

# MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## Policy Book

*Updated February 2023*

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### ANIMAL ID

#### ANIMAL ID – 2004

**WHEREAS:** tracking a foreign animal disease is much different than tracking an individual animal. Disease can be transmitted by feed, water, soil, individual animal contact, and parasites: and

**WHEREAS:** feed contamination is one of the common supposed reasons for certain foreign animal diseases and regulations controlling this problem have yet to be enforced;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen' Association asks a cost benefit risk analysis study be taken to see if Individual Animal Identification would be beneficial to those who would be paying for the implementation of the program.

#### MANDATORY ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION – 2005

**WHEREAS:** There is not sufficient evidence to indicate that a new mandatory national identification system would track livestock any more efficiently or quickly than those identification systems already in place.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes a mandatory national identification system for cattle.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH TRACEBACK SYSTEM – 2005

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association supports working on standardizing a state/tribal controlled Animal Health Traceback System protocol, but clearly opposes any Animal Health Traceback System that fails to incorporate existing programs such as Western Brand laws and movement certificates.

#### PREMISES IDENTIFICATION – 2006

**WHEREAS** the Montana Legislature has not authorized the Montana Department of Livestock to facilitate premises registration; and

**WHEREAS** the Montana Department of Livestock is actively promoting premises registration,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association recommends that the State of Montana not actively promote the Premises Registration phase of the National Animal Identification System.

#### ANIMAL TRACEABILITY – 2010

**WHEREAS,** individual animal identification or mandatory traceback requiring individual animal identification is another cost burden to producers; and

**WHEREAS,** there are already traceability avenues through the bangs tags, hot brands, transportation permits, and health certificates;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes any mandatory animal health traceback system that fails to incorporate existing programs such as hot brands, OCV, and movement certificates and requires any other individual animal identification.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **SPLIT STATE STATUS - 2007**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association recommends to the Montana Board of Livestock that they consider a split-state status as accepted by APHIS pending the confirmation of a second case of brucellosis near Yellowstone National Park; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association and livestock producers should be actively involved in defining such a region.

### **BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION- 2007**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association requests USDA, Parks Service, and APHIS work with the Montana Department of Livestock and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to create a program with the ultimate goal to eradicate brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area wildlife as quickly as possible.

### **GYA HERD MANAGEMENT- 2007**

**WHEREAS**, cattle in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) are at greater risk of contacting Brucellosis; and

**WHEREAS**, there are proven herd management strategies that lesson the risk of contacting brucellosis;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the concept of cattle herds in the GYA adopting whole herd management strategies through the help of local veterinarians and the Montana State Veterinarian.

### **ARGENTINA IMPORTATION OF MEAT PRODUCTS - 2009**

The Montana Cattlemen's Association supports immediate legislative action to protect rural America from policies of the Argentine government.

**WHEREAS**, Argentina is pushing to reopen trade channels into the United States for its meat products even though Argentina has documented problems with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate to address this problem; and

**WHEREAS**, Argentina harmed U.S. businesses and taxpayers by refusing to repay tens of billions of sovereign debt obligations, despite an ability to repay and court orders to do so. This debt default has given Argentine farmers and ranchers an unfair trade advantage, has hurt U.S. taxpayers, and has even harmed U.S. pension accounts—including the country's biggest teacher pension fund. The Judgment Evading Foreign State Accountability Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to address this problem.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association urges Congress to enact the Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Act and The Judgment Evading Foreign State Accountability Act.

### **BRUCELLOSIS CALFHOOD VACCINATION - 2009**

Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the requirement that all cattle imported into Montana must be calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis.

### **HEALTH TESTING REQUIREMENTS - 2013**

MCA opposes any additional animal health testing requirements between states other than what is mandated by APHIS.

## **AG & NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **CLOUD SEEDING - 2002**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** in considering the threat of continuing drought we urge that legislative steps be taken to clear the way for cloud seeding projects within Montana.

### **PROTECTION OF LAND OWNERS RIGHTS - 2003**

**WHEREAS:** Federal laws allow energy companies who lease federally-owned gas, oil and coal bed methane to enter private property to build roads, drill wells, lay pipelines and dig pits without landowner permission; and

**WHEREAS:** Development of federally owned oil and gas needs to be balanced against protection of private property rights; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, the proposed development of coal bed methane will impact landowners in Montana in the following ways:

- Development of 9,000 miles of new roads
- Construction of 28,000 miles of new power lines and pipeline corridors
- Construction of 4,000 waste water impoundments
- Lower the water level in the aquifer underlying the Powder River Basin by up to 600 feet,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the following guidelines be reflected in federal energy policies to protect private property rights:

- Require a "surface use agreement" before a drilling permit can be issued and establish standards for surface use agreements that help ensure responsible development.
- Allow the mineral lessee to apply for a drilling permit if the landowner and lessee cannot agree on a surface use agreement, but require the plan of operations to meet the standards established for surface agreements, and require the lessee to post a bond to ensure the surface owner is compensated for damages.

Give the surface owner the right to:

- Review and request changes to the proposed plan of operations
- Comment on proposed bond amounts
- Object when a lessee applies for bond releases
- Request and participate in an inspection when he/she believes the plan of operations is being violated.

#### **PRIVATE PROPERTY - 2003**

**WHEREAS:** Montana Cattlemen's Association's mission statement and profile reference supporting Montana's environmental, cultural and historical heritage, and protecting and advancing environmental positions in water rights, mineral rights and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS:** Montana Cattlemen's Association's purpose is to restore prosperity to rural Montana, by advancing the interests of agriculture; and

**WHEREAS:** absent is any reference to defense of property rights in Montana Cattlemen's Association's mission statement, although there are acts of congress and laws that create property for ranchers on federal land: (i.e. water, forage and RS 2477 rights of way); and

**WHEREAS:** many agency policies conflict with and/or deny said property rights and various statutes; and

**WHEREAS:** language in the Federal Land Policy Management Act gives local government an opportunity for coordinating agency status; and

**WHEREAS:** an ag organization requesting agencies to recognize and comply with these laws would be a benefit to rural economies; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association take a leading role in educating membership on laws concerning property rights and encourage agencies to develop policy that is in accordance with law, therefore helping defend and restore rural economies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** even though Montana Cattlemen's Association recognizes the importance of scholastic excellence, it also recommends an attempt be made to identify a process of recruitment that selects individuals with skills and physical capabilities in addition to academics.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** as an incentive to veterinary students, Montana Cattlemen's Association recommends that one year of college loans be waived every year spent in the service of livestock production areas.

