

**MCA POLICY**  
*As Adopted by the Membership*  
*Effective January 2010*

**AG POLICY**

AGP-1

**Renewed 2009                    EFFLUENT RUNOFF LIMITATIONS**

WHEREAS, federal guidelines are unacceptable to most beef cattle operations; and,

WHEREAS, implementing these guidelines may cause economic hardships that force producers out of business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA address the issue of animal effluent guidelines, regulations and legislation as one of its highest priorities using the following guidelines:

1. Pasture based operations are exempt
2. Impaired Watershed/ Critical Watershed listings not be the sole purpose for inclusion as a CAFO
3. Guidelines and regulations will not prevent streams or other natural water sources being used by livestock for drinking
4. Provisions for producer control and implementation will be included in any regulations or legislation regardless of the implementing agency.

AGP-2

**Renewed 2009                    STREAM CONTAMINATION CLASSIFICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the classification of streams will be determined by Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL's) of nutrients as well as contaminants; and,

WHEREAS, those classifications may severely restrict the normal use of the streams and the adjacent property; and,

WHEREAS, current technology allows for the identification of loading sources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA work to ensure that specific and accurate sources of loading be identified to ensure that the appropriate response be taken;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that classification of streams as "impaired or sensitive" not be designated without full use of current technology and an accurate definition, of the reason for classification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no stream or stream segment would be classified as impaired without an economic impact analysis on behalf of the landowner.

AGP-3

**Renewed 2009                    INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

WHEREAS, international trade is vital to the future profitability of all segments of the cattle industry; and,

WHEREAS, MCA believes that supply and demand economics should be maintained; and,

WHEREAS, international trade agreements are now negotiated by the President of the United States through authority of the Congress;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA believes it is crucial to negotiate foreign trade agreements in a timely manner; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA urge the leadership of the United States to negotiate trade agreements that are fair and equitable to Missouri producers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA believes the Executive branch of government should have the authority to negotiate foreign trade agreements on our behalf.

AGP-4

**Renewed 2009                    MARKETING**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes that the nation and the beef industry are best served by the capitalistic competitive free market system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports efforts to maximize market opportunities and provide unrestricted access to markets for beef producers.

AGP-5

**Renewed 2009                    INTRODUCTION OF WILD ELK**

WHEREAS, cattlemen are the principal owners of land in the state of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, those lands support the bulk of Missouri's wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, the introduction of non-domesticated elk may pose a significant animal health risk to Missouri's livestock industry; and,

WHEREAS, elk are grazing animals that upon their introduction to an area are known to cause significant damage to forage pastures, crops and hay stores;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA oppose the introduction of wild elk into the state of Missouri; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA work to establish animal health guidelines for elk in Missouri.

AGP-6

**Renewed 2008                    FEEDING OF POULTRY LITTER**

WHEREAS, poultry litter is a by-product occasionally fed to beef cattle; and,

WHEREAS, the scientific community assures that feeding this by-product is safe, research indicates such practice is perceived negatively by consumers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association discourages the use of poultry litter in beef cattle rations.

AGP-8

**Renewed 2008 CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Commission is in the process of reviewing rules and regulations that may affect livestock operations in Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, some regulations can be devastating to cattlemen of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, there is limited scientific evidence to base any new or additional regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes that before any economic hardship be imposed on producers, definitive scientific research supporting such actions be completed.

AGP-9

**Amended 2008 TOPEKA SHINER**

WHEREAS, Environmentalist have asked that the Topeka Shiner be put on the endangered species list. The Shiner is on the Missouri Department of Conservation concerned species list, and is wanted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources and the Missouri University Extension; and,

WHEREAS, the Topeka Shiner is on the Missouri Endangered Species List and;

WHEREAS, this has been a detriment to agriculture in the Missouri River Basin.

WHEREAS, the placement of the Topeka Shiner on the endangered species list would devastate agriculture in certain counties in Missouri where agriculture would not be able to use fertilizer or pesticides. It would also stop urban development in some counties; and,

WHEREAS, this fish has no known value, except as bait for fishing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we ask that the Topeka Shiner not be put on the endangered species list.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the MCA support the removal of the Topeka Shiner from the Missouri Endangered Species List.

AGP-10

**Amended 2006 ETHANOL**

WHEREAS, an ethanol fuel has been proven to be a clean, reliable, renewable energy source

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA encourage the purchase and use of flexible fuel vehicles by government entities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Ag Related Entities be eligible for all state tax credit programs.

AGP-12

**Renewed 2009 LOCAL COUNTY RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, a movement is in place to regulate livestock production through means of county ordinance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA oppose any local regulations that restrict livestock production more severely than current Class 1A DNR regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA oppose efforts to remove agriculture exemptions from Missouri countywide planning and zoning laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA oppose odor regulation being implemented in the state of Missouri.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if regulations are imposed that regulations will be based on objective scientific measurements.

AGP-13

**Amended 2006 INDEPENDENT FAMILY FARM OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, the family farm has been the most reliable in the production of agricultural commodities, while the cattle industry in Missouri contributes a significant impact to our economy and communities; and,

WHEREAS, it is widely held and strongly believed fairness of laws should apply to everyone and no one area of the state should hold an unfair economic advantage over another; and,

WHEREAS, corporate farming can be comprised of family members deriving a minimum of two-thirds income from farming; and,

WHEREAS, it is important that Missouri not be placed at an economic disadvantage to adjacent states and unnecessary restrictions should not be placed on family farm corporations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA support fair and equitable laws for all Ag corporate entities including marketing, production and processing groups comprised of independent producers smaller than Class 1A as defined by present DNR regulation; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these producers receive no financial incentives unavailable to the independent producers.

AGP-14

**Amended 2006 INSPECTION & PERMITS ON FARM TRUCKS**

WHEREAS, on some farm trucks that have a state safety inspection may also require a federal inspection.

WHEREAS, farm trucks hauling their own agriculture products are necessary for the timely movement of their commodities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA favor the elimination of all special permits, use taxes, and State Inspections on these vehicles.

AGP-17

**Renewed 2009                      RIGHT TO FARM**

WHEREAS, the Missouri "Right to Farm Law", was designed to protect agricultural operations from nuisance liability; and,  
WHEREAS, the Right to Farm Law fails to protect agricultural operations as related to prior-existing neighbors, changes in farm operations and provide recovery of defense expenses; and,

WHEREAS, Agricultural operations are coming under ever increasing judicial scrutiny of allegations of nuisance liability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattleman's Association supports legislation to amend the existing Right to Farm Law as follows:

1. Remove the "changed conditions in the locality" requirement of the statute thereby barring prior-existing neighboring agricultural and non-agricultural residents from bringing nuisance lawsuits and;
2. Provide protection for a change in the farming operations, thereby allowing a change in the agricultural operation without a forfeiture of the right-to-farm protection of the statute and;
3. By the addition of a provision for the successful, defendant-farmer to recover reasonable defense expenses incurred while defending himself in a nuisance action and;
4. Protected "farming operation" status is assignable, inalienable and inheritable. For example, a farm buyer can step into the "protected shoes" of his seller, as can heirs and donors. The new owner would still be required to comply with all environmental regulations and statues, as was the previous owner.

AGP-18

**Renewed 2009                      PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the United States Government, the Department of Natural resources, and the Department of Conservation have lost sight as to the amount of land that should be owned by these entities; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Government now own 7.64% of the land n Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, the United States of America were founded on the right of the people to own the land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports an indefinite moratorium on the "purchase on demand" of land, and a moratorium on the governing of private land within the state of Missouri for use as parks, monuments, rails for trail or preserves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports the use of prairie preserves by the production agriculture sector for the grazing of cattle, resulting in a more ecologically sound management practice than the hay and burn practices now used.

AGP-19

**Amended 2007                      FARM BILL**

WHEREAS, government programs have a definite impact on agriculture, including the cattle industry, which is not currently included in the present farm program; and,

WHEREAS, MCA members would benefit most from government assistance in the development of new markets

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports the following principals, as long as private property rights are preserved and protected:

1. Export Enhancement Program (EEP) and Market Enhancement Program (MEP): MCA encourages improvement and growth in new marketing in order to make the United States a reliable source of agricultural products to the world.
2. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Highly Erodable Land (HEL) programs and their voluntary participation when addressing environmental issues.
3. Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Wetland Conservation-Swampbuster (WC) programs and the opportunity they provide for farmers to participate in a non-mandatory fashion.
4. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): MCA supports the current program as long as an equitable balance can be maintained between government assistance and the free market based economy.
5. Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR) and the principals of more flexibility, and fewer restrictions in order to participate in the program (farmer friendly)

AND WHEREAS, the beef cattle industry is the largest segment of agriculture in the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support policies which will place agriculture in a more market oriented system, allowing the market place, rather than the government, to determine a producers production decisions, thereby allowing the laws of supply and demand to determine commodity prices

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA believes cattle producers should be given their individual choice to participate in the grass reserve program.

