actual ICA Policy Summit?**

At the Policy Summit, all members are invited to participate in a collaborative review of these committee's studied recommendations. Attendees will also hear from expert guest speakers covering the hot topics within the association's core policy areas: cattle production, beef products, and business issues. In addition to providing input on committee recommendations including amendments, members will have the opportunity to submit new policy resolutions/ideas to help shape the association's future priorities.

### **How do I submit a policy idea for the Policy Summit?**

To submit a policy idea for consideration at the ICA Summit Day, you may email/contact the ICA government relations team prior to the event and use the submission form provided. This expedites and clarifies wording of your proposal for clear understanding by the members, staff and committee. If your idea is submitted early enough to have been reviewed, researched by the committee, your idea will be introduced during the appropriate policy area meeting at the Summit with a studied recommendation by the committee. Those recommendations may be to amend, pass, defeat, no recommendation or refer to a committee for additional study and recommendation at the membership meeting in December.

### **What happens if I just bring the idea to the Summit?**

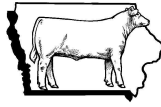
For an idea to be drafted into a formal policy statement, placed on the floor for discussion/debate and acted on at the Summit for those present it must receive a two-thirds vote of members present in that policy area meeting to be discussed. In addition, it must have a 2/3 vote to adopt the policy. Other policy approval will just require a simple majority. If it does not receive the required two-thirds support, the idea will be referred to the respective policy committee for further research and potential recommendation at the Annual Meeting.

### **How do I request for current or expiring policy to be pulled from the agenda/the policy book for discussion/clarification, a proposed amendment or further review that is or is not up for expiration?**

In order to have other policy pulled off for full review at the policy day, you will use the submission form provided on-site. On the form you will write 1) the specific policy name and number (from the ICA Policy Handbook), 2) your reasoning for the request and, 3) your intended amendments or ideas for the policy

### **This seems like a complicated process, how or what should I do to make my idea best researched and have the best chance for adoption?**

This policy development change has been done to enhance member involvement with the objective of well-studied, robust policy for ICA to function for ICA membership. The earlier that ideas can be brought forward in the year the better committees can study, research, and bring in other resources to add to the quality of the policy. Relying on well-studied policy by the committee of your idea will bring about a policy that membership and the Board has confidence

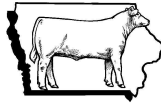


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in recommendations for adoption. Ideas introduced at the Summit don't have the time for policy analysis and may be more complex for immediate adoption, thus the special requirements for

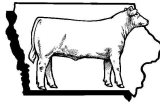
those items to be debated and passed (2/3rds requirement).



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# BEEF PRODUCTS



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### **BP-BS-2 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)**

2021

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.

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** Tangible numbers for BQA: 12,000-13,000 producers in Iowa are BQA certified

### **BP-BS-15 Non-Ambulatory Cattle**

2021

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) blanket policy of not allowing non-ambulatory cattle into the food supply may not be based on the most current scientific knowledge; and

WHEREAS, cattle with ~~recent~~ injuries ~~may~~ **that will** provide a safe beef product for personal use, without an option for retail sale.

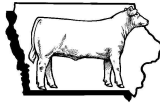
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association requests the USDA revisit the issue of classifying all non-ambulatory disabled cattle as adulterated under the federal act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the USDA should establish scientific criteria for a veterinarian to distinguish between ~~recently~~ injured cattle and diseased cattle.

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Recommend renew with amendments;** injured animals bring a safe, wholesome product for eating, however, given the 2004 USDA rule, it is understood that an animal that cannot walk itself for harvest, should not enter the commercial food supply.

### **BP-NHI-10 National Beef Checkoff Program**



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### 2021

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.**

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew with amendments;** this policy protects state and national checkoff work

### **NEW POLICY PROPOSALS**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In 2024, the USDA released a final rule on "Product of USA" labeling. USDA's final "Product of USA" rule allows for voluntary "Product of USA" or "Made in the USA" label claims to be used on meat, poultry and egg products only when they are derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States. The rule is to prohibit misleading U.S. origin labeling in the market, and help ensure that the information that consumers receive about where their food comes from is truthful. The label claim is eligible for generic label approval, meaning it would not need to be pre-approved by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) before it can be used on regulated products, but would require the establishment to maintain documentation on file to support the claim.