#### **WATER RIGHTS - 2004**

**WHEREAS:** Montana ranchers' water rights are being threatened on a variety of fronts including vested water rights on otherwise public land;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association vigorously acts to inform and encourage their membership of their ownership of water rights on federal lands, to assert and defend those rights, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association shall diligently work to form a coalition of like-minded organizations and institutions to work with state and federal agencies to protect Montana ranchers' vested water rights on public and private lands.

#### **WATER RIGHTS – Updated 2006**

**WHEREAS** Montana ranchers' water rights are being threatened on a variety of fronts including vested water rights on otherwise federal split estate lands recognizing prior existing rights;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Montana Cattlemen's Association vigorously acts to inform and encourage their membership of their ownership of water rights on federal lands, to assert and defend those rights, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Montana Cattlemen's Association shall diligently work to form a coalition of like-minded organizations and institutions to work with state and federal agencies to protect Montana ranchers' vested water rights on public and private lands.

#### **EMINATE DOMAIN - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** In recent times in our nation, municipalities have used the "eminent domain" process to condemn and seize private property for the purpose of private economic development and re-sale to the private sector;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes the use of "eminent domain" to condemn private property for the sole purpose of economic gain or development for individuals and/or corporations.

#### **SPLIT-ESTATE RIGHTS – OIL, GAS, AND COAL BED METHANE - 2005**

A resolution of the Montana Cattlemen's Association urging the State of Montana to enact equitably Split-Estate Laws for the mineral owners and surface owners, related to oil and gas development and coal bed methane (CBM) reclamation; and urging Montana's Board of Environmental Review to adopt rulemaking which facilitates use and conservation of water resources beyond methane extraction.

**WHEREAS:** many MCA members live, farm, and ranch in oil and gas producing counties in Montana, which produce natural gas and coal bed methane (CBM) resources, and MCA recognizes a need for development of oil and gas resources as a source of jobs and tax revenue for the state of Montana; and

**WHEREAS:** protection and conservation of water resources, fostering a diversity of land ownership and the productive use of surface property, as well as reclamation of disturbed surface property, are critical to the viability of our agricultural economy in Montana; and

**WHEREAS:** MCA strives to honor an environmental ethic in protecting and advancing its positions on water rights, mineral rights and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS:** the surface owner is negatively impacted by oil, gas and CBM exploration, MCA feels the surface owner needs to be indemnified for the impact by the mineral owners on their private, state, or federal land; and

**WHEREAS:** pursuant to HB 790, the Environmental Quality Council and a subcommittee of public members is examining split estates of mineral owners and surface owners related to oil and gas development and coal bed methane reclamation bonding, and may be recommending legislation to the 2007 legislative assembly.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** the membership of the Montana Cattlemen's Association to urge the state of Montana to adopt public policies that:

- Protect the rights of farm and ranch families who do not own mineral rights and are facing the prospect of oil, gas and/or CBM development on their land by ensuring that they are given adequate notice of proposed oil and gas leasing and development and are given ample opportunity to negotiate surface damage agreements.

- Require adequate bonding and reclamation of oil, gas and CBM operations that will leave disturbed land in as good or better ecological conditions than prior to entry of infrastructure.
- Ensure there is beneficial use of ground and surface water resources beyond oil, gas and CBM development.

#### **BIOFUELS - 2007**

**WHEREAS** rising fuel costs have adverse effects on all facets of the livestock industry; and

**WHEREAS** the production of alternative fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel demonstrate the potential to reduce fuel costs while providing alternative feeds for cattle;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports incentives to grow oilseed crops and urges the development of biofuel production facilities in Montana.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports research into the emerging technology such as closed loop combination cattle feedlot ethanol production facilities and livestock feed production.

#### **HR 2421 - CLEAN WATER ACT - 2009**

**WHEREAS**, HR 2421 has been proposed to clarify the jurisdiction of the USA regarding the clean water act; and

**WHEREAS**, the resolution as proposed expands the act to include "All" waters of the U.S. and all activities affecting those waters; and

**WHEREAS**, no guidelines or rules regarding that jurisdiction exists and no analysis of the impact of this change has been completed in respect to rivers, streams, and landowners in Montana;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that until this analysis is completed and the impact is determined, MCA opposes passing of this resolution as it is proposed.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES & RURAL OPPORTUNITIES - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, agricultural operations are an important part of our historic and cultural character and an important component of our rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, agricultural operations and ancillary activities have been and are sustainable activities upon which many rural families and communities depend; and

**WHEREAS**, agricultural operations also provide habitat for wildlife and numerous opportunities for other recreational and resource related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving agricultural opportunities and a reliable and consistent land base is important to sustain agricultural operations in Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana Cattlemen's Association desires to adopt a more detailed Natural Resources and Rural Opportunities policy that is not yet completed; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana Cattlemen's Association desires to begin to encourage agriculturalist and local governments to make a difference for the benefit of agriculture and rural communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages producers and others to help local government to adopt the right to farm and ranch ordinances.
2. Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages producers and others to help local government and others to preserve agricultural opportunities upon most lands in Montana.
3. Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages producers to participate in commenting upon management and regulatory actions when they are proposed and before rules or decisions are completed.
4. Montana Cattlemen's Association finds that agriculture is an important part of Montana's history, custom, and culture and finds that agriculture is the practice, process, procedure, science and art of growing, cultivating, and producing food, fiber or other materials for the benefit of society.

**EASEMENTS - 2013**

**WHEREAS**, currently when a landowner grants an easement there is no assurance to the landowner that at the time of decommissioning and/or abandonment of the project, that the operating company will have the financial ability to abide by current government standards or the terms of the easement;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association support for-profit common carriers and assignees shall be required to obtain a performance bond or pay into a fund similar to the Abandoned Mines Fund, to fulfill the obligations of the easement agreement, abandonment and reclamation following abandonment.