AGP-21

**Renewed 2009 (Revisit in 2010)                      HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM**

WHEREAS, affordable health care is an important issue to cattle producers and their families; and,

WHEREAS, health care emphasis is moving from critical care to primary care and prevention; and,

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers are considered as small business operators; and,

WHEREAS, rural areas are typically under-served;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports affordable, adequate health care in rural areas by participating in the process of health care system reform; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports financing the reforms primarily through savings and efficiencies; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal and state legislation allow self employed people to have a full deduction of health insurance and medical bills for self-insured and partially insured individuals.

AGP-22

**Amended 2008 EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET ASSISTANTS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the US Agriculture Policy authorizes the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) for the purposes of making U.S. Commodities more competitive in the world marketplace and to offset the effects of unfair trade practices or subsidies; and,

WHEREAS, the act authorizes the Market Promotion Program (MPP) for the purpose of helping trade promotion organizations develop overseas markets, especially where the U.S. Encounters unfair trade practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association endorses and solicits the use of the EEP and MPP for the purposes of beef market expansion and development. Eligibility of EEP funds should be based on the:

1. Targeting of countries where U.S. market share is declining because of subsidized competition.
2. The long-term objective of creating commercial markets free of subsidies.
3. Minimal effects on foreign exporters who are not subsidized.
4. Long term market development benefits exceeding costs.

AGP-23

**Renewed 2008 SUNSHINE LAW**

WHEREAS, the Sunshine Law which insures open discussions and information of public meetings; and,

WHEREAS, governmental agencies are established to serve the public and have recently changed to the opposite;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sunshine Law be amended to:

1. Court action be initiated in counties where the infraction occurred.
2. That if the agency is found guilty, they bear all judicial cost.

AGP-24

**Renewed 2008 OSHA**

WHEREAS, the OSHA Reform Act of 1992 will cause undue burdens on the Ag community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports the continuation of agriculture exemption of this act.

AGP-25

**Renewed 2006 TOXIC WASTE**

WHEREAS, isolated cattlemen don't have an effective voice in the future of their community; and,

WHEREAS, large businesses entities accomplish great tasks with political influence and financial backing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the cattlemen of Missouri should speak with a unified voice concerning unwanted toxic waste dumps located in their areas because it is the location site with the least public resistance.

AGP-26

**Amended 2006 RURAL FIRE PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the rural voter is overwhelmed by metropolitan numbers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it should be the right of citizens in rural communities to determine whether they will be served by local membership/volunteer fire departments or tax supported fire districts.

AGP-27

**Amended 2006 OVER WIDTH LOADS**

WHEREAS, the modern changes in hay baling and hauling have created drastic changes from older methods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that legislation continue to allow truck and trailers to haul over width loads such as big bales from fields to storage areas on public highways, during daylight hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support the American Trucking Assn. in their efforts to standardize truck lengths and weights for vehicles used on federal, state, county public roads, that are constructed with federal funds; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourage authorities to allow certain exemptions on Dept. of Transportation regulations concerning driving time for livestock transportation drivers.

AGP-28

**Renewed 2006 GRAIN STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, a uniform grain grading system is important to Missouri farmers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association favor a revision of the grading and pricing system for all grains to reflect premiums for quality production and to reward producers for dry grain in the same manner the producer is penalized for moisture content.

AGP-29

**Renewed 2009 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, Missouri's cattle industry contributes a significant portion to the state's economy; and,

WHEREAS, the beef industry comes under increased governmental regulations and restrictions and unnecessary economic hardships; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes in the accurate accumulation of scientific data and site-specific information regarding waste management regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the state environmental agency be responsible for the permitting process of feedyards and not a federal agency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the permitting of feedyards in the State of Missouri is consistent with the threshold of 1,000-head capacity and not reduced.

AGP-30

**Amended 2005 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - NUTRIENT GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, increased confusion and misunderstanding are growing between the general public and livestock producers; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a more sensible balance between a safe, unharmed environment and secure cheap food policy be accepted in the U.S.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Natural Resources take a more ag-friendly approach to animal nutrients. Specifically stop isolating individuals and punishing them to the limit the present laws allow;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a workable set of science-based laws and regulations be created with a common sense approach from livestock people, agriculture engineers and public environmentalists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourages DNR to expedite the permit processes to allow approval in a more timely manner.

AGP-31

**Renewed 2007 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, Missouri's livestock industry is a vital and integral portion of Missouri's economic well being; and,

WHEREAS, Missouri's livestock producers are under increased production pressure that could adversely affect their ability to produce an economical source of food for all Missourians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's support legislative action concerning the joint committee on administrative rules and oversights that require positive action by committee for the rules and regulations to become effective.

AGP-32

**Renewed 2008 AG POLICY**

WHEREAS, government programs have a definite impact on the profitability of agriculture for both those commodities directly affected and those indirectly affected; and,

WHEREAS, the number of producers involved in production agriculture continues to decline on an annual basis; and,

WHEREAS, there is an ever increasing need to have the views of the Cattle Industry expressed with regard to policy development on both the State and Federal level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association must continually communicate with other commodity groups regarding the impact of agriculture policy and to coordinate and cooperate with those groups in the development of agriculture policy for the best interest of the Missouri Cattlemen as well as the best interest of all of Missouri Agriculture.

AGP-33

**Renewed 2006 AG POLICY**

WHEREAS, the membership of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association adopted a general Agricultural Policy statement to guide the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's actions on behalf of the cattle industry. The priorities outlined in the statement are:

1. Achieve a reduction in federal spending and the deficit.
2. Minimize direct federal involvement in agriculture, and begin a phase out of commodity programs, and,
3. Preserve the right of the individual choice in the management of land, water and other resources, and,
4. Provide an opportunity to compete in foreign markets.
5. Discourage the Federal Government from using food or other Agriculture products as a weapon against foreign governments through embargoes or other actions which result in a loss of foreign markets and disruption of commodity marketing's.
6. Encourage the U.S. Congress to pass a new farm bill that contains priorities for the beef industry and protects cattle producers constitutional rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association adopts these general guidelines and endorse them as a guide for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's actions on behalf of the cattle industry.

AGP-34

**Renewed 2009 LICENSING OF FARM EQUIPMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes any legislative or regulatory efforts to require licensing or titling of motorized farm equipment.

AGP-35

**Renewed 2009 ABANDONED RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, trespass and environmental problems are caused by public agencies using abandoned utility right-of-way, such as but not limited to railroad easements, for public recreation areas; and,

WHEREAS, some easements were originally granted for a single purpose and other proposed uses will create problems for the adjoining landowners; and,

WHEREAS, there is a basic concern regarding private property rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes the taking of privately owned land without due process as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the process of eminent domain be used only on a limited basis.

AGP-36

**Renewed 2009 PESTICIDE RECORDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that agricultural pesticides users be provided immunity from legal action when chemicals are applied or disposed of in accordance with label instructions in effect at the time of their use.

AGP-37

**Renewed 2008 WATER QUALITY**

WHEREAS, there is an ever increasing and serious concern regarding water quality; and,

WHEREAS, the impact of water quality issues, policy decisions and groundwater protection strategies upon agriculture will be significant; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is concerned about ground water quality and the need to insure a safe and adequate water supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association urges that until adequate research is completed to that intelligent, informed decisions regarding water quality can be made that those making those decisions be cautious in developing rules and regulations on this issue; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association urges all agricultural producers to be extremely cautious in the handling and use of any and all potential contaminants and take other precautions necessary to further reduce potential ground water pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA oppose regulations further restricting the necessary production inputs used in the production of crops and livestock.

AGP-38

**Renewed 2009 PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the need for abundant water to produce cattle in the state of Missouri is a necessity; and,

WHEREAS, any governmental intervention or restriction in the usage of water for a livestock operation could have a negative economic impact,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA support a statewide exclusion of governmental ordinance requiring mandatory use of public water supplies when used for livestock and homestead purposes.

AGP-39

**Renewed 2008 RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDORS**

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri has a considerable amount of land along rivers and streams; and,

WHEREAS, some of the most productive agriculture land in Missouri is along those waterways; and,

WHEREAS, the last attempt to control the streams in Missouri was strongly opposed by agricultural producers and voted down by the general public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes any effort to create a Mississippi River Heritage Corridor or any other corridor management plan that includes any private lands that can be included without a landowners consent or that might infringe upon the rights of property owners. These designations create an unfair burden on adjacent landowners.

