

Iowa Cattlemen's Association 2026 Policy Summit

Policy Packet

Beef Products

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.

Background Information: USDA FSIS is responsible for determining the countries that are eligible to import meat, poultry, and egg products into the U.S. USDA APHIS restricts import access from countries to have animal disease concerns.

FSIS determines equivalency between trading partners to ensure products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. FSIS also audits foreign inspection systems and reinspects products at port-of-entry to ensure that foreign processes uphold that equivalency.

[Full Detail of Import Procedures](#)

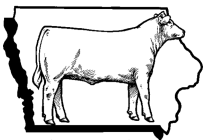
Recommended to strike the red line due to protecting against misconceptions.

Committee Recommendations: Renew as amended; this policy reiterates the associations drive for consumer confidence in beef

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.



Background Information: [USMEF](#) is a trade organization with the mission to increase the value and profit opportunities for the U.S. beef, pork, and lamb industries by enhancing demand in export markets through a coordinated and collaborative partnership of all stakeholders. They are funded by checkoff organizations, memberships dues, private contributions, and USDA funds with their cooperator status.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; continued support for global trade promotion especially as IBIC works closely with USMEF to support trade missions and their efforts for beef promotion globally.

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.

Background Information: USMEF and other cooperators (i.e. United Soybean Export Council, U.S. Poultry and Egg Council, etc.) are eligible to apply for various trade assistance funding. Market Access Program (MAP), Emerging Markets Program (EMP), Foreign Market Development (FMD), and several other programs are funded through the USDA to support opening and maintaining of markets to add value back to commodities and products.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; ensures that ICA would be able to lobby support for congressional and USDA budgets.

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

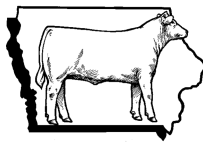
WHEREAS, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association compiled industry input used to update Iowa Code Chapter 181; and

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.

Background Information: The Iowa Beef Checkoff was reinstated by a referendum majority vote by Iowa beef producers which led to the Iowa Cattlemen's Association working with the statehouse to add [Iowa Code Chapter 181](#), specific to the Iowa beef checkoff fund. The fund is to be used for promotion (to maintain current and develop new markets), research/education funds to non-profits for the purpose of furthering production efficiency, utilization of cattle, and promoting/marketing the products from beef cattle.

It is important to note that if there were ever a question or proposal to amend the state checkoff, Iowa Cattlemen's Association would be responsible to lobby and influence the outcome for the checkoff.



Committee Recommendations: Renew; needed to support and defend Iowa's beef checkoff, and the code was written to make it clear that you can get a refund of the state checkoff if people truly do not want to pay into it.

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.

Background Information: The Iowa Beef Checkoff, 50 cents above the required \$1/head National Checkoff, was established in Iowa code through legislative efforts by ICA. In order to maintain that designation, ICA is the sole responsible organization to advocate for the state checkoff as IBIC cannot engage in policy.

The National Beef Checkoff, additionally, is only available for consumer education, research, and promotion. The state checkoff was written in a way where it could be used to support producer education and research in addition to the national checkoff efforts.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; this policy maintains an outline of Iowa Beef Checkoff

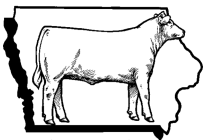
BP-GCM-40 WTO-Compliant MCOOL for Beef 2022

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.

Background Information: The 2002 Farm Bill required retail-level MCOOL for ground and muscle cuts of beef, pork, and lamb, among other commodities. These requirements were clarified through the 2008 Farm Bill and implemented by USDA's final rule in March 2009. After MCOOL's rollout, Canada and Mexico challenged the labeling requirements for beef and pork before the World Trade Organization (WTO). They argued that the U.S. rules discriminated against imported livestock and created undue recordkeeping and segregation burdens for processors. Between 2011 and 2012, WTO panels found that the U.S. MCOOL regulations violated trade agreements by providing less favorable treatment to imported cattle and hogs. The United States amended its rule in 2013 to include more detailed production-step labeling, specifying where animals were born, raised, and slaughtered. Despite the revisions, Canada and Mexico again prevailed in subsequent WTO challenges in 2014 and 2015. The WTO ruled that even the amended COOL regulations imposed technical barriers to trade and authorized Canada and Mexico to impose approximately \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs against the United States. In response, Congress



acted to remove beef and pork from the list of covered commodities in the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

USDA's economic analysis estimated that **removing beef and pork from MCOOL would save affected industries up to \$1.8 billion in avoided costs**. COOL requirements remain active for other commodities such as lamb, chicken, goat, fish, and select agricultural products.

In 2024, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a final rule redefining when meat, poultry, and egg products may use voluntary "Product of USA" and "Made in the USA" claims. The rule was developed in response to consumer confusion, industry petitions, and President Biden's Executive Order *Promoting Competition in the American Economy*. Full compliance went into effect January 1, 2026. ICA drafted the following policy to support the voluntary POTUSA label.

Committee Recommendations: Sunset; committee supports removing interest in mandatory labeling when the industry has taken a strong stance on voluntary actions, with support of labeling US-origin beef.

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 ~~of United States-origin beef~~ as long as the animals are born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.

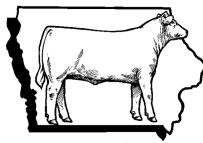
Committee Recommendations: Approve; given the recent news related to MCOOL, POTUSA, and potential alternatives. The biggest question is whether larger packers/processors would ever pursue the voluntary POTUSA labeling and if not, does that defeats the purpose? The other question is: if there is a call for MCOOL, how does it become WTO-compliant? Based on current conversations, the committee revisited our labeling policy that had originally called out support for the 2024 USDA Ruling on POTUSA and decided to focus on simply labeling U.S. beef (leaving out mandatory or voluntary to give room to support either way based on congressional and other discussion).