**PERFORMANCE BOND FOR EASEMENT AGREEMENTS - 2013**

**WHEREAS**, currently when a landowner grants an easement there is no assurance to the landowner that at the time of decommissioning and/or abandonment of the project, that the operating company will have the financial ability to abide by current government standards or the terms of the easement;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, for-profit common carriers and assignees shall be required to obtain a performance bond or pay into a fund similar to the Abandoned Mines Fund, to fulfill the obligations of the easement agreement, abandonment and reclamation following abandonment.

**ACCESS AGREEMENT - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports legislation requiring for-profit energy and utility companies to obtain an access agreement with affected land owners as a condition precedent to undertaking planning, surveying, or other activities requiring intrusion on landowner's property.

**FAIR MARKET VALUE COMPENSATION - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports legislation to include in the definition of "Fair Market Value" for purposes of condemnation proceedings to include compensation for inconvenience, intrusion, disruption of farm or ranching activities, affect on aesthetic value, quality of life, loss of property values, and all other losses which a landowner might experience by virtue of the proposed taking.



#### **WATER COMPACT - 2013**

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish Kootenai Reservation is an open reservation with fee lands, private property, and water rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal government does not represent fee landowners; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal government is making claim to all waters that are above, under, and run through the reservation, both on and off; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal government has not quantified nor adjudicated this water with the State of Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States government, and the State of Montana have not quantified their water rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the current compact is incomplete and open ended; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not equal representation considered for fee landowners, either tribal or non- tribal; and

**WHEREAS**, the current compact and water use agreement represents a taking of property rights for both tribal and non tribal members;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes this water compact.

#### **WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) - 2016**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes expansion of water quality rules per WOTUS standards.

#### **FENCE OUT PROPOSAL - 2016**

**WHEREAS**, Montana is an open range state;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the regulations adopted by Wheatland County, Montana, which are as follows: Montana is an open range state. The concepts involved with open range are encouraged. The laws outlined in Montana Code Title 81, Chapter 4 (Containment of Livestock) are recognized and the ordinance is not meant to usurp or change those laws. Reference: <http://law.justia.com/codes/montana/2014/title-81/chapter-4/>

#### **TRIBAL MANAGEMENT - 2017**

**WHEREAS** legislation and executive orders to facilitate tribal management of off reservation lands by Tribes is pending; and

**WHEREAS** no discussion of issues regarding tribal employment, participation, or preference has occurred, and no directive to create plans for such management has occurred; and

**WHEREAS** those preferences or plans may affect many agricultural producers and the public due to bid or employment preferences or limited participation in planning; and

**WHEREAS** tribal management does not provide for:

1. Equal participation or management planning;

2. Resource use and/or purchase such as timber sales, mining, or grazing;
3. Payment of taxes to county and state governments;
4. Equal employment opportunity, or unlimited multiple use for agriculture;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association objects to tribal management of land off reservations.

#### **WATER COMPACT PROPOSAL - 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received significant input regarding a Salish Kootenai water compact; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received many comments regarding concerns about the compact proposed by the Montana legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received numerous comments and concerns about the legislation about the proposed federal legislation to implement that compact; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association has received numerous comments regarding alternative compact language or revised compact legislation which encourages discussions regarding adoption, implementation or changes in the proposed CSKT compact;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports continued discussions about a CSKT water compact and legislation to implement, amend, revise or change the compact proposal.

## **STATE & FEDERAL LANDS**

#### **AMERICAN PRAIRIE RIGHT TO GRAZE BISON ON PUBLIC LANDS IN PHILLIPS COUNTY, MONTANA - 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), based on a superficial and inadequate Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-L010-2018-0007-EA), has approved American Prairie's petition to utilize 63,065 acres of public lands in Phillips County to graze bison; and

**WHEREAS**, the BLM:

1. Does not require perimeter fencing adequate to contain bison;
2. Allows the removal of 35.7 miles of cross fencing, destroying approximately \$267,000 of public property;
3. Ignores the danger to the public using those public lands;
4. Ignores the costs and danger to neighboring landowners dealing with stray bison;
5. Allows year round grazing by bison on some allotments, and a change in the turn out date to the first of April on others, with no analysis as to the impacts to the rangelands;
6. Ignores Taylor Grazing Act provisions that does not recognize bison as a species authorized to use BLM administered public lands;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes the granting to the American Prairie the right to use public lands for bison until BLM addresses the issues presented above.

#### **STATE/FEDERAL PERMIT BUYOUT - 2005**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes any federal or state grazing allotment buyout program for non-livestock purposes.

#### **STATE PARTICIPATION IN GRAZING PERMIT REVIEWS - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** Many of our members depend on the public land grazing for their livelihoods; and

**WHEREAS:** Public land grazing permits are periodically reviewed for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance by federal agencies; and

**WHEREAS:** Federal decision makers are required by NEPA to give great weight to the opinion of local governments on matters within their jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS:** The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is often the only state agency who participates in NEPA reviews of grazing permits, language is often inserted into the grazing permits that effectively reduces the forage available to the permit recipient, in favor of forage for wildlife.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MCA requests the state Department of Agriculture to participate in NEPA reviews of grazing permits to insure that the permit recipient's rights are equally represented by the state.

#### **NATIONAL MONUMENTS/LAND REFORM – 2006**

Under the guise of the Antiquities Act, enormous tracts of land are being set aside tying up huge natural resource potential.

**WHEREAS** major movements are underway in federal and state governments and primarily the environmental and conservation communities to acquire permitted allotments allocated to private lands, also referred to as DEPENDENT COMMENSURATE PROPERTY, which is specifically explained in the Taylor Grazing Act; and

**WHEREAS** once acquired, the use and management of those lands and resources will be restricted, through ownership, control or covenant to non-economic purposes; and

**WHEREAS** such change in land use and ownership of the scale now underway represents a major land reform movement in Montana and United States; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association is an organization that stands for and defends the basic concepts of fee holder ownership and private enterprise,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Montana Cattlemen's Association objects to major scale use of the Antiquities Act in the acquisition of private property in the name of conservation or public use.