AGP-40

**Renewed 2006 MISSOURI RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Missouri River and its natural watershed area, provides transportation capabilities for the movement of agricultural products and supplies while providing a source of water for industry, municipalities, agriculture and recreation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose actions on the part of any government agency to sell and/or divert water from the Missouri River or its natural watershed area.

AGP-41

**Renewed 2005 MISSOURI RIVER GUIDANCE MANUAL**

WHEREAS the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to propose regulations to alter the normal flow of the river to increase flow during Missouri's wet spring months and reduce flow during summer and fall to create a better habitat for fish, wildlife and endangered species; and,

WHEREAS agriculture and commercial interest heavily depend on Missouri River transportation systems,

BE IT RESOLVED that MCA support other Ag interests in opposing any plan that would create a negative impact on Missouri agriculture.

AGP-42

**Amended 2007 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the first contracts for over 34 million crop acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) matured in 1995 and continue to mature annually; and,

WHEREAS, annual release of total acres under maturing contracts could have significant economic impact on the cattle industry; and,

WHEREAS, it is possible that extension of the CRP contracts will occur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association endorses the development of a consistent set of rules to prevail in each rebidding;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no artificial incentives be provided that would increase livestock production, specifically that no cost-share payments for any livestock fencing or watering systems be allowed that exceed current guidelines of NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly SCS) and FSA (Farm Service Agency, formerly ASCS);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if contract extension is adopted, the following criteria are considered in rule development:

1. Must preserve private property rights and the free enterprise system.
2. Keep soil erosion as the primary criteria for enrollment.
3. All contracts must be reevaluated and the most fragile land should be accepted in preference to attain the most benefit per unit of expenditure.
4. Must be a transition program with long-range commitment.
5. Must be environmentally sound, economically feasible and sustainable.
6. The program should continue to be administered by NRCS and FSA.
7. Revamp CRP guidelines to prevent a loss of pasture acreage creating a negative impact on Missouri's Cattle Industry.

AGP-43

**Renewed 2007 HAYING AND GRAZING**

WHEREAS, haying and grazing of federal farm program acreage subsidizes the use of this acreage for these purposes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes haying and grazing on farm program acreage which has been diverted as a result of direct payment of cash or payment in kind and Conservation Reserve acres except in emergency situations specified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

AGP-44

**Amended 2007 NOXIOUS WEEDS**

WHEREAS, noxious weeds continue to be a problem on public lands, including right of ways, public parks and recreation areas and Conservation Department lands;

BE IT RESOLVED, that government agencies expand the present Multi-Flora Rose Eradication program to include all noxious weeds and provide herbicides to landowners who agree to apply it.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that existing laws regarding noxious weeds be recognized by these public entities and that Federal, State, County and Local governments accept the same responsibilities as private landowners in controlling noxious weeds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that action be taken to require the Missouri Department of Conservation to provide the herbicide to eradicate multiflora rose; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that government agencies be required to comply with the eradication of weeds that have been designated as noxious, on property owned or controlled by government agencies.

AGP-45

**Renewed 2007 TRESPASS LAW**

WHEREAS, there is a growing risk of lawsuit to landowners and a growing disregard for private property rights;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association initiate and support improvements in Missouri's Trespass Law which will provide for the protection of landowners.

AGP-47

**Renewed 2008 FORMULATING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, government agencies have shown a tendency to create new programs with little regard to the effect on the cattle industry; and,

WHEREAS, those programs are likely to be opposed and defeated by the parties affected at considerable cost to taxpayers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, a cooperative effort between agency officials and industry leaders and local citizenry in drafting new programs be pursued,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourage these to conduct an economic impact study so private property rights are not ignored so as not to infringe upon private property rights.

AGP-48

**Renewed 2007 MARKETING OF LIVESTOCK**

WHEREAS, Missouri is primarily a cow/calf and backgrounding state, captive supplies of fed cattle have a negative impact on the prices received from feeder cattle produced in Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, numerous factors and influences are responsible for the adverse market conditions facing producers; and,

WHEREAS, the private treaty sales of fed cattle is currently only voluntarily reported, a mandatory reporting system should be implemented to provide for fair and equitable marketing of Missouri feeder cattle; and,

WHEREAS, Missouri is ranked number two in total beef cows and calves, and number one in total seedstock production, the impact of capturing the fed cattle market through private treaty sales, in effect, reducing the value of Missouri feeder cattle; and,

WHEREAS, private treaty sales of fed cattle captures as much as 40% of the total fed cattle offered for sale during certain months of the year, the supply and demand system of economics is circumvented, reducing the need for fed cattle by contracting packers; and thus the price received for cattle offered for sale that have not been previously contracted; and,

WHEREAS, producers are entitled to seek all appropriate actions to assure markets are truly competitive and that producers are receiving fair and equitable treatment in the sale of their cattle;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA seek the following changes, and implement the following actions to address problems with beef pricing in our industry:

1. Until the effects of packer concentration are fully analyzed and interpreted, prohibit acquisitions of packing facilities by major packers and mergers or consolidation between packers.
2. Encourage feedlots to offer all fed cattle for sale on a pen by pen basis, rather than offering an entire show list, until such a time that cattle can be marketed through a value based marketing system.
3. Support further study of alternative methods of price discovery to determine the accurate current market value at the time of sale.

AGP-49

### **Renewed 2007 LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PLAN**

WHEREAS there is a growing public concern about environmental contamination from accidental spills from livestock waste containment structures; and,

WHEREAS there is no emergency agency equipped to respond immediately and effectively to contain the spill and minimize the potential damage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Missouri Cattlemen's Association endorses the concept and encourages individual counties to organize Livestock Producer Environmental Protection Plans. Such plans could include:

1. List of Equipment contractors who are willing to respond immediately
2. Flow chart detailing steps to be taken in an emergency
3. An emergency notification list which includes the telephone number of the farm operator, their alternate contacts, and state environmental regulatory agencies,
4. List of neighboring landowners affected,
5. Maps of facility and surrounding area including drainage pattern and location of fill materials for forming emergency dikes,
6. Inventory of equipment onsite that includes location,
7. Designated spokesperson if necessary
8. List of heavy equipment owner who have agreed to assist in an emergency
9. A copy of all necessary information filed at the counties Emergency Operation Center (911).

AGP-50

### **Renewed 2009 RIGHT OF WAYS**

WHEREAS, MODOT has modified their highway maintenance programs by reducing or eliminating the mowing of the rights of ways on may secondary highways to as few as one time during each year; and,

WHEREAS, that reduction in mowing serves to attract more deer and other wildlife to feed and travel and nest in areas adjacent to the pavement; creating a very dangerous situation for drivers on these roads.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, in the interest of public safety, urge MODOT to return to mowing their highway right of ways at least twice a year.

AGP-52

### **Renewed 2009 REVENUE ASSURANCE**

WHEREAS, MCA has long held the conviction that government assistance in the form of direct payments can have a negative impact on the beef industry's ability to function in a free and fair capitalistic marketplace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association does not support the inclusion of livestock into revenue assurance plans.

AGP-53

### **Renewed 2009 BIOTECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, safe and approved biotechnology has the potential to greatly increase the efficiency and profitability of the agriculture sector; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is a leader in the use and development of biotechnology; and,

WHEREAS, MCA believes that some countries have used biotechnology as an artificial trade barrier and have ignored the supporting science.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the efforts at every level to improve the utilization of biotechnology that is proven to be safe and in the best interest of agriculture and the beef industry and consumers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA opposes efforts to use technology and biotechnology as an artificial trade barrier to prevent US beef producers from exporting their products into the marketplace.

AGP-54

**Renewed 2009 INFORMATION PRIVACY**

WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen's Association has always supported the census of agriculture, believing that the information would be used to promote and educate agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, there have been request for that information by the Environmental Protection Agency for the purposes of regulatory enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, the only government agencies that producers believed would have access to that information would be the National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association does not support the transfer of census or any other data accumulated by USDA and NASS, or their related agencies, to any other agency that may not utilize that information in the best interest of producers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support legislative changes to ensure that the information producers provide to USDA and NASS shall not be made available to any other government agencies.

AGP-55

**New 2007 USDA AG CENSUS**

WHEREAS, accurate and timely reporting of livestock inventory is extremely important to create useful information when planning for production decisions,

WHEREAS, the AG census information is held within USDA,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA supports encouraging all livestock producers in Missouri to report their information accurately; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA maintain the expectation of USDA to keep this information secure and confidential to protect the privacy of Missouri producers.

