

MONTANA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Policy Book

Updated January 2010

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Updated June 2009

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 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 calfhooed vaccinated for brucellosis.

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 waved 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.

STATE & FEDERAL LANDS

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.