#### **FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS CONSERVATION STRATEGY - 2009**

**WHEREAS,** Montana FWP has proposed a Conservation Strategy; and

**WHEREAS,** Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has hired a planner and is attempting to implement this strategy locally and regionally; and

**WHEREAS**, the strategy as it is implemented will impact all Montana producers and resource based businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, meaningful input from the public and producers and resource based businesses was not obtained prior to drafting and beginning to implement the strategies, concerns , and issues set forth in the comprehensive conservation strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, public participation in implementation of this strategy is desirable; and

**WHEREAS**, public and producer input and participation is needed in regard to this strategy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that MCA and other groups and individuals should be involved immediately in commenting on and drafting guidelines, rules, or regulations for implementation or amendment of the strategy and/or its concerns, goals, or objectives.

#### **NAVIGABLE STREAM BEDS - 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is developing rules and regulations relating to licensing or permitting structures in navigable stream beds in Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, a program to identify and assert ownership of some stream beds and banks has been implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, these rules and regulations will affect many Montana land owners adjacent to rivers and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association is opposed to the State of Montana taking private property; and

**WHEREAS**, while opposed to the taking of property MCA recognizes the worth of participating in developing the rules and regulations relating to the structures in Montana stream beds; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in developing the rules and regulations may result in rules and regulations that are more beneficial to Montana landowners;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montana Cattlemen's Association participate in developing rules and regulations with the DNRC relating to licensing and permits for structures in Montana's state owned rivers and streams. This participation should at least include:

1. Trying to limit the list of navigable streams to those adjudicated navigable or not titled in adjacent landowners.
2. Granting of easements rather than licenses.
3. Grandfathering existing structures.
4. Creating a fee structure not excessive for landowners.
5. Developing administrative procedures for the state administration of the program.
6. Encouraging participation by other groups in developing the rules and regulations referenced herein.

### **WILDLAND WILDFIRES - 2018**

**WHEREAS** wildfires burn the west on federal and state lands; and

**WHEREAS** the fuels from abundant grass, brush, and insect infestations in excess timber are unmanaged by federal and state agencies; and

**WHEREAS** wildfires create poor air quality and emit carbon dioxide and contribute to global warming; and

**WHEREAS** wildfires cost the state and federal government millions if not billions of dollars annually;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Montana Cattlemen's association encourages livestock grazing and logging to reduce fuels, protect air quality, and promote revenue and economic gain for rural communities.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

### **WOLF MANAGEMENT - 2002**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association requests the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks approve the following:

- That federal monies continue to fund the management of the wolf reintroduction project
- That wolves be treated as trophy animals on public lands
- That wolves be treated as a predator on private lands
- That wolves threatening livestock can be eliminated at the owner's discretion.

### **GRAY WOLF - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** the health, wealth, welfare, and safety of cattle producers in the state of Montana is the responsibility and purpose of the Montana Cattlemen's Association; and

**WHEREAS:** the 2003 Montana Legislature enacted Section 87-1-217MCA (Montana Code Annotated), requiring the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to manage large predators, including gray wolves, with the primary goals being to preserve citizens' opportunities to hunt large game species, to protect humans, livestock, and pets, and to preserve and enhance the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood activities; and

**WHEREAS:** the 2005 Montana Legislature enacted SB 461 which requires collaring of at least one wolf in each pack; and

**WHEREAS:** the 2005 Montana Legislature enacted HJ 29 which urges the Montana Congressional Delegation to seek restitution for Montana citizens who have been damaged by the introduction of gray wolves into Montana; and

**WHEREAS:** the Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan calls for developing a compensation program. A working group of Montana citizens and agencies developed the Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program which has developed a reimbursement program for losses caused by gray wolves. The program does not as yet have a board or source funding; and

**WHEREAS:** recent adoption of the final 10(j) Rule under the Endangered Species Act allows additional steps to protect livestock and dogs from attacks by gray wolves; and

**WHEREAS:** the United States government has delegated the responsibility for the management of gray wolves to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Montana Department of Livestock is authorized to supervise the destruction of predatory animals; and

**WHEREAS:** the gray wolf population has reached the level necessary for gray wolf recovery and delisting; and

**WHEREAS:** neither the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks nor the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is adequately notifying all counties and livestock producers of the location of gray wolves;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association hereby requests the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service immediately initiate a process to notify all counties and livestock producers of the location and movement of gray wolves and provide a 24-hour contact phone number.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association requests the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks aggressively follow the direction of SB 461, an act which requires the attachment of a radio-tracking collar to at least one gray wolf in each pack.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association do hereby acknowledge gray wolves are a predator species in need of management in Montana.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association requests that Congress and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to expedite the process to de-list, relegate management authority, and provide full funding to Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Montana Department of Livestock.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association requests the Governor of Montana to appoint a Board of Livestock Loss Reduction and Gray Wolf Damage Mitigation to implement the program and be funded with Federal monies.

#### **SAGE GROUSE - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** Sage Grouse have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act; and

**WHEREAS:** All other states with Sage Grouse have appropriately and prudently acted in reducing the threat to the bird; and

**WHEREAS:** There exists genuine concern by Montana ranchers regarding the future of the Sage Grouse; and

**WHEREAS:** Ranchers have the opportunity and the desire to protect and conserve the Sage Grouse.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association urges Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks shorten the Sage Grouse season to two weeks and a daily bag limit of one bird and with a possession limit of two birds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association requests Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to address the incompatibility of hunting a species that is petitioned to be listed as an endangered species.

#### **BISON - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** The bison in Yellowstone National Park are largely infected with brucellosis; and

**WHEREAS:** The state of Montana has worked extensively to first eradicate brucellosis from our state's cattle herd, and second, to keep our herds from being re-infected; and

**WHEREAS:** Due to the overpopulation of bison in Yellowstone National Park the bison are being pressured to range on private and federal land in Montana; and

**WHEREAS:** The National Park Service and National Fish and Wildlife Service will not control the spread of brucellosis in Yellowstone National Park's bison; and

**WHEREAS:** The National Park Service and National Fish and Wildlife Service will not control the bison population growth in Yellowstone National Park.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the establishment of a fair chase bison hunt in Montana; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association supports hunting bison on lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park to reduce the bison population; in order to maintain herds in Yellowstone National Park boundaries within its carrying capacity, as reviewed by accredited range specialists; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Montana Cattlemen's Association advises the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, along with the National Park Service and National Fish and Wildlife Service to diligently work to keep infected bison out of Montana and to eradicate brucellosis from Yellowstone National Park's bison herd.