BP-NHI-4 Beef Team Youth Beef Advocacy **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, ICA supports ~~the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation groups and organizations that equip students to be advocates for agriculture that~~ 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.~~

Background Information: The Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation leads the Beef Team and uses its dollars to support the youth programming. Requirements for scholarships and participation are already outlined by the Foundation removing the need to contain within ICA policy book.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendment; ICF oversees the beef team and amending this policy allows ICA to be supportive of any group that develops youth leaders in the beef industry to be advocates.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Beef Products - Beef Safety

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: Meat grading technologies have been in development for several years. Recently, these technologies have been recognized by the USDA as strong potential pathways to help meet shortages of physical graders and elevate grading consistency. Technologies include remote grading and enhanced camera technologies. These new products and recognition by the USDA provide real time enhancements to the meat packing sector. As the landscape continues to evolve with technology, it is important that ICA remain relevant in making sure producers are recognized for high quality product.

Meat Grading and Technology

2027

WHEREAS, meat grading technologies are being researched and developed, and

WHEREAS, labor challenges for meat graders is a growing challenge, and

WHEREAS, meat grading has long been subjective to an individual's eye.

WHEREAS, yield grade may be considered antiquated when determining a carcass grade in today's cattle industry.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, ICA supports the research and development of meat grading technologies including, but not limited to, cameras, distance grading, and artificial intelligence.

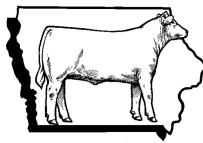
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports meat grading consistencies across the beef packing industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the research and development of updated grading/calculations.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; addresses new technologies as processing is continually challenged with labor, consistencies, etc. The policy also addresses the work being done around updated carcass grading.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:



BP-NHI-18 Agriculture Education in ~~Public~~ Schools 2025

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

WHEREAS, **foundations should be laid early as** the future of Iowa's beef cattle industry is our youth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, **ICA supports Agriculture in the Classroom programming for all grades, beginning in primary/elementary school and into middle and high school and beyond.**

BE IT FURTHER 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.

Background Information: Throughout several regions and various meetings across the state, I frequently heard the need for increased education for youth, starting in elementary school. To reflect this, I have amended the respective policy for consideration.

Committee Recommendations: Approved with amendment; supportive of agricultural education that extends learning from a young age and beyond.

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY

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

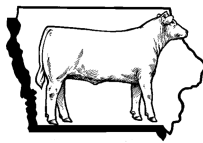
WHEREAS, there is currently no requirement for schools to allow excused absences for FFA, 4-H, and other organized ag industry groups,

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.

Committee Recommendations: Approve; this policy supports next generation and involvement



Cattle Production

DIRECTIVE

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.

Background Information: The ILHAC group is required by Iowa Code to have producers (3 cattlemen, 3 swine producers, 1 sheep, 1 poultry, 1 turkey, 1 dairymen, and 1 practicing vet) and receives ~\$291,000/year to designate to research projects/students on these projects based on each species priorities.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; this directive fits the needs of the industry - all priorities are relevant and important.

EXPIRING POLICIES

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.

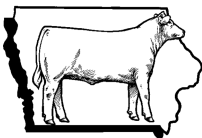
Background Information: FADs pose serious threats to supply chain, business continuity, and consumer trust. It is important to maintain coordinated and efficient responses to reduce the impact on industry and potential value loss.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; clearly outlines support for response to FADs

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:

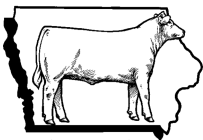
1. Be compatible with private sector animal ID and verification programs backed by the USDA.
2. Be compatible with the general traceability principles of WOAH.
3. Recognize existing USDA programs for beef exports.
4. Be built using infrastructure that supports other potential uses of ID.
5. Utilize low 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

Background Information: There have been several disease outbreaks over the last several years, globally and nationally. The examples of HPAI in dairy cattle and pseudorabies in swine were able to be quickly addressed through the swift efforts of the USDA and IDALS. Animal identification & PremIDs were key players in the ability to trace those diseases and respond and loop in respective officials where necessary. The Secure Beef Supply (SBS) plan recognizes PremIDs and movement records as traceability steps to addressing FMD (and other foreign animal diseases).

Committee Recommendations: Renew; the committee foresees continued conversation on mandatory vs. voluntary.

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 (FAD) 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~~ FAD 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.

Background Information: A premise identification notification (PIN) helps state officials quickly alert producers about protecting livestock in high-risk areas due to disasters or disease outbreaks like FMD. It is required to move cattle, semen, or embryos during an FMD outbreak for traceability. Dr. Kaisand, State Vet of Iowa, has very strongly recommended all farms get a PIN in order to be traceable in the case of outbreak if you or your neighbor become in an infected or quarantine zone. PINs help health officials navigate who to contact to stop disease spread and get vaccination if needed.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendment; outlines specifics for the industry to be prepared in the case of an FAD. The amendment broadens from FMD to all FADs.

CP-LCM-23 Concentration/Consolidation 2022

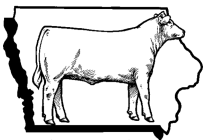
WHEREAS, the Iowa cattlemen are very concerned about pending and future mergers, acquisitions and consolidation of agri-businesses; and

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.

Background Information: As stated by Congress, the purpose of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) is "to assure fair competition and fair trade practices, to safeguard farmers and ranchers...to protect consumers...and to protect members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries from unfair, deceptive, unjustly discriminatory and monopolistic practices...."

Committee Recommendations: Renew; policy upholds ICA's stance that the market should be fair and competitive.

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.

THEREFORE BE IT 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.

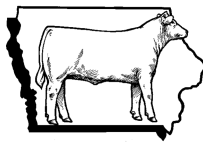
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cattle sold via negotiated means shall be delivered within 14 days.

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

Background Information: There has been a declining number of participants in the negotiated cash market. For robust price discovery that provides accurate information about market dynamics along the supply chain, a competitive cash market with multiple price discovery points is needed. Negotiated trade, also called the "cash" or "spot" market increasingly has been replaced by formula pricing, forward markets, and longer-term marketing agreements—collectively referred to as "alternative marketing arrangements" (AMAs). Cash transactions involve a bid and ask process. The cash market facilitates price discovery, which is the process of establishing the "going rate" of cattle based on market conditions at any given time. Formula pricing, where a reference price from a published report is used as the base price for the transaction, is becoming more common. The bulk of formula pricing uses negotiated cash prices as the base in the formula—meaning information from the negotiated cash market is being heavily leveraged by nonparticipants, even as it declines in volume.