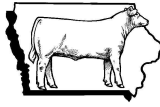
**DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:** Given the 2024 USDA Final ruling, recommended to amend the below policy supporting the USDA final rule on Product of USA.

**Transparency in Labeling (BP-GCM-39) (amendments in red)**

### 2025

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



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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,

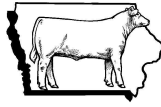
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the 2024 USDA Final Rule on "Product of USA" labeling as long as the animals are born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.**

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any beef product with a USA label must be throughout the entire production process.**~~

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations:

**Approve with amendment;** the 2024 USDA ruling encompasses labeling concerns ICA has had



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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) is a training and certification program created by the Beef Checkoff to train cattle haulers on the proper and standardized techniques for transported cattle for optimal management and conditions. The certification has become largely accepted and become a requirement by some of the largest packers across the United States. In the state of Iowa, the Iowa Beef Industry Council (IBIC) is responsible for carrying out trainings statewide through a contracted relationship with the Iowa Beef Center. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) trainings around Iowa are free, however, the BQAT trainings have an additional cost for those seeking certification.

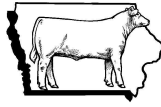
**DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:** The BQAT program is an important and highly regarded certification program and anyone who will haul cattle, either for themselves or for hire, should have accessibility to the program to ensure a high level of animal welfare and overall efficiency is maintained. The National Beef Checkoff currently covers the cost of coordinating both the BQA and BQAT program. Therefore, in the state of Iowa, any cost of BQAT should be covered by checkoff dollars to ensure every individual who hauls cattle has the opportunity and ability to be trained and become certified.

### **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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink for the Beef Products Committee

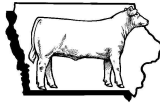




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# CATTLE PRODUCTION



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### **DIRECTIVE**

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

**2024**

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.

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew with amendments;** includes two new priorities given recent health issues/concerns in the industry.

### **EXPIRING POLICIES**

#### **CP-CHWB-11 Humane Animal Practices**

**2021**

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.

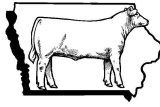
#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** broad policy that covers general animal welfare and humane practices

#### **CP-CHWB-16 Iowa Beef Center**

**2021**

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



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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.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** ICA's partnership with the Iowa Beef Center is an important piece for Iowa cattlemen

### **CP-CHWB-19 Feed & Water Availability at Sale or Collection Facilities**

**2021**

WHEREAS, cattlemen are dedicated to the production of high-value, healthy livestock; and

WHEREAS, cattle may be held at sale or collection facilities for a period of time without access to feed and clean drinking water, prior to sale and/or transport; and

WHEREAS, withholding access to drinking water may causes economic losses for producers and health challenges in cattle; and

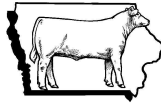
WHEREAS, the health and well-being of livestock is a high priority for all stakeholders within the beef cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) has included provisions related to feed and water availability in their Guide to Animal Handling; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program Cattle Care & Handling Guidelines also recommends avoiding feed and water interruption longer than 24 hours.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports readily available feed and water for livestock housed for more than 24 hours and as conditions require.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports industry research through university resources and the LMA to further identify both challenges and solutions related to feed and water availability that are research-driven and practical.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association shall commit to meeting with representatives from Iowa State University and the LMA to discuss future adjustments to feed and water availability standards.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Sunset;** to reduce redundancy, any issues with this can draw on Humane Animal Practices (CP-CHWB-11) and anything BQA related can reference Beef Quality Assurance (BP-BS-2)

### **CP-CHWB-32 Green & Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs**

#### **2021**

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 a **bi**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.

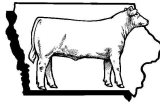
### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew with amendments;** review program task force and reset as necessary, important to meet annually to drive the program back on track for enforcement, standardization, and education about the program requirements.

### **CP-LCM-6 Seafood, Meat & Poultry Inspection**

#### **2021**

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



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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.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** important to our industry to main adequate levels of inspection for all animal-derived proteins, including seafood.

### **CP-LCM-7 Humane Harvest Practices**

#### **2021**

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.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** supports the longstanding humane slaughter act and reinforces trust in the supply chain

### **CP-LCM-31 Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Futures Contracts**

#### **2021**

*(BOD approved interim resolution - in red/updates in green)*

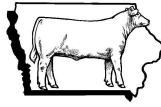
WHEREAS, fed cattle futures provide an important risk management tool for Iowa cattlemen; and

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,;



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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.