#### **ELK – 2005**

**WHEREAS:** Elk are free ranging creatures that do not respect property lines. And they are the property of the state of Montana, and its citizens, under the management of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and

**WHEREAS:** The land owner and Federal allotment owner are adversely affected by the increasing numbers of Elk, without compensation to the landowner; and

**WHEREAS:** Increased pressure is put on the range by the current Elk population forcing undue pressure on the existing demand to private cattle operations; and

**WHEREAS:** Proper range management benefits both the ranch and the wildlife. Appropriate action is needed to manage the range to its proper grazing capacity, ensuring that existing grazing rights are maintained.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to issue a sufficient amount of hunting permits to reduce the Elk numbers.

#### **WINTER FEEDING OF ELK AND BRUCELLOSIS - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** Our natural landscape in the Greater Yellowstone region is treasured by our residents and by many people around the world; and

**WHEREAS:** Healthy livestock and healthy vibrant wildlife is an essential part of our regional economy and our quality of life; and

**WHEREAS:** The control of disease in wildlife and livestock is beneficial to all; and

**WHEREAS:** The practice of winter feeding of wild elk by Wyoming, Idaho, and the Federal Government has been scientifically proven several times to increase the risk of serious disease, specifically Brucellosis; and

**WHEREAS:** There has been a recent alarming rise in Brucellosis seropositives of the Madison River elk herd in Montana probably caused by migrating elk from these winter feed grounds; and

**WHEREAS:** Any hope of eliminating brucellosis in the wild bison of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks is dependent on eliminating Brucellosis in winter-fed elk; and

**WHEREAS:** Wyoming has now lost its Brucellosis free status while Idaho is under threat of losing it's free status as a direct result of exposure of cattle to brucellosis infected feedground elk.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association favors a commitment by the above three government entities to eventually phase out winter feeding of elk.

#### **WILDLIFE RESOLUTION - 2005**

**WHEREAS:** The state of Montana claims ownership of wildlife; and

**WHEREAS:** The recent exponential increase in ungulate wildlife is imposing significant hardship on domestic livestock producers who make their livings by harvesting the forage their land produces; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States Constitution requires that the government cannot take private property without just compensation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That MCA request the governor to recommend legislation that will enable the State to compensate landowners who make their living by harvesting the forage their land produces.

#### **GREATER YELLOWSTONE BISON RESOLUTION – 2006**

**WHEREAS** wild bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) are known to be infected with *Brucella abortus*; and

**WHEREAS** transmission of brucellosis from infected bison and elk to cattle has been well documented; and

**WHEREAS** when infected elk or bison are in close contact with cattle or share common landscapes, the potential for transmission exists.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** until such time as *Brucella abortus* has been eliminated from the bison and elk populations from the GYA, the Montana Cattlemen's Association strongly supports all efforts to reduce the commingling of wild elk or bison with cattle in the GYA whenever possible through temporal and spatial separation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** when commingling cannot be avoided, the Montana Cattlemen's Association strongly supports quarantine of the exposed cattle herd until herd testing and epidemiological investigation indicates the herd presents no evidence of brucellosis infection.



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** if these recommendations are not implemented, the Western States Livestock Health Association may consider additional requirements and sanctions upon the GYA states (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming).

#### **HUNTING AND TRAPPING RESOLUTION - 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the livestock industry seeks management of predator and furbearing populations; and

**WHEREAS**, hunting, trapping, and fishing and the harvest of wild animals, birds, and fish are a valued part of Montana's heritage;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports hunting, trapping, and fishing as a valid management tool to control and manage wildlife and preserve Montana's harvest heritage.

#### **WILDLIFE RESOURCES - 2010**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, as a means to control wildlife resources, Montana Cattlemen's Association proposes a change to the Montana deer hunting season regulations so that the first three weeks allow for either sex hunting and the last two weeks for antlerless hunting only.

#### **WEED CONTROL - 2010**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, as a means for weed control, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports that Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regulations request a receipt or acknowledgement that at least the underside of all vehicles be washed before hunting is permitted.

#### **WILDLIFE TESTING FOR BRUCELLOSIS - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, elk and other wildlife can or will be the carriers of Brucellosis and it is a wildlife disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the livestock industry has suffered testing requirements and regulation within the designated surveillance area;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Fish, Wildlife, and Parks be mandated to test at least one elk or other specie suspected of being a Brucellosis carrier for every head of livestock so tested.

#### **PREDATOR CONTROL - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Board of Livestock allocates a portion of its budget, including funds from livestock per capita fees, to predator control; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of predator control have increased and the problem has escalated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Board of Livestock over time has decreased the percentage of its funding that goes to predator control; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing this funding and obtaining additional funds from other sources would be helpful in increasing predator control efforts and would benefit Montana producers impacted by predators as well as Montana wildlife populations;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages the Montana Board of Livestock to increase funding and efforts for predator control and requests the Montana Board of Livestock to solicit funding and aid from other agencies and sources including, but not limited to, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and US Fish and Wildlife Services.

#### **BISON - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes wild bison in Montana outside of Yellowstone National Park.

#### **MONTANA LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD—Grizzly Bear - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the inclusion of grizzly bear depredation under the Montana Livestock Loss Board jurisdiction.

#### **MONTANA LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD—Funding - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports funding of the Montana Livestock Loss Board through the Montana State General fund.

#### **GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING - 2013**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports delisting of the Grizzly bear.

#### **BISON - 2013**

**WHEREAS**, there is an overpopulation of bison in the Yellowstone National Park;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association urges all signatories to the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) to work toward reducing the bison herd to the target number as previously agreed upon.

## **ORGANIZATION**

#### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2002**

**BE IT RESOLVED**: the present officers and directors of the Montana Cattlemen's Association shall serve for one more year on a rotating basis and the current board shall appoint a nominating committee to present nominations at next year's annual meeting.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS – 2004**

**BE IT RESOLVED**: Montana Cattlemen's Association explore low cost means to broaden its public relations outreach.

#### **CATTLE COALITION - 2005**

**WHEREAS**: Montana Cattlemen's Association appreciates the Montana Farmers Union's recent vote to work closer with MCA.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**: MCA looks forward to working with MFU on unifying issues of importance to Montana cattle producers along with other supportive organizations.