AGP-56

**Renewed 2009 TALL FESCUE**

WHEREAS, tall fescue and its contributions to the pasture, hay, seed, soil and water conservation resources of our states landowners has a positive influence on Missouri's economy more than any other crop currently in existence; and,

WHEREAS, Missouri is the number three state in the numbers of cows and calves as a result of fescues's adaptability and widespread use; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has now listed tall fescue as a harmful, invasive exotic plant and has issued a memorandum to its personnel that tall fescue is not to be used on any MDC lands and is not to be recommended for use on private lands; and,

WHEREAS, this new directive is an insult to the states cattle producers in that it totally ignores the many positive attributes of fescue and its contributions to agriculture as well as soil and water conservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association encourage MDC to reevaluate its position on fescue; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MDC issue the correction of their policy in the Missouri Conservationist to inform producers and citizens of the changes regarding tall fescue.

AGP-59

**Amended 2006 CONSERVATION AND RE-INVESTMENT ACT "CARA"**

WHEREAS, the Conservation and Re-investment Act "CARA" would provide billions of dollars of federal money to be placed in a trust fund to be used for the purchase of additional private property by State Conservation Agencies all over the U.S., and

WHEREAS, State and Federal agencies across the nation already own or control more land than they can adequately manage and maintain, and

WHEREAS, access to and the use of our natural resources (oil, gas, timber, recreation, pasturelands, etc.) is often restricted or prohibited altogether on these public lands, and

WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes strongly in the importance of private land ownership in a free and prosperous country,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association strongly opposes the Conservation and Re-investment Act "CARA" particularly the pursuit of these funds in Missouri.

AGP-60

**Renewed 2006 PRODUCER PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, we support regulations that would assure independent producers of market accessibility, and

WHEREAS, we oppose overly restrictive amendments to the Missouri Corporate Farming Law which might limit the incorporation options available to independent producers, and

WHEREAS, we believe that the involvement of corporations in Contract Production Agriculture should be viewed as a way to assist individual producers in competing in the agricultural industry,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the rights of producers to enter into contracts, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports:

1. Ensuring that confidentiality clauses allow producers to share information with business advisors and attorneys and allow a period for contract reviewing prior to signing;
2. Improving the readability of contracts;
3. Requiring the disclosure of material risks; and
4. Prohibiting contractors and integrators from retaliating against producers who work to increase their bargaining power.

AGP-61

**Amended 2006                      ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

WHEREAS, the current Endangered Species Act has more potential authority to restrict or eliminate cattle production than any other federal environmental law and,

WHEREAS, the Klamath River Project was shut down due to the coho salmon and suckerfish being listed as an endangered species; and,

WHEREAS, hundreds of farmers and ranchers were denied their irrigation water rights by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service due to enforcement of the endangered species act, and

WHEREAS, national attention and support has been overwhelming due to the Klamath River Project shut down, illustrating that this is a national issue that could happen anywhere,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association strongly urge our U.S. Senators and Representatives in Congress to amend or reform the Endangered Species Act and oppose additions to the endangered or threatened species list, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Endangered Species Act should give equal or more consideration to humans and local social/economic effects before applying the act, and to include a peer review of the science and economic impact and language, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA support legislation to require an economic impact analysis and an environmental impact statement before land uses are regulated due to the presence, movement or relocation of a threatened or endangered species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Accounting Office investigate and report how much money has been spent on threatened or endangered species recovery since the ESA implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that industry work with government leaders to ensure appropriate loan deferrals and other financial tools be made available to prevent loan defaults or foreclosures as a result of loss of production due to hardships bought on by the Endangered Species Act.

AGP-62

**Renewed 2006                      STREAM BANK EROSION**

WHEREAS, Missouri Soil and Water Commission has had a pilot project to address stream bank erosion using cedar tree revetments; and,

WHEREAS, gravel accretion and vegetation growing in the stream channel is a problem in many Missouri streams, causing serious erosion of stream banks

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association urge the Missouri Soil and Water Commission and Missouri Department of Conservation to add to their stream and erosion guidelines the removal of gravel and obstructions from the existing stream channel to prevent stream bank erosion, and to allow this material to be used to repair the eroded stream banks, greatly reducing the material costs of these projects.

AGP-65

**Amended 2007                      COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (COOL)**

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is the number two cow/calf state in the United States,

WHEREAS, the stocker/feeder segment of cattle are vital to the overall cattle industry,

WHEREAS, the Country of Origination Label Law is projected to have an excessively high cost, disproportionately borne by cow/calf producers and feed lot operators in the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA directs NCBA to aggressively work to repeal the mandatory labeling language for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) which is to become effective during 2008 in the existing U.S. farm law. Thus establishing a continuation of the proposed voluntary labeling program.

AGP-66

**Amended 2007                      ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, a permanent electronic identification device to track all red meat-producing livestock from farm to table would be a great protective device for anti-bioterrorism; and,

WHEREAS, such devices would be useful to the producers of red meat-producing livestock in controlling diseases as a method of tracking such livestock back to the farm; and,

WHEREAS, such devices would be beneficial in providing producers with livestock carcass information, including the rate of gain; and,

WHEREAS, such devices would be most useful in generating information on the concept of “farm to table” to protect American consumers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That MCA encourage the APHIS of the USDA to develop and promulgate a voluntary program of permanent electronic identification program to be used on all red meat-producing livestock both domestic and imported in origin that would gather information and help protect the US consumers in the event of a bioterrorist threat.

AGP-67

**Renewed 2008                      STREAM BUFFER ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, Missouri is the second leading state in the nation for total beef cow numbers and Boone County is a prominent county for beef cow production with 19,000 cows, 20,300 other cattle valued at \$28 million; and,

WHEREAS, beef production is the largest segment of agricultural in Boone County and where beef producers contribute significantly to the economy with over \$26-39 million generated in economic activity in Boone County; and,

WHEREAS, beef producers believe in the free enterprise system, protection of our private property rights and have long advocated the stewardship of all Missouri’s natural resources including streams and adjacent corridors through voluntary participation through state and federal agency programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association is unaware of any comprehensive study or analysis in Boone County that documents the social, economic or scientific impact or rationale for the proposed stream buffer ordinance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association vehemently opposes the proposed Boone County Stream Buffer Ordinance including its regulatory approach to stream and riparian corridor protection (in areas zoned agricultural – A1 & A2) as scientifically and economically indefensible and an illegal taking action through encroachment of Missouri landowners and agricultural producers.

AGP-69

**Renewed 2008                      EMINENT DOMAIN**

WHEREAS, the use of Eminent Domain to condemn and acquire private property has been greatly expanded in recent years, allowing these properties to be resold for private development and recreational facilities, and;

WHEREAS, landowners have very limited options at their disposal when opposing Eminent Domain authorities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urge legislative action to revise Missouri’s Eminent Domain statutes to:

1. Afford greater protection of landowners private property rights.
2. Forbid the resale of land acquired through Eminent Domain for private development and recreational facilities
3. Ensure that equitable compensation is granted to all affected landowners
4. Allow landowners a minimum of 5 years from the time of the original Eminent Domain settlement to renegotiate claims for unforeseen damages.

AGP-70

**Amended 2005                      LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen’s Association has previously supported a voluntary universal animal identification program rather than a mandatory approach, and;

WHEREAS, MCA feels that cattle producers and the livestock markets cannot bear the full costs of a universal animal ID program, and;

WHEREAS, an established mandatory identification program could be a successful tool to maintain our existing or potential domestic and export markets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA believes industry participation in NAIS should be at a high enough level to assure adequate disease surveillance as defined within the following guidelines:

1. Livestock producer’s information must be held to strict confidentiality and only be used to address animal health objectives as outlined in the USA IP recommendations.
2. To protect producer confidentiality, the animal movement data repository should be protected from the Freedom of Information Act.
3. Participants in the program will be held harmless from consumer liability if they are operating under the established Beef Quality Assurance guidelines.
4. A universal mandatory ID program shall not be implemented until all participants are assured it will be accomplished successfully with minimal interruption in current cattle business practices and traditions.

AGP-71

**New 2005                              MISSOURI LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the State Livestock Market News Program in Missouri provides accurate and unbiased market information from Missouri markets to a vast number of livestock producers across the nation;

WHEREAS, Missouri Market News Reporters help educate the youth of Missouri in live animal evaluation through 4-H and FFA livestock grading and judging contests; and,

WHEREAS, grading services are available by USDA certified graders for programs such as the Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association strongly supports the Missouri Market News Program, and urges the Missouri Department of Agriculture to maintain existing or increase funding for market news.