### Committee Recommendations:

**Recommend sunseting the 5-year policy and transitioning to a directive for yearly review;** the ICA Feedlot Council already reviews this policy frequently, making this a directive allows yearly review by the council and the Cattle Production committee to ensure each spec and feature is properly addressed. See under New Policy Proposals for the recommended directive policy.

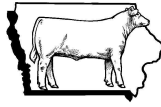
### CP-LCM-36 Horse Slaughter

2021

WHEREAS, the method of euthanasia employed by processing facilities that harvest horses is a humane procedure; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for the humane harvest of horses to prevent the inhumane treatment of horses that would suffer from neglect and abandonment; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry depends upon an economically healthy horse industry and systems to offer a humane end of life for unwanted horses.



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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the right of horse owners to ethically and humanely dispose of horses, and oppose legislation that could potentially hinder future efforts to dispose of horses.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Sunset;** no longer relevant as available locations for horse slaughter in the U.S. is obsolete.

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

**2021**

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

### **Committee Recommendations:**

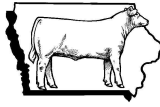
**Renew;** ICA is a strong proponent of price discovery and having clear and accessible information for the cash market

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

**2021**

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



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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.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** price discovery is important to our industry and the feeder cattle price reporting program helps drive price discovery

### **CP-LCM-52 Commodity Futures Trading Commission Resources 2021**

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.

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Renew;** the CFTC provides necessary oversight in order to protect and regulate the market

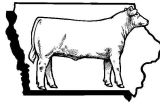
## **NEW POLICY PROPOSALS**

**PURPOSE:** Cattle Production - Cattle Health and Well-Being

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In modernizing livestock production, unforeseen challenges arise. An often unnoticed impact is stray voltage. Stray voltage can be a small yet potent stressor for animals. In livestock operations, stray voltage arises in farm environments due to the leakage of electrical currents from the myriad of equipment and infrastructure used daily. These include variable-speed drives, advanced ventilation systems, and electronic lighting, all essential to modern farming practices. As these systems operate, they can inadvertently release electrical currents into the environment, which, although minimal, are enough to cause stress among farm animals.

## **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**





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### **Stray Voltage**

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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Recommend approving;** stray voltage has become a growing issue due to utility projects (either new projects and/or rerouting current utilities) and there is a lack of knowledge and awareness between the utility companies and producers.

**PURPOSE:** Cattle Production - Cattle Health and Well-Being

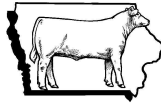
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Iowa Cattlemen's Association believes that the Iowa code should maintain broad coverage in the Good Samaritan law. However, in incidences of livestock roll-overs/on-road accidents or animal welfare checks, it is important that law enforcement have proper animal handling training to uphold proper care and well-being of livestock involved.

#### **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**

##### **Law Enforcement Animal Welfare Training**

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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink



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### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Recommend approving;** ensuring law enforcement, emergency management personnel, and DNR field staff are adequately trained is important to maintain animal welfare in cases of emergency and law enforcement conveyance.

**PURPOSE:** Cattle Production - Cattle Health and Well-Being

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Iowa Cattlemen's Association has been aware of cattle theft around the state, especially from pastures. ICA maintains a cattle theft reward program for ICA members. However, it is important to ensure everything be done to work to eliminate any and all cattle theft.

### **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**

#### **Cattle Theft**

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 a cattle theft should be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink

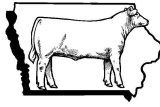
### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Recommend approving;** livestock theft is a growing concern and ICA will maintain its cattle theft reward program and believes in the full prosecution for criminal act of theft.

**PURPOSE:** Cattle Production - Live Cattle Marketing - Directive

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Iowa Cattlemen's Association relies on the Feedlot Council and the Cattle Production committee to review several policies related to live cattle marketing. As policies are set for five years, it is important to have relevant information and a lot may change in that time frame. The Cattle Production committee found it responsible to have the following policy regarding the CME and Futures Contracts become a directive so that it may be reviewed yearly and updated as there are changes by the exchange and the markets.

### **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**



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

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.