#### **MONTANA LAND RELIANCE – 2006**

**WHEREAS** the Montana Cattlemen's Association recognizes that conservation easements are one tool available for land conservation; and

**WHEREAS** the Montana Land Reliance has agriculture conservation as part of its mission statement; and

**WHEREAS** the Montana Land Reliance supports the Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association recognizes the Montana Land Reliance as an agriculture friendly land trust and that the Montana Land Reliance will, upon request, provide assistance, education, and information on land conservation to any member of the Montana Cattlemen's Association.

**AFFILIATION WITH MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION - 2006**

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages all cattle producers and like-minded organizations to become involved in the process of strengthening the interests of Montana cattle producers; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association understands there is strength in numbers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Montana Cattlemen's Association gladly accepts local and county cattle producer organizations and like-minded groups as affiliate members under the following conditions:

- 1) Affiliates pay annual dues of \$50.00.
- 2) Montana Cattlemen's Association will provide a director, officer, committee chair or staff member to all affiliates midyear and annual meetings for updates on Montana Cattlemen's Association.
- 3) Montana Cattlemen's Association will provide a complimentary registration to its midyear and annual convention to one person from each affiliate.
- 4) Any resolution that an affiliate organization presents to an Montana Cattlemen's Association officer or director will be presented to the Montana Cattlemen's Association membership for a vote at the next membership meeting.
- 5) With approval of the Montana Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors.

**AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS - 2006**

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association realizes that there are limits to what a state organization can accomplish at a national level; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association would like to support and affiliate with national organizations whose agenda is similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Montana Cattlemen's Association affiliate with national organizations under the following conditions:

- 1) The affiliation is approved every year by a membership vote.
- 2) The mission statement and goals of the national organization do not conflict with Montana Cattlemen's Association's mission statement or policy.
- 3) The national organization supports Montana Cattlemen's Association through recognition and support of statewide issues.

**AFFILIATION WITH USCA – 2007**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association.

#### **FIRE COMMUNICATION – 2007**

**WHEREAS** during the 2006 season there were numerous fires with poor communication between the stakeholders;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Montana Cattlemen's Association work with BLM, USFS, and DNRC to open lines of communication to more closely work with local departments and area landowners to more effectively control fires.

#### **MEMBERSHIP - 2008**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, membership in Montana Cattlemen's shall constitute the following criteria:

Persons, businesses, ranching operations, or organizations that contribute cash, donations, in-kind aid, or otherwise support Montana Cattlemen in an amount of \$40 or more shall be given a one-year membership. For college students and children under 18 years of age, the membership rate shall be \$25 per year.

Membership may be paid per year or in increments to be disbursed over the lifetime of the contribution, provided the contribution level is a minimum of \$40 per year.

#### **MEMBERSHIP - 2009**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, due to the current economic state, MCA will temporarily reduce dues to \$20 to make it more affordable for members.

#### **AFFILIATION WITH USCA - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, Montana Cattlemen's Association policy requires that affiliation with national organizations be approved every year by membership vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Cattlemen's Association policy and agenda are similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should re-affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association through 2010.

#### **AFFILIATION WITH USCA - 2013**

**WHEREAS**, Montana Cattlemen's Association policy requires that affiliation with national organizations be approved every year by membership vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Cattlemen's Association policy and agenda are similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should re-affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association through 2014.

#### **AFFILIATION WITH USCA - 2016**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Cattlemen's Association policy and agenda are similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should re-affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association through 2016.

#### **AFFILIATION WITH USCA - 2017**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Cattlemen's Association policy and agenda are similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should re-affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association through 2017.

#### **ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS - 2018**

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association realizes that there are limits to what a single state organization can accomplish at a state and national level; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association would like to support and cooperate with state and national organizations whose agenda and issues are similar to that of the Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Montana Cattlemen's Association cooperate with state and national organizations under the following conditions:

- 1) The mission statement and policy goals of the state or national organization do not conflict with the Montana Cattlemen's Association mission statement or policy; and
- 2) The collaboration is reviewed and voted on by the Montana Cattlemen's Association board of directors.

#### **AFFILIATION WITH USCA - 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Cattlemen's Association policy and agenda are similar to that of Montana Cattlemen's Association;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association should re-affiliate with the United States Cattlemen's Association through 2018.

## **MARKETING**

#### **MONTANA COOL RESOLUTION - 2004**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that Montana Cattlemen's Association supports a Montana Country-of-Origin Labeling law.

#### **SUPPORT THE CAPTIVE SUPPLY REFORM ACT AND BAN ON PACKER OWNERSHIP - 2004**

**WHEREAS:** the economic well being and profitability of Montana's livestock production industry depends on ranchers receiving an honest and competitive price at the terminal or slaughter cattle market; and

**WHEREAS:** the concentrated purchasing power of a handful of meatpacking firms creates a dysfunctional market characterized by an absence of competition and control of fat cattle supplies by meat packing firms; and

**WHEREAS:** meatpacking firms artificially depress the price paid to U.S. ranchers through the use of cattle they either own or control through forward contracts –known as “captive supplies”; and

**WHEREAS:** the Captive Supply Reform Act, sponsored by Senator Mike Enzi, would require a fixed base price in marketing contracts and require that all cattle be bid in an open and public manner; and

**WHEREAS:** the Ban on Packer Ownership sponsored by Senator Chuck Grassley, would prevent packers from owning cattle for over seven days prior to slaughter.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the Captive Supply Reform Act and Ban on Packer Ownership and encourages Representative Denny Rehberg, Senator Conrad Burns, and Senator Max Baucus to support restoration of market competition to the livestock industry by co-sponsoring the House and Senate versions of these bills.