Previous legislation has been put forward, known as the Grassley-Fischer bill in 2021, that would establish mandatory levels of negotiated cash and grid trade for AMS while also requiring plants to procure a certain amount of cattle from the cash market. ICA backed this language in 2021.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; policy upholds ICA's stance that the market should be fair transparent.



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 **minimum** fee of \$3 or more per head per day.

Background Information: Policy originated from the 50-14 windows. While there is no true way of enforcement, this brings up ICA's stance on the overall topic.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendment; amendment provides clarity that ICA believes there should be compensation if the delivery agreement is overdue.

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.

Background Information: The Iowa Beef Center (IBC) at Iowa State University houses the beef field specialists and extension/teaching/research faculty who work within the industry. IBC offers research and education on a wide range of topics around the state. Funding for IBC comes from ISU (and state appropriations), Iowa Beef Checkoff, research grants, and participant fees.

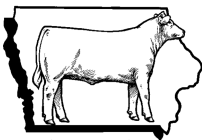
Committee Recommendations: Renew; extension resources are vital to the beef industry and it's important to maintain support.

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, **Beef Teaching Facilities, Meat Lab**, 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.

Background Information: The Iowa state legislature has continued to provide line item funding for the operation and maintenance of the ISU VDL, ISU Experiment Stations - including IBC, and Iowa livestock health advisory council (ILHAC) in the agricultural appropriations. State Department of Education appropriations also fund ISU's general fund in addition to line items. Tuition is the primary source of funds.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendment; amendment defines specific animal science department facilities that have a direct tie to the beef industry. Need for review next year to assess completion of ISU VDL.

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.

Background Information: The Iowa state legislature has continued to provide line item funding for the operation and maintenance of the ISU VDL. 2026 ag appropriations for VDL were \$4,799,898.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; the VDL is incredibly important to Iowa's livestock and economy.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Cattle Production - Cattle Health & Well Being / Directive

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: With the recent nearby detections of NWS in Mexico and the possibility of case(s) in the U.S. communication will be vital to preserving the cattle markets and reinforcing the fact that beef is still safe and wholesome.

New World Screwworm Awareness & Preparedness

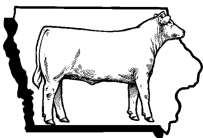
2027

WHEREAS, New World Screwworm (NWS) remains a significant livestock pest capable of causing animal health and economic impacts if introduced into the United States; and

WHEREAS, state and federal animal health officials have established surveillance, import protocols, and response measures designed to prevent the introduction and spread of NWS; and

WHEREAS, the presence of NWS does not pose a food safety risk to consumers, and established animal health safeguards help protect the integrity of the U.S. beef supply; and

WHEREAS, market uncertainty and trade disruptions may occur in response to animal health concerns, but existing prevention and response protocols help mitigate long-term impacts to the cattle industry;



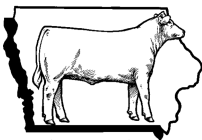
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ICA and NCBA encourages producers to remain informed regarding developments related to New World Screwworm and to follow recommended biosecurity, animal health, and animal movement practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA will work with state and federal animal health officials to promote producer education and awareness regarding prevention, identification, and reporting of suspected New World Screwworm cases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA will continue to communicate that New World Screwworm is an animal health concern, not a food safety concern, and support science-based measures to protect the U.S. cattle industry.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; Need for increased communication and awareness around NWS and resources available for both producers and consumers.



Business Issues

DIRECTIVES

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.

Background Information: Recommend sunseting and referring to the CRP Guiding Principles (BI-AP-39).

Committee Recommendations: Sunset the directive and utilize the CRP Guiding Principles. The Cow/Calf Council is in place to be a sounding board for CRP on a continuous basis and other cow/calf issues removing the need for a 1-year directive within the policybook.

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 composed 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.

Background Information: Recommend sunseting with House transportation bill moving that includes interstate weights pilot program and using BI-AP-36 to direct ICA engagement on interstate weight limits.

Committee Recommendations: Sunset the directive and utilize the Interstate Weight Limits Policy in place. The Interstate Weight Limits task force has met and fulfilled their duties outlined within this directive. The task force will present their report to membership at the annual meeting.

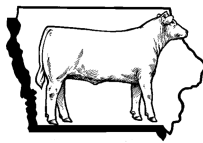
BI-AP-24 Cattlemen Serving as Local Leaders

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, **County Conservation Boards, County Board of Supervisors**, and local conservation, **government, and policy organizations**~~work groups~~.

Background Information: For many government programs to remain locally led, several organizations offer volunteer positions that guide decision making respective organizations purview. By encouraging



members to be active in these government programs assists in driving livestock-minded decisions through administration of those programs.

Committee Recommendations: Recommend to approve with amendments; example given of groups or entities purchasing land and gifting it to the county conservation boards which then takes them off the tax roll and takes them out of production. By encouraging producers and members to be involved in these organizations, the ideals of cattlemen will be able to guide decision making.

BI-AP-31 Iowa Fence Law 2022

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

~~WHEREAS, Iowa's fence law has provided a long-standing framework for establishing responsibilities related to boundary fences between neighboring landowners; and~~

~~WHEREAS, advancements in livestock management technology, including virtual fencing systems, provide producers with additional tools to manage livestock, grazing, and pasture utilization.~~

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports maintaining Iowa's current fence law framework.~~

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

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA supports policies that allow producers to utilize virtual fencing technology, which is considered temporary fence, without altering existing legal responsibilities related to Iowa's fence law.~~

Background Information: The [Iowa Fence Law](#) is one of the oldest laws in the state. There have been several challenges to the law over the years yet it has remained largely unchanged. Iowa follows a fence-in theory with a conditional fence-out theory meaning that neighboring landowners sometimes have a duty to fence the livestock out stemming from their statutory obligation to build a partition fence.