AGP-72

**New 2006 RENEWABLE FUELS**

WHEREAS, it is important the entire agriculture industry, and the producers and entities therein, realize they all must work together for a unified and successful industry; and,

WHEREAS, several cattlemen are involved in the entire agriculture industry, including diversified farming operations, including row crops; and,

WHEREAS, with the passage of a federal renewable fuels standard and our nation's commitment to reduce our dependence on foreign energy, we are entering a time of opportunity and transition in agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, there is concern among cattlemen about the influence of renewable energy on the availability and cost of quality feedstuffs; and,

WHEREAS, many of the bi-products of renewable fuel production are an excellent feedstock for the cattle industry; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA support the entire agriculture industry and efforts to increase the production of renewable fuels to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, provide a cleaner burning fuel, and add additional feedstuffs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA support the continued growth and research of renewable fuels to benefit consumers, our agriculture economy, and our nation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA encourage the federal government to increase the supply of renewable fuel products by putting more acreage into production for the benefit of rural communities and additional opportunities for cattlemen.

AGP-73

**New 2007 CATTLE ON FEED REPORTING**

WHEREAS, accurate and timely information regarding quarterly cattle on feed numbers may not be available; and,

WHEREAS, numerous factors and influences are responsible for the adverse market conditions facing producers; and,

WHEREAS, the private treaty sales of fed cattle is currently only voluntarily reported; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED a mandatory reporting system should be implemented to provide for fair and equitable marketing of finished cattle; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED MCA supports an accurate and timely reporting system that could be used to facilitate marketing decisions.

AGP-74

**New 2007 FENCING THE K.A.T.Y. TRAIL**

WHEREAS, The KATY Trail is a walking and biking trail through much of Missouri's rural and agricultural countryside; and,

WHEREAS, some of the land along the trail is used for livestock production, and maintaining quality fences is of the utmost importance; and,

WHEREAS, trespassing may be reduced by the existence of these fences; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA supports the building and maintaining of fences along the KATY Trail and any new additions; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any financial responsibility for the building and up keep of these fences be paid for by the governing bodies in charge of the trail.

AGP-75

**New 2007 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PREDATOR CATS**

WHEREAS evidence exists that at least ten reports of mountain lion occurrences have been confirmed in Missouri since 1994, and,

WHEREAS the presence of mountain lions in Missouri pose a threat to human safety and risk to livestock, and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Missouri Cattlemen's support the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri in their decision not to release mountain lions, develop plans for future releases of mountain lions, or otherwise create conditions in which a population of mountain lions in Missouri would be desirable, and that MCA supports Conservation Commission action as currently stated in the Wildlife Code of Missouri, which allows any mountain lion attacking or killing livestock or domestic animals, or attacking people, may be killed; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA requests the Conservation Commission to maintain and open an effective partnership with MCA and livestock owners in Missouri in regard to mountain lions and related predatory species of wildlife which may pose a threat to individual livestock, or the livestock industry and further MCA supports the Conservation Commission in the continued use of the Mountain Lion Response Team to investigate reports and evidence of mountain lions.

AGP-76

**New 2008 PROPERTY BOUNDARY DISPUTES**

WHEREAS: Most of Missouri was surveyed many years ago using less accurate methods compared to today's standards and;

WHEREAS: The need for precise well defined property boundaries is ever increasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That MCA support the revision of adverse possession real estate law.

AGP-77

**New 2008**

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING**

WHEREAS: Missouri Livestock and Poultry Production accounts for nearly three billion dollars of the state's agriculture cash receipts and;

WHEREAS: The Missouri Cattle Industry is the leading livestock segment and has National importance as a supplier of breeding stock

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That MCA supports increased funding to the Missouri Department of Agriculture for the surveillance and control of livestock diseases.

**ANIMAL CARE**

ANC-1

**Renewed 2009**

**CATTLEMEN'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE**

WHEREAS, Cattlemen believe in humane treatment of livestock and good stewardship of natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, this message needs to be communicated to the public when asked; and,

WHEREAS, the public is entitled to credible statements from actual producers regarding the practices, intents and purposes of cattle production.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association endorse the following Statement of Principle on animal husbandry, environmental stewardship and food safety as adopted by the membership of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association:

I believe in the humane treatment of farm animals and in continued stewardship of all natural resources.

I believe my cattle will be healthier and more productive when good husbandry practices are used.

I believe that my own and future generations will benefit from my ability to sustain and conserve natural resources.

I will support research efforts directed toward more efficient production of a wholesome food supply.

I believe it is my responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product.

I believe it is the purpose of food animals to serve mankind and it is the responsibility of all human beings to care for animals in their charge.

I will vigorously oppose any legislative or regulatory activity that states or implies interference with that purpose and responsibility.

I will actively support all legal, normally accepted animal husbandry practices and the marketing of these animals.

ANC-2

**Renewed 2009**

**ANIMAL RIGHTS VIOLENCE FARM & LIVESTOCK FACILITIES PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, incidents of violence by certain militant animal rights groups continue to increase; and,

WHEREAS, the activist violent, terrorist type activities have begun to spread nationwide;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA will continue to support legislation like the US Farm and Ranches Livestock Facilities Protection Act that provides protection from radical environmental and animal rights groups; and,

BE IT Further RESOLVED, that MCA will support stiffer penalties for trespassing

ANC-3

**Renewed 2009**

**ANIMAL CARE**

WHEREAS, Missouri Cattlemen have always been concerned with the proper care and welfare of livestock, recognizing that good animal husbandry practices are essential to efficient and profitable production; and,

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to use animals in necessary and responsible research programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association recognize the following definitions:

1. Animal Welfare--the reasonable care of all animals, i.e. good animal husbandry practices.

2. Animal Rights--a position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes the position taken by animal right groups and will take appropriate action to resist their unsound, unscientific efforts to attack good animal husbandry practices as well as responsible and acceptable research practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support legislation to simplify current laws that could potentially have an adverse effect on agriculture, hunting, trapping and fishing in Missouri.

ANC-4

**Renewed 2009**

**ANIMAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, on occasion the industry is faced with instances when some in the industry have not conducted themselves or their business in keeping with generally accepted and recognized business and livestock management/husbandry practices; and,

WHEREAS, the entire Beef Cattle Industry often bears the brunt of public ill-will and regulatory action over the irresponsible and inappropriate action of a few;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association calls upon and urges all cattlemen to follow commonly accepted livestock husbandry and business management practices in animal care; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association shall not be compelled to defend anyone in the Beef Cattle Industry who has clearly acted to abuse livestock; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association may best serve the industry by supporting action by appropriate state or federal agencies against those who do abuse livestock.

ANC-5

**Renewed 2007                   BOVINE LEUKOSIS VACCINE**

WHEREAS, Bovine Leukosis Virus is a significant impediment for domestic and international cattle movements; and,

WHEREAS, a successful control program of Bovine Leukosis in vector states require an effective vaccine:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA strongly supports the development of a USDA approved vaccine for Bovine Leukosis such as those used in European countries.

ANC-10

**New 2007                         PROACTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

WHEREAS the animal rights and anti-meat activism movements were instrumental in the restriction of horse processing and the resulting devaluation of equine animals

WHEREAS animal rights and anti-meat movement actively promoted to the uninformed public that livestock producers are inhumane and meat consumption is immoral

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA urge Cattlemen's Beef Board, Missouri Beef Industry Council, and National Cattlemen's Beef Association to use enhanced beef checkoff funds to promote beef demand by protecting and promoting beef producers image of stewardship of both land and animals.

ANC-11

**New 2007                         HORSE PROCESSING FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, an effective ban on horses being humanely processed for human consumption is now in place; and,

WHEREAS, a humane method of horse processing would be preferred over abandonment or long term suffering; and,

WHEREAS, the value of horses has declined because of these regulations; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA urges our members and other state cattlemen's associations work to rescind the national ban on horse processing for human consumption and allow horses to maintain a salvage value.

**FOOD POLICY**

FP-1

**Renewed 2009                   FOOD SAFETY**

WHEREAS, food safety is an extremely important and controversial issue; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of the food supply can be achieved only through reliable scientific research, valid interpretation of information and sensible regulation; and,

WHEREAS, the beef industry must continue to develop and strengthen quality assurance procedures with the objective enhancing consumer confidence in the safety of beef;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA continue to support Beef Safety and Quality Assurance programs at every level.

FP-2

**Renewed 2009                   PROCESSING REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, inadequacies of regulations permit water to be added to poultry during processing, without labeling it as such;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA oppose anything less than fair and equal regulation concerning the processing and labeling of poultry products.