#### **SUPPORT NLMA AND WORC IN BEEF CHECKOFF SUIT – 2004**

**WHEREAS:** the National Livestock Market Association, and the Western Organization of Resource Councils have filed and pursued a law suit challenging the constitutionality of the Beef Research and Promotion Act of 1986. Said suit now set for hearing before the Supreme Court of the United States, and

**WHEREAS:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association perceives that the original intent and purpose of this act has been subverted by the Cattlemen's Beef Board, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to the point where the act no longer serves the needs of the American Cattle producer, and in fact appears to have become an improper source of funding for the NCBA; and

**WHEREAS:** the NLMA and WORC have borne the expense and stress of this action on behalf of the production sector of our industry.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Directors of the Montana Cattlemen's Association be authorized to take such action as they deem necessary and appropriate to provide aid and support to the two above named organizations in their efforts in this issue.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association delegation to R-CALF USA informs that organization of our action here and request that R-CALF USA join us in extending their support to the above named action.

#### **BEEF CHECK-OFF – 2005**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association will lead a nationwide referendum to amend the National Beef Promotion Act to make such Acts responsive to grassroots family cattle producers. This is NOT an effort to kill the program, but rather an effort to make the program better. Specifically, MCA is suggesting the check-off program be amended to include the following:

1. Check-off dollars be used to promote only USA beef from cattle born, raised, and processed in the United States of America.
2. A periodic vote on the check-off program (every five years)
3. Prohibit any one cattle organization from serving as the "prime contractor" for the program, but allow all cattle organizations to participate in approved projects on a case-by-case basis.
4. Reform the National Beef Board to reflect proportional representation from all national cattle organizations.
5. Allow for check-off expenditures to protect USA beef and cattle from unfair trade practices and to protect the U.S. cattle herd from import practices which threaten cattle herd health and beef consumers.
6. Allow check-off expenditures to promote branded products from small and large packing entities.
7. Provide that 70% of all funds collected remain in the state where collected, and 30% to the National Beef Board.

8. Provide an exemption for producers contributing equal or greater funds into a private sector self help effort.

#### **BEEF CHECK-OFF #2 - 2005**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages legislation that prohibits any Anti-U.S. cattle groups from being a contract agent of the federally mandated check-off. Said groups include organizations that oppose trade investigations into trade practices that negatively affect U.S. cattle producers or oppose Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL), or that support liberalization of import standards below internationally practiced standards.

#### **BEEF CHECKOFF RESOLUTIONS – 2006**

**Resolution #1: BE IT RESOLVED** Montana Cattlemen's Association opposes the beef checkoff increase to \$2 per head. Further, 50¢ of the current \$1 assessment must stay in Montana.

**Resolution #2: BE IT RESOLVED** Montana Cattlemen's Association agrees that changing the Federation of State Beef Council's name to the Beef Checkoff Federation is a step in the right direction. But to truly enhance its identity the council needs to be a stand alone organization with its only intent being directing the spending of Checkoff funds in a manner consistent with the Act and Order, completely severing ties with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, except as a contractor with no greater weight than any other contractor.

#### **INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE INSPECTED MEAT - 2006**

A resolution from the Montana Cattlemen's Association urging the Congressional Delegation of the State of Montana to work to support H.R. 6130, a bill to create the "New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act", and the companion bill S. 3519. If enacted, these two pieces of legislation will allow for interstate sales of state-inspected meat products.

**WHEREAS** agricultural producers in the United States are subject to stringent food safety and inspection laws; and

**WHEREAS** 1967 and 1968 Meat and Poultry Acts prohibit state-inspected beef, poultry, pork, lamb, and goat from being sold across state lines, while allowing the interstate sales of "non-amenable" products such as venison, pheasant, and rabbit; and

**WHEREAS** currently, Montana operates under an "equal-to" inspection system where state inspectors use federal guidelines in inspecting meat products to ensure food safety; and

**WHEREAS** under the Talmage-Aiken Act of 1962 there are cooperative agreements in 10 states where state inspectors are allowed to carry out federal inspection duties in 258 plants; and

**WHEREAS** interstate meat shipments would allow small, rural packing facilities to compete in larger niche markets thereby creating competition by providing Montana's cattle producers alternative markets for their products; and

**WHEREAS** the membership of Montana Cattlemen's Association believes that differentiating their product provides an essential tool to maintain profitability in the cattle industry,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the membership of the Montana Cattlemen's Association urges the Congressional Delegation of state of Montana to work to pass H.R. 6130 and S. 3519 thereby allowing state-inspected meat products to be sold across state lines.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT ESTABLISHING  
CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (AFO) AND  
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO) RULES - 2006**

**WHEREAS** rules are in place for Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO); and

**WHEREAS** rules are enforced in an inconsistent manner; and

**WHEREAS** agencies are subjective in their interpretation of rules; and

**WHEREAS** operations can be found compliant one year and noncompliant the next; and

**WHEREAS** producers are hesitant to come forward due to the inconsistencies in the application of AFO/CAFO rules;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that rules need to be consistent and once compliance is reached, further rules will not be enforced on the AFO or CAFO.

**MEAT TRACEBACK BILL - 2009**

**WHEREAS**, it is essential in the public interest that the health and welfare of consumers be protected by assuring that meat and meat food products distributed to them are wholesome and not adulterated and/or contaminated; and

**WHEREAS**, it is equally important that federal meat inspection programs identify all sources, including the slaughterhouse source, of original adulteration and/or contamination of bacteriological matter in meat;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports proposed legislation to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to enable and require tracing of meat adulteration and/or contamination by enteric food-borne pathogens to the source.

**BEEF CHECKOFF RESOLUTION – 2012**

**WHEREAS**, the Beef Checkoff program is funded by farmers and ranchers nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, checkoff funds are intended for research about and promotion of beef; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) has received significant checkoff funding from numerous sources, including beef; and

**WHEREAS**, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit is in progress regarding checkoff monies; and

**WHEREAS**, USFRA may be spending monies from the beef checkoff inappropriately; and

**WHEREAS**, a determination about expenditures of beef checkoff monies is not possible until the audit is completed;



**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Montana Cattlemen's Association supports:

- a. Completing the GAO audit as soon as possible;
- b. Determining if USFRA is spending money inappropriately;
- c. Not spending additional beef checkoff monies until the audit and the determination of how to expend the money is completed.