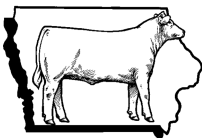
New questions that have come up recently are around virtual fencing. Currently, virtual fencing companies are recommending that producers have a perimeter fence when using virtual fencing. However, many producers trust their virtual fence systems to great lengths to where there is some argument that there should not have to be a perimeter fence when using the virtual fence. There is a training period for the animals using virtual fencing before they are used to the sounds/vibrations of the virtual fence. Additionally, there are safety protocols in place for virtual fencing that would allow an animal to forgo the virtual fence, i.e. when there is a predator, flood, etc. One producer has compared virtual fencing to underground pet fences, though cattle are not considered pets according to Iowa code.

Committee Recommendations: Recommend to approve with amendments; important to uphold current Iowa fence law and defend it. New technologies such as virtual fencing should be recognized as temporary fence thus not being a replacement for the fence law/exterior fence, etc.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports smaller grids and innovative technology for reference for higher accuracy.

Background Information: The Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) insurance program and other Rainfall Index (RI)-based tools administered by USDA Risk Management Agency utilize a grid-based system to estimate precipitation relative to historical averages. While these programs provide important risk management tools for cattle producers, they rely on generalized geographic grid data rather than on-farm measurements, which can create discrepancies between actual precipitation received and indemnity outcomes. ICA continues to engage with RMA regarding opportunities to improve accuracy, responsiveness, and fairness within RI-based insurance programs.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; necessary to inform the PRF and supporting smaller grids can bring improved accuracy further strengthening the insurance programs available for pasture, forage, and rangeland.

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,

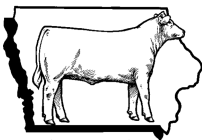
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports legislation that requires companies conducting pipeline, transmission, utility, underground natural resources, or any other large-scale projects to restore disrupted working lands to original or improved conditions,

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, utility companies must provide at least 24 hours notice to landowners, unless in an emergency situation, prior to entering land for maintenance of utility and large-scale projects, including notice of power disruption.

Background Information: ICA Board member has had a transmission line company cut power and undo hotwire without notice. [Iowa Code Ch. 478.17](#) outlines that reasonable access to lines but any damages or losses resulting from entering, using, or occupying those lands must be compensated. Should the cows have gotten out on the road or even gotten aggressive with the transmission line workers, there would have been serious damages, that in turn, the transmission line company would have been responsible to compensate.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; this supports standing up for private property rights. Additionally, cattlemen should be supportive of making relationships with the utility companies in order to ensure the utilities can work alongside cattlemen and landowners.



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.

Background Information: There is a lack of clarity to where this policy originated. However, the broadness allows engagement from ICA on both environmental and property rights issues as long as it is to the benefit of the industry.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; allows staff to engage and support cattlemen as various environmental or property issues arise.

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 **that targets cattle specifically**, be maintained at current funding levels or above.

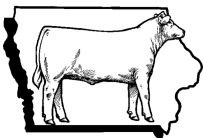
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association work with state and federal government to insure that programs addressing soil conservation recognize the role that the beef industry can play in addressing this problem and that these programs do not discriminate against the beef industry.

Background Information: There are several conservation programs with few recognizing managed grazing/utilizing livestock as a part of the program as beneficial. This policy seeks to encourage using cattle as a recognized conservation practice to not only support cattlemen but also conservation goals.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; important to target and support cattlemen in conservation programming.

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.

Background Information: The REAP Program is a long-term integrated effort to use and protect Iowa's natural resources by purchasing and managing land for public use, upgrading public parks, and providing environmental education, monitoring, and research. The fund was created by the 1989 Iowa Acts, chapter 236 (Resource Enhancement and Protection Act), to protect Iowa's natural resources. Since FY 1992, the REAP Program has received an annual standing appropriation of up to \$20.0 million from the General Fund. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the REAP Fund. The REAP Fund receives revenue from State, federal, and private sources including an appropriation from the Environment First Fund and receipts from the sale of REAP license plates.

There are REAP committees in most of the counties that coordinate REAP projects.

- There are 18 REAP regional assemblies held around the State during odd-numbered years. These meetings allow the public to comment on regional plans using REAP funding.
- There is a REAP Congress that meets in even-numbered years. Each regional assembly elects five delegates to serve on the statewide REAP Congress.
- The 85 members discuss and finalize recommendations that are made to the Governor, the General Assembly, and other State agencies.

\$350,000 is allocated to the DNR for educational grants and 1.0% is allocated to the DNR for program administration. The remaining receipts are allocated as follows:

- 28.0% to the DNR for the Open Spaces Account.
- 20.0% to County Conservation Boards.
- 20.0% to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for soil and water conservation projects.
- 15.0% for city park projects.
- 9.0% to the DNR for land management and maintenance.
- 5.0% to the Department of Cultural Affairs for the Historical Resource Development Program.
- 3.0% to the Department of Transportation for roadside vegetation projects.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; need more information on how to be involved but cattlemen should have a seat at the table.

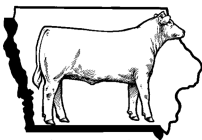
BI-PPLEM-31 Iowa Slough Bill

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, property tax incentives should be tied to the intended public benefit association with the qualifying land use; and

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



WHEREAS, public and private assistance for restoration of native habitat is available through various agencies for establishing and maintaining these lands.

~~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.~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports requiring land receiving wildlife habitat-related property tax relief to meet established habitat management standards consistent with the purpose of the tax benefit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports reasonable verification processes to ensure land receiving such tax benefits is being maintained in accordance with program requirements.