FP-3

**Renewed 2007                   VALUE BASED MARKETING**

WHEREAS, the only reason for producers to produce the kind of cattle needed by the marketplace is for the marketplace to send back clear signals pertaining to carcass value; and,

WHEREAS, if clear value signals are not sent back to the producer, the beef industry is vulnerable to complete vertical integration, that will produce the consistent, quality products needed by the industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports and endorses the concept of value-based marketing, where all animals sold direct to packers are paid according to their individual quality and cutability grades and carcass weights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; MCA endorse, coordinate and implement the effort to bring all segments of the beef industry together to produce a high quality, value added product that enhances the consumer acceptance of beef and encourage all producers to seek and utilize carcass information to produce a higher quality, uniform product and eliminate the island mentality that now exist in the industry.

FP-4

**Renewed 2009                   ZERO TOLERANCE DETERMINATIONS**

WHEREAS, the interpretation of certain air, water and food quality reports has led to the concept of zero discharge, zero emission and zero tolerance,

WHEREAS current scientific knowledge does not warrant zero tolerance in air, water and food quality regulation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA seek legislation to recognize the concept of a risk compared to benefit analysis concerning tolerance levels.

FP-5

**Renewed 2006 MEAT INSPECTION-IMPORTED MEAT**

WHEREAS, standards of meat inspection in foreign plants exporting meat to the U.S. are required by law to be equivalent to U.S. meat inspection standards; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that slaughter processing and transporting facilities that handle foreign meats for importation to the United States be subject to comparable inspection and sanitation requirements applicable to federally inspected plants in the U.S.; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that imported meat be subject to the same restrictions as domestically produced meat with respect to feed additives, antibiotics, pesticides and other chemicals.

FP-7

**Amended 2006 BEEF EXPORTS**

WHEREAS, beef exported from the United States receives inequitable treatment by other nations in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers; and,

WHEREAS, there have been continued attempts to liberalize trade with other countries without imposing any sort of quotas, tariffs, levies or other restriction on imports to the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there is a great potential for beef exports;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association actively supports fair trade agreements with other countries and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and the Missouri Beef Industry Council supports the U.S. Meat Export Federation in promoting U.S. meats and expanding meat exports to potential foreign markets.

FP-8

**Amended 2006 GOVERNMENT BEEF PURCHASED**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is opposed to the purchase of imported beef by any government agency; and,

WHEREAS, tax dollars so spent are, in effect, subsidizing foreign producers at the expense of U.S. Cattlemen;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all tax supported government entities be required to purchase and utilize domestically produced beef when available.

FP-10

**Renewed 2007 BIO-SECURITY**

WHEREAS, securing the health and safety of agriculture from terrorist groups and other negative influences is now a serious concern, and

WHEREAS, protecting our agricultural industry for a stable, self-sufficient food source for the U.S. consumers is vital and should not be taken for granted,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports new initiatives concerning livestock security and Bio and Eco-terrorism, to:

1. Strengthen the penalties for anyone involved in terrorist activities affecting the agricultural industry;
2. Provide increased coordination of local, state, and federal officials to more effectively monitor and respond to these threats.
3. Give producers increased protections against false and derogatory statements or ballot issues that would damage or endanger a producer's livelihood, product, property, or diminishes livestock production practices.

FP-11

**Amended 2006 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICES AND SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, food quality and security is vital to the future profitability of all segments of the beef industry, and

WHEREAS, there currently are several different Animal Identification Devices and various quality assurance and carcass data retrieval programs, and

WHEREAS, removal of these devices destroys the integrity of such systems,

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports a voluntary and private National Animal Identification System, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports efforts to maintain the integrity of Beef Quality Assurance Systems making it illegal to tamper with official Animal Identification Devices or Systems.

FP-12

**Amended 2007 USDA GRADING STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, there have been proposals made to eliminate USDA grading standards for beef which would allow the marketplace (IE: packers) to decide what standards would be used in the marketing of beef; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes the elimination of USDA quality standards or any modifications thereof which serve to reduce the quality of U.S. beef will reduce our ability to compete in the international marketplace as well as further erode our market share in the domestic market; and,

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the lack of consistency and a high rate of unsatisfactory product has contributed to beef's loss of appeal with consumers; and,

WHEREAS, surveys have identified our current USDA Grading Standards as one of the positive advantages we have in marketing beef product in the international market; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose the elimination of USDA Grading Standards for beef or any modification of the standards which result in reducing the quality of or the consistency of US beef.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support the development of an instrument grading system and a method of tenderness scoring.

FP-13

**Amended 2007 IN-STATE MEAT INSPECTION**

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is a major producer of cattle,

WHEREAS, economic growth for agriculture for rural Missouri is vital to the economic health of the state,

WHEREAS, access to open and competitive markets is essential to all producers of farm commodities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that meat inspected under state programs, which are equivalent federal inspection and approved by USDA, be permitted to move in interstate commerce.

FP-14

**New 2006 MISSOURI DEPT. OF AG QUALITY SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri is the number two cow/calf state and the number one seedstock producing state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry in Missouri contributes a significant positive impact to Missouri's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattle Industry has a very significant role in supplying QSA certified cattle for export to Japan and other Asian Rim countries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the Missouri Department of Agriculture's implementation and continued maintenance of a USDA Quality Management System to provide an umbrella Quality Systems Assessment (QSA) program to standardize the practices used to communicate the conforming status of source and age verified calves to potential buyers in the State of Missouri,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association adamantly opposes the direct competition of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, a state funded agency, with private programs as it relates to the management, sale and distribution of nested, visual and RFID, QSA program tags.

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION**

RE-1

**Amended 2008 VET**

WHEREAS, due to the shortage of large animal vets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Missouri continue to provide financial support to upgrade the teaching and research program at the Vet Colleges that apply to livestock health and to encourage students to enter large animal practice.

RE-3

**Renewed 2009 MISSOURI QUALITY ASSURANCE STOCKER/FEEDER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the stocker/feeder segment of cattle in Missouri are vital to the overall cattle industry,

WHEREAS, it is important to initiate a program that will guarantee the integrity of the participants,

WHEREAS, we need to position Missouri cattlemen to take advantage of value based marketing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support this concept and encourage the participation and implementation from the cattle producers of the state,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MCA endorse the use of a carcass data collection service.

RE-6

**Amended 2007 LIVESTOCK ODOR CONTROL**

WHEREAS livestock odor issues have come to the forefront of many local and state meetings between livestock producers and the general public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the use of federal and state funding for implementation of olfactometry and research for mitigation of livestock odors.

RE-7

**Renewed 2009 UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

WHEREAS, University Extension continues to be important to Missouri's agriculture and it is an integral part of the Land Grant College System; and,

WHEREAS, University Extension must continue to recognize agricultural programs as essential to a strong, healthy agricultural economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages more consideration of the needs of Missouri agriculture and that more emphasis be redirected towards agriculture by the University Extension administrators. Specifically, maintain or increase the number of Area Livestock Specialists and Agronomy or Forage Specialists.

RE-10

**Amended 2007**

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES**

WHEREAS, agriculture and particularly the cattle industry is extremely important to and is a very significant part of the economy of the State of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service and Missouri State Universities and Colleges provide valuable and essential service and assistance to all of Missouri agriculture;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association considers it imperative that the College of Agriculture and particularly the Animal Science Department, including the Extension and Research responsibilities are funded commensurate with the importance of the beef cattle industry in Missouri; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports and encourages the funding necessary for the University of Missouri's Eminence Program for Extension/Commercial Agriculture, which can help Missouri Cattlemen gain a competitive edge in production and marketing which will increase the profitability of Missouri's cattle industry; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support and encourages adequate and even increased funding for the Food for the 21st Century Program and FAPRI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association hereby extends its appreciation to the College of Agriculture and others at the University of Missouri and to the Departments of Agriculture at Missouri State Universities and colleges, continued support of Missouri's cattle industry and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support the establishment of an Agricultural Innovation Center (AIC) in Missouri which could serve as a central distribution point for information as well as state and federal funds for individuals interested in pursuing value-added agricultural opportunities. We believe that agriculture would be best served if the AIC were established at the state's land grant institution. And we feel livestock conversion of grain to muscle, ultimately meat, should be regarded as value-added for funding eligibility by the AIC and by state and federal funded programs.

RE-14

**Renewed 2008**

**YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Agricultural Education is a program based on three components consisting of classroom/laboratory instruction for secondary, community college and adult students; leadership training through FFA, PAS, Young Farmers, and Young Farm Wives; and education by way of supervised agricultural experience programs conducted by every student enrolled; and,

WHEREAS, Each of these three components has planned activities that must be supervised outside the academic school year; and,

WHEREAS, Student agricultural programs are seasonal by nature, requiring students to devote more time to their supervised agricultural programs when school is not in session; and,

WHEREAS, These unique characteristics of the Agricultural Education Program requires Agricultural Education Instructors to be available year round for on-site instruction, student program supervision and adult education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association considers year round programs necessary to provide continuous opportunities for each student's pursuit of premier leadership, personal growth and career success; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports an effort to pass legislation that all educational institutions providing approved vocational programs in agricultural education be twelve month programs and all teachers within these programs should be employed to teach on a twelve-month contract.