#### **MONTANA CERTIFIED NATURAL BEEF - 2018**

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association helped author and pass legislation for a certified natural and/or grass fed program in Montana; and

**WHEREAS** that legislation passed over the opposition of the Montana Stockgrowers Association; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Cattlemen's Association has access to the business name "Montana Certified Natural Beef"; and

**WHEREAS** Montana Stockgrowers Association has completed a program for selling natural Montana beef to China and utilizing this business name may be helpful;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Montana Cattlemen's Association will license use of this business name to Montana Stockgrowers or others selling products to China, or other countries, for a sum of 50¢ per head with monies going to the Agriculture in Montana Schools program.

#### **LABELING OF MEAT - 2020**

**WHEREAS**, Congress in 2015 removed the requirement of mandatory country of origin labeling exclusively for beef and pork products and

**WHEREAS**, America's consumers are fraudulently offered imported meat products labeled "Product of USA." and

**WHEREAS**, America's consumers overwhelmingly support their right to know and deserve the right to choose the country of origin of their beef and pork purchases and.

**WHEREAS**, America's cattle and hog producers deserve the right to market their livestock in a free, transparent, and competitive market and

**WHEREAS**, Montana Cattleman's Association has supported and continues to support county of origin labeling for beef and pork products in America,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports the restoration of mandatory country of origin labeling that delineates where the animal was born, raised, and processed.

## **EDUCATION – TAXATION – LEGISLATION**

#### **SHORTAGE OF FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIAN GRADUATES – 2003**

**WHEREAS**: there is a significant shortfall in the number of food animal veterinarian graduates to service the livestock production areas of the United States, and

**WHEREAS**: livestock producers rely on their local veterinarians for guidance to insure food and product safety, herd management and disease control, and

**WHEREAS:** animal welfare issues and the increasing public scrutiny of humane care and management of livestock is often closely related to emergency veterinary attention, and

**WHEREAS:** the physical nature of the work as well as accrued indebtedness tends to divert many capable graduate veterinarians away from food animal practice, and

**WHEREAS:** the increased complexity of pharmaceutical and biological product use requires veterinarian supervision, and

**WHEREAS:** veterinarian practice can involve long travel distances and extended absence from their clinic in rural areas, a demand for multi-veterinarian staffed clinics is created.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the Montana Cattlemen's Association encourages colleges of Veterinary Medicine to vigorously pursue recruiting and training students with the aptitude and desire to fill the increasing void of food animal veterinarians.

#### **ESTATE TAX - 2010**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports exempting the first \$10,000,000 on individual estate valuation and \$20,000,000 for couples, and supports limiting the tax on all estates above the exemption amount to 35% of any such value. The heirs receiving the estate under this exemption shall do so on a stepped up valuation for tax purposes.

#### **PER CAPITA COLLECTION - 2010**

**WHEREAS,** all livestock owners are required to pay the livestock per capita fee; and

**WHEREAS,** per capita fees are not being paid by all livestock owners as some are not aware of the livestock per capita fee; and

**WHEREAS,** per capita fees are used for monitoring and control of animal diseases and for predator control; and

**WHEREAS** those livestock owners who do not pay the livestock per capita fees places an unfair burden on the remainder of the livestock owners with these costs;

**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED,** the Montana Cattlemen's Association ask the Montana Department of Livestock and the Montana Department of Revenue to work to educate all livestock owners on the requirement and the benefits of paying the livestock per capita fee. This could be done through individual owner associations, brand inspectors, and veterinarians in the State of Montana.

#### **STATE BUDGETS - 2019**

**WHEREAS,** Montana Cattlemen's Association is aware state budgets are stretched; and

**WHEREAS,** four departments of state government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks affect Montana agriculture;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports retention of the budgets and services provided by these departments of State government as they impact Montana agriculture significantly.

**TIME DESIGNATION - 2021**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports a resolution in the 2021 Montana Legislative Session to designate the hours of 12 o'clock either "Noon" or "Midnight" as official time in Montana to avoid the confusion of AM or PM.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

**GREEN HOUSE EMISSIONS - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, MCA is aware of discussions and legislation regarding climate change, cap and trade, greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon dioxide; and

**WHEREAS**, MCA is aware that impacts to agricultural producers from such legislation could be very significant; and

**WHEREAS**, MCA desires that legislation and or research regarding these issues be conducted or implemented in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts on agricultural producers, which can be accomplished utilizing local government entities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, MCA supports administration and/or implementation of any such legislation or research be by the USDA, in a manner consistent with the soil and water conservation act and rural conservation act, as set forth herein:

**SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION ACT**

16 U.S.C. Section 2003 (b)

"Recognizing that the arrangements under which the federal government cooperates through conservation districts with other local units of government and land users have effectively aided in the protection and improvement of the nation's basic resources, it is declared to be the policy of the United States that these arrangements and similar cooperative arrangements should be utilized to the fullest extent practicable."

**RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACT**

16 U.S.C. Section 1508

"The Secretary [of Agriculture] shall, in addition to appropriate coordination with other interested federal, state, and local agencies, utilize the services of local, county, and state soil conservation committees."

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1981**

16 U.S.C. Section 3411 (5)

Congress finds solutions to "chronic erosion-related problems should be designated to address the local, social, economic, environmental, and other conditions unique to the area involved to ensure that the goals and policies of the federal government are effectively integrated with the concerns of the local community..."

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS- 2017**

**WHEREAS** the Columbia River Basin Plan and EIS (Environmental Impact Statements) and the Missouri River Basin Plan and EIS document are works in progress; and

**WHEREAS** these plans and EIS documents affect agriculture, irrigation, and local tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS** legislation is pending regarding PILT (Payment in lieu of taxes) or other monies to offset trust land Designations or habitat mitigation lands designation, both of which reduce or eliminate local tax revenue;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association supports producer and local government participation in those Environmental Impact Statements, planning, and legislative documents to facilitate less impact upon local producers and local tax revenue.

## **PRIVACY ISSUES - 2010**

**WHEREAS**, the right of privacy concerning business transactions of ranchers should be protected;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montana Cattlemen's Association requests that the Montana Board of Livestock not disclose any official documents or business transactions to any third party. Such information is privileged and the Montana Board of Livestock should respect that privacy.

**NOTES:**