Background Information: This conservation land tax exemption is a county-controlled and capped program. Each year, county boards of supervisors decide which properties qualify and which receive exemptions, even if the land meets all eligibility requirements. Counties are limited in how much land they can exempt overall, generally the greater of 1 percent of agricultural acres or 3,000 acres, and that cap only increases if it was fully used the prior year, and then only by up to 10 percent, with a maximum increase of 300 acres. Exemptions are granted one year at a time, requiring landowners to apply annually, and approval in one year does not guarantee approval in the next. Only parcels of two acres or more are eligible, and the land must be used strictly for conservation or wildlife habitat purposes and not for economic gain, including storage of equipment or crops. Eligible land types are limited to open prairie, forested land, rivers and streams and their banks, and nonprofit recreational lakes. Restored prairie and erosion-prone areas face additional requirements, including native ground cover, weed control, and approved erosion plans. The presence of abandoned buildings does not automatically disqualify land, as long as they are not used for income. Finally, any property located within city limits must receive approval from the city before a county exemption can be granted.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; if land is receiving property tax relief, it is important that the land is audited and verified to meeting the requirements.

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.

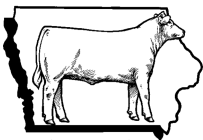
Background Information: Some wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and there was recent legislation passed in Colorado to reintroduce grey wolves given their "endangered" status.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; important to regularly check on IA DNRs rules and "seasons" regulations for predators like wolves. For example, a species may not be endangered but DNR continually classifies it as "out of season."

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 fully 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 strengthen Iowa's Right to Farm Act ~~achieve this change to the Iowa Code~~.

Background Information: In Iowa Code Ch. 657.11 and 12, Iowa law is explicitly designed to shield animal agricultural producers from nuisance lawsuits (claims about odor, noise, dust, manure, etc.) if they are operating responsibly and legally. The legislature is very clear that its intent is to protect animal agriculture and prevent nuisance suits from discouraging producers or harming Iowa's competitiveness.

In general, an animal feeding operation cannot be declared a public or private nuisance and cannot be sued for interfering with someone's use and enjoyment of their property simply because neighbors dislike the impacts of livestock production. The law encourages responsible animal agriculture by protecting compliant producers from large or frivolous nuisance claims while ensuring that only operations that follow the rules and good practices get the protection. Compensation to neighbors is limited and carefully defined, and habitual violators or those breaking the law are not protected.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; updates to the code have extended some protections though, continued protections for the industry remain important to maintain and strengthen.

BI-PPLEM-55 Anaerobic Digestion Systems 2025

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

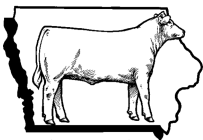
WHEREAS, environmental impacts and regulations relating to cattle operations are becoming increasingly important and sometimes controversial; and

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

~~WHEREAS, opportunities may exist to enhance the viability and efficiency of anaerobic digestion systems through the aggregation and utilization of manure from large or multiple livestock operations.~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the research and development of anaerobic digestion systems and similar technology and encourages the equitable monetization of dairy and beef cattle manure, ~~and supports policies that allow cattle producers to voluntarily participate in manure-to-energy projects, including the aggregation of manure where practical, economically feasible, and environmentally sound.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports a clear, predictable, and science-based regulatory framework for the permitting, construction, operation, and expansion of anaerobic digestion systems.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the use of approved agricultural and organic feedstocks in conjunction with livestock manure to enhance the economic viability of anaerobic digestion systems and the beneficial use and equitable valuation of digestate and other value-added products generated through anaerobic digestion.

Background Information: Anaerobic digesters have been proposed in Iowa as a potential tool for manure management, renewable energy production, and nutrient stabilization, particularly in livestock-dense regions. In 2025, legislation such as HSB 322 was introduced to establish regulatory clarity around digester development, including considerations such as construction standards, setback requirements, and allowable input materials, but did not advance. ICA has an interest in ensuring that if digesters are developed, they are subject to clear, consistent, and science-based regulatory frameworks that protect livestock producers and rural communities.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; as the technology and understanding of anaerobic digesters evolve, it is important to have proper regulations to be able to effectively utilize the technology and add value rather than burdens to producers.

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.~~

~~WHEREAS, federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act has been subject to significant regulatory changes and ongoing litigation, including the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* (2023), which narrowed the scope of federally regulated wetlands; and~~

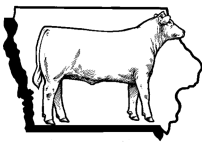
~~WHEREAS, uncertainty in the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) creates challenges for agricultural land management, permitting, and long-term investment decisions;~~

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association opposes regulatory or legislative efforts that expand federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act beyond clearly defined navigable waters.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports clear, durable, and practical WOTUS definitions that respect state authority, provide regulatory certainty, and allow agricultural producers to utilize and manage their land without unnecessary federal overreach.

Background Information: This policy needed updating because the regulatory landscape changed significantly after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, and EPA has since issued revised WOTUS definitions that are narrower than the 2015 rule but still subject to ongoing litigation and reinterpretation.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; reflects current regulatory landscape after the Supreme Court's 2023 decision and subsequent EPA changes to WOTUS.



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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA opposes the involuntary annexation of agricultural land by municipalities for the primary purpose of facilitating utility-scale, commercial, or industrial development.

Committee Recommendations: Approve; Additional language provides clarity of ICA's stance related to the listed projects in a involuntary manner.

BI-PPLEM-59 **Large-Scale Utility ~~Solar~~ Energy, and Industrial Projects**

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, **and energy** generating facilities of several hundred acres in size are proposed to be developed in Iowa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, **large-scale utility** ~~scale electricity~~ **energy production, industrial development** shall not supersede agricultural production on established agricultural land.

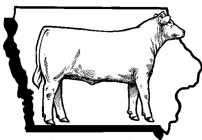
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA opposes the rezoning of agricultural land to develop utility-scale ~~solar~~ **energy projects, data centers, and other large-scale industrial development.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports the use of solar energy systems on agricultural land only when livestock grazing and other agricultural production can be maintained beneath and around the solar installation, allowing the land to remain in active agricultural production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA opposes tax credits, subsidies, or other financial incentives that provide a competitive advantage for large-scale utility ~~scale~~ **energy, or industrial development, over agricultural production on productive farmland.**

Background Information: While still new, there is interest in the ability to graze cattle under solar panels. In order to graze cattle, compared to other ruminants like goats and sheep, the solar panels need to be heightened and be able to support a forage that can be grown below the solar panels themselves.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; however, it is important to revisit as opportunities to support agriculture production while also responsibly supporting diversified income, the cattle herd, etc. arise. At this time, the committee does not recommend firstly supporting solar in the



chance that land could support the grazing of livestock/cattle. The committee raised concerns that ICA could be viewed as supporting ag land being converted into solar or other large-scale utilities.