RE-15

**New 2007**

**SEEDSTOCK COUNCIL RESOLUTION SUPPORT OF APPLICATION TO HOST THE 2010 BEEF IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION MEETING**

WHEREAS, the seedstock and commercial producers of Missouri have a long and distinguished history of genetic improvement and performance testing of beef cattle, and

WHEREAS, Missouri is a national leader in the production of high quality seedstock and feeder cattle, and

WHEREAS the national headquarters offices for the American Angus Association, American International Charolais Association, American Chianina Association, American Hereford Association, and American Maine-Anjou Association, among others,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the application by industry partners, including University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association, breed association and others, to host the Beef Improvement Federation's Annual Conference and Research Symposium in Missouri in 2010.

RE-16

**New 2007**

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FARM PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the University of Missouri has been a valuable liaison in conducting cattle research for the Missouri cattle producer and,

WHEREAS, the land acreage and facilities are an integral part of this cattle research,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA support an effort to maintain the current level of research infrastructure and if any property or facilities are sold by University of Missouri it be replaced by newly acquired properties or facilities that are of equal or greater utility.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

ANH-1

### **Renewed 2008 BOVINE OCULAR NEOPLASIA**

WHEREAS, the MCA recognizes the importance of providing a wholesome beef product and the importance of animal well-being considerations; and,

WHEREAS, the MCA is dedicated to the economic success of cattlemen in Missouri and the marketing of cattle before B.O.N. becomes advanced is in the best interest of cattlemen, consumers and the animal; and,

WHEREAS, the marketing of cattle in good physical condition and in good flesh is consistent with current NCBA Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA urge producers to market those animals in the early stages of B.O.N. in a timely manner, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association be opposed to the marketing of animals with advanced B.O.N.

ANH-2

### **Renewed 2008 MISSOURI BEEF QUALITY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, beef is wholesome, nutritious, safe, high quality and tasty; and,

WHEREAS, beef producers, seedstock, commercial cow/calf, backgrounders, feedlot operation needs to review his/her operation in terms of cattle processing, feeding practices, facilities and cattle selection and marketing; and,

WHEREAS, attention to good production practices in cattle processing, feeding facilities and selection will insure the production of quality beef;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA believes that a framework of communication and cooperation in the Beef Quality Assurance program between all segments of the cattle industry will provide the consumer with a safe, high quality, nutritious product.

ANH-3

### **Renewed 2008 JOHNES DISEASE (PARATUBERCULOSIS)**

WHEREAS, Johnes Disease is a slow, progressive, contagious disease of cattle which has a negative impact on production and profitability; and,

WHEREAS, Johnes Disease can be controlled by the proper management practices and can be eliminated from a cow herd using current knowledge; and,

WHEREAS, cattle from a herd without Johnes Disease are more desirable than cattle of unknown status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The MCA supports the National Voluntary Johnes Certification Program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourages seedstock producers to eliminate Johnes Disease from their herds as quickly as possible.

ANH-5

### **Renewed 2009 FEDERALLY APPROVED**

WHEREAS, the FDA approved products have been thoroughly researched to be declared safe; and,

WHEREAS, the use, dispensing and accountability of prescription drugs is an assigned responsibility of licensed veterinarians, and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA not support any rules, regulations or legislation inhibiting the use of FDA approved animal use products.

ANH-6

### **Amended 2007 BRUCELLOSIS**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is a major concern to Missouri's cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is a Brucellosis Free State and is aggressively pursuing Brucellosis eradication and Brucellosis Class Free State status; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Missouri Cattleman's Association strongly supports the State and Federal efforts to promptly depopulate Brucellosis infected herds with the current enhanced indemnification program.

ANH-7

### **Renewed 2008 PRECONDITIONING PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, preconditioning practices vary greatly from one operation to the next; and,

WHEREAS, Missouri is the #2 producer of feeder calves in the nation producing approximately 2 million head per year, with a large portion leaving the state; and,

WHEREAS, Missouri's reputation for high quality feeder cattle must be maintained and improved to ensure demand in the future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA encourage all feeder-calf producers to maintain their integrity and reputation by the following:

1. Utilize Quality Assurance guidelines.

2. Participate in current value-added feeder calf programs best suited to their operation.
3. Provide necessary information to purchasers of their cattle regarding the animals individual health history, genetic background and other pertinent information.

ANH-9

**Renewed 2006 FESCUE ENDOPHYTE**

WHEREAS, Fescue Endophyte is a serious and costly production problem for Missouri's cattle industry; and,  
WHEREAS, little knowledge exists regarding the devastating effect of this fungus on the production ability of cattle; and,  
WHEREAS, Missouri Feeder Cattle are being seriously discriminated against in the market place as they are often referred to as "Missouri Fescue Toxicity Cattle";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, on behalf of the cattle industry of our state, respectfully requests that the Dean of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture and the Dean of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine form a task force to address this serious problem; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we suggest the task force be comprised of members of the staff of both the College of Agriculture and the College of Veterinary Medicine and representatives of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and other industry related groups and agencies as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force would be responsible for:

- Assessing the magnitude of the problem.
- Assemble known, factual data.
- Establish research priorities as related to the problem.
- Develop funding for research.
- Develop practical management systems for cattlemen, which will enable them to best cope with Fescue Endophyte.
- Other areas of responsibility that may develop and become apparent and appropriate.

ANH-10

**Renewed 2008 MARKET FIRST STOP TESTING**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis, a contagious cattle disease, is not fully eradicated from the United States and the introduction of Brucellosis would have a devastating effect on Missouri's cattle industry, and;

WHEREAS, the blood testing of cattle for brucellosis at markets, collection points or places where co-mingling of cattle occurs – commonly known as first point testing, has proven to be an effective means of preventing the movement of brucellosis infected cattle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MCA supports the continuation of first point testing of cattle for brucellosis for two years after Missouri is officially recognized as "Brucellosis Free" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Assembly fund this Missouri Department of Agriculture program

ANH-11

**RENEWED 2009 USDA ANIMAL HEALTH REPORTING**

WHEREAS; Missouri's beef industry ranks number three in the nation in cow numbers and is a major contributor to the state and national economies, and a majority of Missouri's 70,000 beef producers are comprised of small family farms, with a substantial financial investment and subject to market fluctuations; and,

WHEREAS; MCA believes sensitive BSE test results were inappropriately released and confidentiality was compromised;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; MCA calls on USDA to adhere to their own testing guidelines, release test results promptly and honestly and investigate and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, any one found inappropriately releasing or tampering with test data or results of any animal health issues.

ANH-12

**New 2007 TUBERCULOSIS HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR EVENT CATTLE**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the cattle producers of Missouri have worked diligently to accomplish our tuberculosis free status; and,

WHEREAS, adult event cattle over 18 months of age that have crossed state lines and entered Missouri could possibly transport health concerns; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED MCA support regulations that would require adult event cattle be tested for tuberculosis before entering the state of Missouri.

ANH-13

**New 2008 MISSOURI VOLUNTARY BOVINE VIRAL DISEASE-PERSISTENTLY INFECTED (BVD-PI) FREE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS: Missouri ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in cow/calf production, in addition to ranking in the top of several breeds in the number of breeding stock registered in their respectful associations and;

WHEREAS: One persistently infected BVD-PI animal cost producers \$14-24/head/year due to increased herd health costs and losses in reproductive efficiency and;

WHEREAS: A BVD-PI Free Certification would add value to the seedstock produced in the State of Missouri.

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports a BVD-PI free program that would provide certification regarding the BVD-PI status of their breeding herds. This program would require BVD-PI testing on an annual basis to maintain certification by documenting in the initial year all calves, cows (open or without calf) and bulls are BVD-PI free. Subsequent years would require BVD-PI testing of all calves retained in the herd or sold for reproductive purposes.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

MEM-7

### **Renewed 2009 MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is dedicated to improving the cattle industry in the state of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, the ability to best serve our cattle industry depends on a cohesive bond with other organizations. The importance of these partnerships and working relationships has developed into an inseparable, unified voice that represents the cattlemen and cattlemen in our great state of Missouri. This innovative approach is a result of years of dedication and commitment from talented cattlepeople that had the foresight to envision the best possible representation of our livelihoods. This successful accomplishment is truly a model for other affiliate organizations of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to copy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association expresses their sincere appreciation and support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Beef Industry Council, Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation, Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association and the Collegiate Cattlemen's Organization.