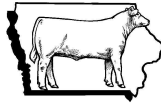
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,:

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;
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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink for the Cattle Production Committee

### **Committee Recommendations:**

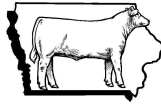
**Recommend approving;** by creating this policy as a directive, the committee and feedlot council will be able to conduct yearly review for the most up to date information



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# **BUSINESS ISSUES**



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### **DIRECTIVE**

#### **BI-AP-D-14 CRP**

**2025**

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.

#### Committee Recommendations:

**Renew;** need to explore opportunity to graze CRP, especially for younger producers looking to graze their cattle. Exploration to include: infrastructure opportunities like virtual fencing, carbon credits, etc. The Cow/Calf Council has noted that this is a continued point of discussion and advocacy piece for staff, members, and affiliates. The council will continue to look at areas relevant to CRP that have a positive and beneficial impact on cattle producers.

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

**2025**

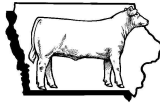
WHEREAS, ICA supports an increased weight limit on the interstate road system.

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.

#### Committee Recommendations:

**Renew;** standardizing/increasing the interstate weight limits is important to the livestock hauling business. Discuss sunseting next year, dependent on task force.



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### **BI-AP-D-16 Drought Monitor 2025**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drought Monitor is utilized to determine drought status within a county; and

WHEREAS, the drought classification from this tool is used to determine eligibility for USDA programs, such as emergency haying and grazing and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program; and

WHEREAS, there can be significant variance of drought conditions within a county.

THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, the ICA Cow-Calf Council will explore opportunities to enhance the U.S. Drought Monitor with more precision and greater frequency of Condition Monitoring Observer Reports and data.

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

Committee Recommendations:

**Sunset;** the Cow/Calf Council has prepared a formal report to report at the annual meeting in December.

### **EXPIRING POLICIES**

#### **BI-AP-9 Federal Grazing Fees 2021**

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.

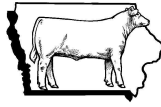
Committee Recommendations:

**Renew;** Common issue in western states, allows ICA to engage at the national level if ever needed support cattlemen in those areas

#### **BI-PPLEM-11 Land Use 2021**

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



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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.

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew with amendment**; prioritizes grazing/pasture land over using that same land for other uses that may not allow for producers to fully utilize the land for grazing.

### **BI-PPLEM-33 Pilot Projects/Public Grazing**

**2021**

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.

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew**; supports initiatives and projects that place a focus on grazing cattle cohesively with other wildlife and with other programs that land may be enrolled in.

- Shelby: motion to renew
- Vic: second

### **BI-TF-23 Unemployment Compensation**

**2021**

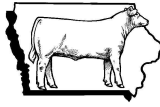
WHEREAS, the quarterly unemployment compensation exemption of \$20,000 is no longer practical in the present inflated economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the quarterly exemption be increased to \$60,000 and hereafter be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all officers of a family corporation and its family members should be exempt from state and federal unemployment compensation tax.

Committee Recommendations:

**Sunset**; with the recent enactment of SF 607 that cuts the taxable wage base used in collecting unemployment insurance taxes from employers in half, from 66.7% to 33.4%, in addition to



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making changes to employer contribution rates, the committee recommends sunsetting this policy as the recent law addresses concern.

### **BI-TF-31 Agricultural Tax Credits 2021**

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** ~~farming expenses~~.

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** ~~full payment each year~~ 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.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association favors continuation of the Family Farm Tax Credit.~~

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew with amendments;** amended for clarity and focuses on supporting current tax credits in place but also directs the ICA to prioritize livestock tax credits if legislation arises.

### **BI-TF-32 Social Security Exemption on Cooperative Dividends 2021**

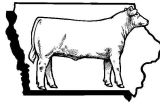
~~WHEREAS, corporate entities and inactive farmers are not subject to social security tax on income received from participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), but individual active farmers may be subject to the tax, and~~

WHEREAS, 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.

~~WHEREAS, it is longstanding federal policy to encourage farmers to participate in the CRP and to band together in cooperatives, particularly now in "valued-added" cooperatives.~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ~~that as a matter of fairness to active farmers and to non-corporate farmers, and as a matter of increased effectiveness in achieving widely supported federal farm policy goals,~~ the Iowa Cattlemen's Association requests Congress grant a complete





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exemption from social security taxes on income received by farmers ~~from participation in CRP~~ and on income received from earnings distributed to them by cooperatives.