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.

Background Information: N/A

Committee Recommendations: Renew; ICA should maintain strong support of fiscal responsibility.

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.

Background Information: As indemnification payments would be reported on taxes, the income received from the indemnification would be subject to taxation. There are special circumstances where producers are able to defer taxation 1-2 years if the animals are replaced of the same or more value. IRS allows for some special elections dependent on indemnification program type.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; by supporting deferral, this allows producers a chance to get back on their feet before having to pay into the tax system in the chance indemnity payments for FMD are distributed.

BI-TF-34 Federal Estate Tax 2022

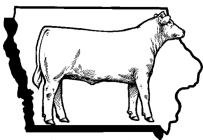
WHEREAS, the family farm is and should continue to be the backbone of agriculture in Iowa; and
WHEREAS, a family livestock operation cannot attain economic success without a substantial land base for growing feed grains; and

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.



Background Information: Under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) signed in July 2025, the lifetime exemption has increased to \$15 million per individual (and \$30 million per married couple) as of January 1, 2026. This new limit is permanent and will be indexed for inflation from 2027 onward, eliminating a previously scheduled decrease to a much lower amount.

Committee Recommendations: Renew; the work of NCBA and ICA has led to increasing the death tax amount. However, ICA shall remain in strong support to repeal the tax.

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~~ 31st in the nation in broadband access and the ~~second~~ fourth-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.

Background Information: [Link to broadband access map](#). From about 2021-2023ish, there was a big push from the federal and state governments to expand broadband access. We saw a lot of fiber projects and grant money pushed at projects. Since this policy, there looks to be a higher percentage of Iowa that has seen increased broadband access.

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; the amendments reflect updates while maintaining support rural broadband.

BI-TF-46 Property Tax Exemption on **Fruit & Forest Tree Reservations 2024**

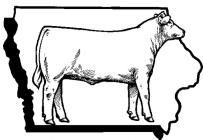
WHEREAS, current Iowa Code authorizes a 100 percent property tax exemption for forest and fruit tree reservations; and

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; and



WHEREAS, since the properties within the fruit and forest tree reservations do not pay property taxes, they are exempt from upholding the fence law; and

WHEREAS, lien against land for upholding the property owners half of the fence law that is in the fruit and forest tree reservation program can occur, but payment on that lien must only be paid upon land transfer.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, landowners with property in the fruit and forest tree reservation program should be responsible for upholding their half of the fence law, regardless of paying 0 or a reduced property tax.

Background Information: This has been a priority issue for ICA for some time now. Groups like Iowa Farm Bureau have hard stances to completely repeal the program, whereas groups like Iowa Corn and Iowa Soy are supportive of reducing/modifying the program. While we have not seen movement on this issue, there have been several different pushes over the years to do something. ICA commonly talks about reducing, however, adding elimination would be a strong policy stance to broaden the tax base.

Additionally, since fruit and forest tree properties do pay into property taxes that support fenceviewers and the local governments that support the fence law, they are essentially exempt from upholding the fence law. You are able to put liens against land not upholding their end of fence law. However, the lien is not required to be paid upon land transfer/sale and could be muddled if that land is within an estate, etc.

QUESTION: The IA Farm Bureau is potentially proposing support for making land in the fruit and forest tree reservation program public hunting land. Is this something ICA should support/develop policy on?

Committee Recommendations: Renew with amendments; while the committee would like to see complete elimination of the program, this policy allows ICA to engage on legislation that would have participants in the program pay into the property tax system but at a reduced rate.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Ag Policy

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: The cost to obtain Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) varies between \$3,000 - \$10,000+ for individuals, not company sponsored. Additional fees can incur to receive hauling endorsements and medical examinations. In the cattle industry, hauling cattle is vital and cost to haul has also increased.

Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL)

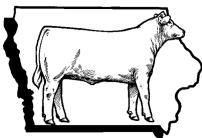
2027

WHEREAS, the cattle industry relies on a safe, reliable, and qualified transportation workforce to move livestock and agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requires significant investments of time, training, testing, and fees that may create barriers for prospective drivers; and

WHEREAS, small businesses, family farms, and independent livestock haulers often lack the resources to provide paid CDL training opportunities available through larger companies; and

WHEREAS, Iowa and the nation continue to experience shortages of qualified commercial drivers, including livestock haulers;



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to reduce financial barriers associated with obtaining and maintaining a Commercial Driver's License, including scholarships, grants, tax incentives, and workforce training programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports the development of livestock transportation apprenticeship, mentorship, and workforce development programs to recruit and train the next generation of qualified cattle haulers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports state and federal programs that assist agricultural businesses, livestock haulers, and rural employers with the costs of CDL training, testing, and certification.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; it is important to the industry to have qualified drivers and they should not be forced out of licensing due to financial barriers.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Ag Policy

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:

Right to Repair

2027

WHEREAS, cattle producers require swift and cost effective means to repair vital machinery needed for daily operations in producing livestock feed and proper animal husbandry.

WHEREAS, equipment manufacturers do not allow owners of the machine to access software needed to diagnose and repair electronic issues.

WHEREAS, producers are forced to use service shops associated with the manufacture causing delays in repairs and additional cost associated with repairs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports the requirement of equipment manufacturers to release critical software for machine diagnosis and repairs to the owner of the machine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports producers having the right to repair their own equipment that are vital to their operations.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

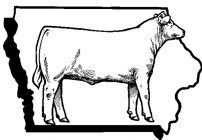
Committee Recommendations: Approve; the committee recommends that ICA uphold a position of support for the right for individuals to repair their equipment necessary to cattle operations.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Tax & Finance

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: Across the state there are organizations, non-profits, and other entities that own or are gifted land who then rent it out to others to be utilized. These groups may not be subject to income tax on income from that land. ICA has typically held the stance that there should be fairness in taxation and spread across a wider base in order to reduce taxes for all.

Non-Profit, Large Entity Landowners



2027

WHEREAS, Iowa agricultural land is a finite resource essential to livestock production, food security, and rural economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, increasing ownership of agricultural land by large entities, institutional investors, and tax-exempt organizations may contribute to increased competition for farmland and rising land values; and

WHEREAS, exemptions from property taxes or income taxes associated with agricultural land ownership may create market distortions and competitive disadvantages for active farmers and ranchers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports policies that promote a fair and competitive agricultural land market and opposes preferential tax treatment that provides a competitive advantage to non-operating agricultural landowners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports requiring agricultural land owned by tax-exempt entities and leased for agricultural production to contribute equitably to local tax bases and rural public services.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; there are increasing stories around the state of non-profit entities directly competing with agricultural operators for land and once those non-profits take ownership or gift to other entities, the land no longer pays into the tax base.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Tax & Finance

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: The GHG lending policy was likely a reaction to a specific trend in sustainable finance, but the broader concern is that cattle producers need fair access to capital, and government-backed lending tools need to keep pace with the realities of modern agriculture. Even after recent increases, a beginning producer trying to purchase cattle, equipment, and a modest amount of land can quickly exceed current loan caps.

Recommend to sunset BI-TF-44 and replace with the below:

Agricultural Credit & Lending

2027

WHEREAS, access to affordable and reliable credit is essential for cattle producers to start, expand, and sustain their operations; and

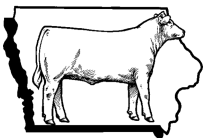
WHEREAS, agricultural lending decisions should be based on sound financial and risk-management principles; and

WHEREAS, increasing land values, livestock prices, equipment costs, and operating expenses have significantly increased the capital requirements necessary to operate a cattle business; and

WHEREAS, federal farm lending programs play an important role in providing credit opportunities for beginning, young, established, and expanding producers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports fair and equitable access to agricultural credit and opposes lending practices that utilize non-financial criteria to restrict or disadvantage agricultural producers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA supports regular review and adjustment of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan limits to ensure they reflect current agricultural asset values, inflation, and the capital needs of modern farming and ranching operations.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA supports regular updates to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) livestock planning prices and valuation methods to ensure loan determinations accurately reflect current market conditions and the financial realities of cattle production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA supports maintaining strong and accessible USDA Farm Service Agency loan programs that assist beginning, young, established, and expanding cattle producers in obtaining financing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA opposes lending practices that utilize non-financial criteria to restrict or disadvantage agricultural producers.

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.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Sunset BI-TF-44 and replace with new proposed; the committee acknowledged that it is important to broaden this policy to continue supporting programs for access to capital and updating FSA loan limits and valuation methods, while also ensuring emissions goals are not considered in financial lending.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Tax & Finance

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: Last year, across the state, the number 1 thing I heard from producers is the underlying focus for our industry is to be rural vitality and support. As opportunities to continue advocating for rural communities (and getting more cattle on the land that supports those communities) this policy gives clear focus and direction to prioritize what contributes to the rural communities.

Rural Vitality & Funding

2027

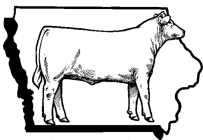
WHEREAS, thriving rural communities are essential to the success of Iowa's cattle industry and agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, access to quality infrastructure, healthcare, education, childcare, housing, workforce development, and public services is necessary to attract and retain rural residents and employees; and

WHEREAS, population decline and workforce shortages continue to challenge many rural Iowa communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports state and federal investments that strengthen rural communities and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports funding and policies that promote rural economic development, workforce recruitment, housing availability, healthcare access, childcare capacity, transportation infrastructure, and broadband connectivity.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports prioritizing rural communities in the distribution of state and federal development funding.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; the committee recognizes the need for rural community support as those communities also directly support cattlemen.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Tax & Finance

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: Iowa agricultural property taxes are primarily based on a productivity-based valuation system that is intended to reflect the earning capacity of agricultural land. While recent statewide property tax reforms have modified tax rates and calculation structures, the underlying agricultural productivity formula remains unchanged. This proposed amendment to the policy seeks to ensure consistent, transparent, and equitable application of this system across all agricultural property in Iowa.

Recommended to strike original language and replace with updated:

**BI-TF-39 Agricultural Property Tax ~~Adjustment~~ Assessment
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;~~

~~WHEREAS, agricultural property taxes in Iowa are based on productivity-based valuation methods intended to reflect the earning capacity and use of agricultural land; and~~

~~WHEREAS, consistency and transparency in agricultural land valuation are essential to ensuring fairness among agricultural property owners across the state; and~~

~~WHEREAS, changes to property tax policy or assessment practices can significantly impact livestock producers, landowners, and rural economies;~~

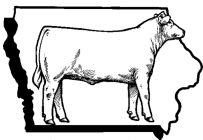
~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports a uniform, transparent, and predictable agricultural property tax assessment system based on agricultural productivity and use value methodology.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports maintaining a statewide standardized approach to agricultural land and structures valuation that treats similar agricultural properties consistently, regardless of location, ownership structure, or local assessment variation.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA opposes property tax assessment systems or adjustments that create unequal treatment or competitive disadvantages among agricultural landowners engaged in livestock and crop production.~~

Committee Recommendations: Approve; this policy supports property tax valuations for land and structures to ensure no unnecessary increases or unfair burden is placed on agricultural operations.

NEW:



COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Ag Policy

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:

Agricultural Operations During Legal Hunts

2027

WHEREAS, Iowa Code protects the right to engage in lawful hunting activities; and

WHEREAS, agriculture remains Iowa's leading industry, and farmers and ranchers must be able to conduct normal agricultural operations throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, agricultural operations frequently require the use of implements of husbandry, machinery, vehicles, livestock handling activities, and other customary farming and ranching practices that may occur during hunting seasons;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the protection of lawful hunting activities as provided under Iowa law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the protection of lawful hunting activities shall not prohibit, restrict, or create liability for landowners, tenants, or their employees conducting normal agricultural operations, including the use of implements of husbandry and other farming and ranching practices.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink for Shelby Cornelius

Committee Recommendations: Approve; Iowa Code 481A.125 protects producers from being liable for “disrupting a legal hunt” if a landowner, tenant, or an employee of a landowner or tenant from performing normal agricultural operations or a law enforcement officer from performing official duties.