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

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew with amendments;** to make this policy more clear and as CRP social security tax exemption is a very different topic than cooperative dividends, the committee has drafted language to address the Social Security Exemption of CRP payment income.

### BI-TF-41 State of Emergency & Essential Workers 2021

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

WHEREAS, it's 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 ~~declared by the Governor of Iowa or the President of the United States.~~

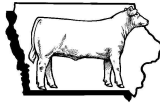
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the aforementioned "essential" agricultural businesses and meat processing plants must be allowed to conduct business as close to normal as safely possible during a state of emergency in order to maintain continuity within the beef supply chain.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to prioritize distribution of necessary vaccines and personal protective equipment (PPE) to food supply workers, to include agricultural and meat processing plant workers, during a state of emergency.~~

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.

Committee Recommendations:

**Renew with amendments;** committee amended the policy to broaden the state of emergency declaration in cases of animal health outbreaks and emphasizing prioritizing resource distribution and collaborating with elected officials.



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### **NEW POLICY PROPOSALS**

**PURPOSE:** Business Issues - Tax and Finance

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Parts of rural Iowa lack strong or sufficient cell phone coverage. Should an accident occur while in a lacking cell phone coverage area, it could be a long time prior to help arriving or being found.

**DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:** ICA has policy related to Rural Broadband (BI-TF-42). Cell phone coverage is related and an issue for some cattlemen across the state.

### **State Minimum Cell Phone Coverage**

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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink for Jason Kurt

Committee Recommendations:

**Approve;** this new policy outlines the importance of having cell phone coverage in rural areas primarily for emergencies but also service changes come through corporate buyouts, etc. This policy works hand-in-hand with ICA's Rural Broadband policy to support connectivity through cell phones and broadband in even the most rural areas.

**PURPOSE:** Business Issues - Tax and Finance

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In the state, construction and replacement materials for the construction or sale of grain bins are tax exempt. Single-use livestock barns, similar to the grain bins, have only one purpose. Exempting the materials for livestock barn construction/sale eases the burden of expanding or updating cattle operations as the cost of materials is on the rise.

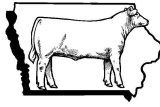
### **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**

#### **Single-Use Livestock Facility Sales Tax Exemption**

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,



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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.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink for Jason Kurt

Committee Recommendations:

**Approve;** in addition to previous examples of this sales tax exemption for construction materials for agricultural uses, this would also support beginning and/or expanding producers in building new single-use livestock facilities.

**PURPOSE:** Business Issues - Public/Private Lands and Environmental Management

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** As the conversation and projects around pipelines, transmission lines, and other large-scale projects grow, the potential for land disruption is likely. It is vital to livestock farmers to have any land that was disrupted to be restored to a productive, workable and safe condition.

**DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**

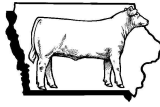
### **Land Restoration**

WHEREAS, pipeline, transmission, utility 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 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 or any other large-scale projects on property should be fairly compensated for those losses.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations:

**Approve;** as it was seen in the 2025 state legislative session, dialogue and legislation addressing utility, pipeline, transmission, and other large-scale project will continue arise in the future. This policy ensures ICA is able to engage in land restoration standards for those impacted by any of the aforementioned projects.



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**PURPOSE:** Business Issues - Tax and Finance

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Business Issues committee discussed that there are Iowa cattlemen that do have enrolled acres in the Conservation Reserve Program. Given that there are corporate entities and inactive farmers that are not subject to social security tax on income received from the CRP, the committee believes that the same social security tax exemption should apply to all active farmers/landowners.

### **DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:**

#### **CRP Payment Taxation**

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, 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 will advocate for prohibiting the use of schedule F and offset deductions for those not active in farming.

**PREPARED BY:** Kelli Klink for Business Issues committee and Cow/Calf Council

#### **Committee Recommendations:**

**Recommend approving;** CRP social security exemption is a completely separate topic from cooperative dividends (BI-TI-32). Splitting them into two individual policies creates more clarity for ICA. Additionally, CRP payees taxation may vary depending on farming status, the recommended proposal clarifies deductions and use of schedule F should not be allowable for those not active in farming.