NEW:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Public/Private Lands and Environmental Management

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY:

Water Quality

2027

WHEREAS, Iowa's water quality is important to the health, economy, and quality of life of all Iowans; and

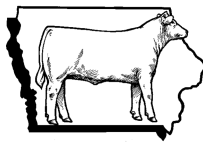
WHEREAS, perennial grasses, hay, pasture, and managed grazing can reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss, improve soil health and water infiltration, and provide other environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, Iowa cattlemen have a long-standing commitment to stewardship and an opportunity to utilize cattle and managed grazing as a tool to improve water quality while supporting a strong and growing cattle industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports the recognition of cattle production, perennial forage, and managed grazing as valuable tools for improving and protecting Iowa's water quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association supports state and federal funding for voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs that encourage the establishment and maintenance of pasture, hay, perennial forage, and managed grazing systems that provide water quality benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association works with state and federal government, watershed organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure water quality programs recognize the role cattle producers can play in achieving water quality goals and provide equitable access to conservation funding and technical assistance for livestock producers.



PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink for David Burrack

Committee Recommendations: Approve,

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY:

**BI-AP-4 Government Incentive Payments
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.

Background Information: Policy was approved as interim by the ICA BOD following unreleased proposals from within the Trump Administration to pay for retaining heifers.

Committee Recommendations: Approve; the committee recommended opposing any effort to pay producers to retain animals.

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Ag Policy

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: ICA will take DEF policy to NCBA the week of July 12.

Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)

2027

WHEREAS, cattle producers require efficient and reliable machinery for producing livestock feed and provide proper husbandry for their livestock,

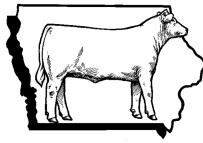
WHEREAS, later model farm equipment, heavy trucks, and pickup trucks that are subject to Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) regulations are proven to be unreliable and carry an associated higher cost of maintenance.

WHEREAS, cattle producers should not suffer the burden of unreliability and high cost of maintenance involving DEF systems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA supports equipment owners to have the ability to remove DEF systems on late model farm equipment, heavy trucks, and pickup trucks without penalty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ICA urges the federal government and regulators to deregulate equipment and vehicle manufacturers of DEF requirements.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink



Committee Recommendations: Approve; the committee acknowledged DEF is one of the most costly and unreliable requirements for later model equipment needed to run cattle operations. This policy supports the flexibility of producers.

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Public/Private Land and Environmental Management

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: This has been a hot topic in the pork industry for several years and NCBA has supported this program for several years through their own policy. This interim approved policy allows ICA to support this NCBA expiring policy.

Feral Swine Eradication

2027

WHEREAS, feral swine are not native to the North American continent and are an invasive species, and

WHEREAS, feral swine have been reported in at least 35 states, and with an expanding range, and

WHEREAS, the feral swine population is estimated at over six million head and rapidly expanding due to a lack of natural predators and their adaptability to a variety of climates and conditions, and

WHEREAS, feral swine causes over \$1 billion dollars in damage to agriculture annually, and

WHEREAS, feral swine can transmit pathogens to livestock, which may result in financial losses to livestock producers due to lower productivity, veterinary costs, or even mortality, and

WHEREAS, feral swine damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species, deteriorating source water, and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA shall work with NCBA to urge Congress, USDA-APHIS, and all interested partners towards the eradication and prevention of further introduction of the feral swine population.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; the committee acknowledged the growing issue of feral swine and potential transmissions into the beef industry.

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY:

COMMITTEE: Business Issues - Public/Private Land and Environmental Management

DISCUSSION & DRAFT POLICY: This has been a hot topic in the pork industry for several years and NCBA has supported this program for several years through their own policy. This interim approved policy allows ICA to support this NCBA expiring policy.

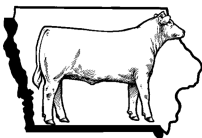
Wildlife Population Surveillance

2027

WHEREAS, NCBA is interested in maintaining the health and productivity of the U.S. cattle population, and

WHEREAS, the population of free roaming deer, elk, bison, feral hogs, et al. increase the potential of disease and pest exposure to cattle is significant due to cohabitation, and

WHEREAS, the private ownership of these game animals and exotic game animals has increased dramatically in recent years, and



WHEREAS, the risk of exposure to disease (both eradicated domestic and foreign animal disease) is high,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA and NCBA encourages the USDA, ARS, USFWS, university, and other researchers to conduct necessary disease surveillance and research on wildlife and exotic game animals to protect the cattle population.

PREPARED BY: Kelli Klink

Committee Recommendations: Approve; important to maintain surveillance of potential vectors for transmission in the beef industry across the entire U.S.

APPROVED INTERIM POLICY:

BI-AP-39 CRP Guiding Principles

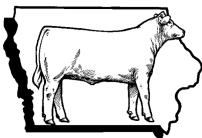
2024

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, **unless there is a program under CRP to require or allow managed grazing.**
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 **and aid in conservation and wildlife habitat goals.**
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. CRP rental rates should approximate but not exceed the rental rates of marginal land sought to be conserved, and cattle producers who graze or hay CRP land should have their annual CRP payment reduced to reflect the value of the forage utilized.
14. 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).
15. Newly seeded CRP must be mowed and baled or grazed within six months to allow for regrowth of forage.
16. 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.

Committee Recommendations: Approve with additional line 13; cattlemen in the state of Iowa are competing with some of the highest CRP rental rate payments due to the tie to cash rent. The committee recommends that the value of the forage utilized should be reflected in a reduced payment rather than a flat percentage.