## **TAX & CREDITS**

TC-1

### **Renewed 2008 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, Cattlemen of the State of Missouri are significant landowners in the state of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, profitability of cattle operations is largely affected by increasing fixed cost;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose efforts to increase property taxes and/or assessments formula rates; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support mechanisms that will lower the burden of property taxes on agriculture property.

TC-2

### **Renewed 2006 HANCOCK AMENDMENT FORMULA**

WHEREAS, there is a move to exempt moneys received by government agencies from calculations required under the Hancock Amendment; and,

WHEREAS, all funds available for use by government agencies should be considered as part of the income formula of the state;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose any and all efforts to exempt funds from total state revenue calculation formulas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose any effort to repeal the Hancock Amendment.

TC-3

### **Renewed 2008 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation has become a very large and powerful state agency since the 1/8th cent sales tax was passed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MCA supports the following positions concerning their agency;

1. MCA endorses the rights for special privileges for holders of landowner hunting permits and lease operations.
2. That individual incurring damage to private property by wildlife should be financial compensated from MDC for their loss.
3. That all meetings of MDC be publicized through all local media sources in the area affected.
4. That MDC which is a taxpayer funded entity, not be allowed to lobby against private property rights using these tax generated dollars.
5. That the 1/8th cent sales tax be put back on the ballot with a sunset duration of 10 years.
6. That all property owned by MDC be subject to normal taxation in that area.
7. That MDC be liable for damage caused to vehicle by deer.
8. That MDC be liable for damage caused by wildlife.
9. That MCA does not support the concept of "The Ozark man and his biosphere".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MDC pay 50% of fencing cost on boundary fences between MDC owned or managed properties and private lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MDC should dedicate moneys from 1/8-cent sales tax to improve grassland condition for cattle production as well as water quality and wildlife habitat whether on privately owned or MDC owned/managed lands.

TC-5

### **Renewed 2008 RENTAL INCOME TAXATION**

WHEREAS, the rule change by Internal Revenue Service in 1992 was that rental income from personal property new be reported as business income on Schedule C which will result in this income being subject to an additional 15.3% Social Security Tax; and,

WHEREAS, this rule change could cause a retired individual to be ineligible for Social Security benefits,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports changing this rule by making rental income from personal property by retired individuals or persons not in the business of rental equipment not be subject to self-employment tax.

TC-6

**Renewed 2005 TAXES-REEVALUATION OF ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES**

WHEREAS, Federal estate and gift taxes continue to be a major burden on family farms, ranches and small businesses; and,  
WHEREAS, MCA feels higher exemptions will be necessary in the future to allow us to pass family operations to the next generation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose any effort to increase estate taxes INCLUDING CAPITAL GAINS AT DEATH.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA supports further capital gain reductions including recent improvements that have been made concerning "Death Taxes," with an ultimate goal of no death tax liability.

TC-7

**Renewed 2008 SALES TAX-HORSES**

WHEREAS, the collection of sales tax on the sale of horses places unwarranted and unnecessary expense on those cattlemen utilizing horses in their operation; and,

WHEREAS, this sales tax can only depress the growth of the horse industry in Missouri;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that horses be exempt from the sales tax provisions of the Missouri Statutes.

TC-8

**Renewed 2008 CLEAR TITLE**

WHEREAS, the Uniform Commercial Code has been amended to include purchasers of mortgaged agricultural products, including livestock, under the Clear Title provisions of the UCC; and,

WHEREAS, there are efforts being made by some in the banking industry to establish a statewide central filing system which would be cumbersome, extremely expensive and, in some respects, very unfair to agricultural producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes the establishment of a central notification system in Missouri; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association will work with the banking industry by supporting stiffer criminal penalties for those individuals who sell out of trust.

TC-9

**Amended 2006 SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR AG SUPPLIES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support efforts to exempt all agriculture and veterinary supplies from the state sales tax when used in the care of large animals.

TC-10

**Amended 2005 SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, cattlemen growing forage and grass have been the leaders in soil conservation in Missouri over the years; and,

WHEREAS, the Missouri soil conservation program is governed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission; and,

WHEREAS, this commission has not seen the need for using Amendment 2 money for maintaining desirable grass cover, nor the need to use criteria for cost-sharing that is applicable to grasslands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association strongly encourages the Governor to always appoint at least a majority of farmers actively engaged in raising forage and grasses to the Soil and Water Districts Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA encourage Soil and Water District Commission to maintain farmer landowner representation at local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD's).

TC-12

**Renewed 2006 CLEAR TITLE**

WHEREAS, the present language of the Uniform Commercial Code exempts purchasers of mortgaged agricultural products from receiving clear title to those products, thus subjecting the user to a burden of the possibility of double payment for those products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support any action, particularly at the federal level, to amend the Uniform Commercial Code so that purchasers of mortgaged agricultural products, including livestock, will have a clear title.

TC-13

**Renewed 2006 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX**

WHEREAS, the landowners of Missouri are being taxed for tangible Personal Property as well as Real Property; and,

WHEREAS, this tax is extremely difficult to administer accurately by the County Tax Assessor; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association support the removal of Livestock, Grain and Farm Machinery from the Personal Property Tax.

TC-14

**Renewed 2006 FARM LAND VALUATION**

WHEREAS, Real Property in this state is being reassessed for tax purposes; and,  
WHEREAS, farm land will be assessed in a sub class by itself at an unknown rate below 33 1/3%;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association recommend that farmland be taxed at no more than 10% of assessed valuation.

TC-15

**Renewed 2007 MODOT HIGHWAY FUNDING**

WHEREAS, all of agriculture depends on adequate transportation infrastructure, and  
WHEREAS, past MoDot policies have not adequately addressed the transportation needs of Rural Missouri, and  
WHEREAS, addressing these needs will require increased funding,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MoDot be directed to economize operations and prioritize future projects, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports voter approval of the sunset clause of five years for any new funding proposals, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Missouri Cattlemen's Association opposes MoDot's transfer of maintenance responsibility of state designated roadways to local and county governments.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Highway funds be allocated to rural and urban roads based on needs assessments studies.

TC-16

**Renewed 2007 AGRICULTURAL CREDIT**

WHEREAS, economic growth and jobs expansion are important to the rural economy,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports that all Agriculture related initiatives (crop or livestock) that will result in economic development in Missouri be eligible for state tax credit programs.

TC-17

**New 2009 FAIR TAX**

WHEREAS, Missouri farmers and ranchers own operations which bear a large tax burden and;  
WHEREAS, these cattlemen require a large volume of inputs, costing more than the average person's annual salary and;  
WHEREAS, the margin of profit in relation to production costs and total assets of cattlemen have reached a historical low point.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association is in favor of changing the present form of taxation from an income based to a consumption based system;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association believes the tax burden for the United States needs to be equally levied on the general population.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

MISC-2

**Renewed 2009 EASEMENTS**

WHEREAS, cattlemen are primary landowners in the state of Missouri; and,  
WHEREAS, the need for infrastructure (pipelines, railroads, highways, etc.) and burial of utilities may necessitate the need for easements for the use of that property; and,  
WHEREAS, restrictions on these easements may be unacceptable in the future due to changes in land use;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MCA support legislation that would allow landowners with easements greater flexibility in maintaining the use and value of their property.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that designated areas have sunset or abandonment provisions and restitution for any and all damages be included in easements.

MISC-3

**Renewed 2007 PRO-ACTIVE ISSUE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, cattlemen in this State have been concerned over increasing government regulations; and,  
WHEREAS, Consumers perception of the industry can be influenced by discussions or regulatory issues;  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Cattlemen's Association aggressively work to impact legislators and others involved in the process through pro-active stances at every opportunity.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCA opposes any legislation or ballot issue that restricts or diminishes livestock production in the state of Missouri.

MISC-4

**Renewed 2008 ELECTRIC DEREGULATION**

WHEREAS, cattlemen of the state live largely in remote areas of the state; and,  
WHEREAS, cattlemen are not typically large users of electricity compared to other industries; and,  
WHEREAS, Co-op's and REA's have provided cattlemen and their families with low cost power, compared to other parts of the country, and dependable service in the past;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association oppose any effort to de-regulate our present electrical distribution industry.

MISC-7

**Renewed 2008 INFORMATION ACCURACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHEREAS, inaccurate reporting is perceived by consumers as fact; and,

WHEREAS, lessened demand for beef will lower the profit potential and increased regulation will increase the cost of production for cattlemen in Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, consumers make purchasing decisions based on misinformation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the person or persons responsible for reporting the inaccurate information should be held responsible for their actions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that person/persons found responsible should compensate the industry for their actions including monetary and other forms of compensation to those affected by their actions.

MISC-8

**Amended 2006 CHECKOFF COLLECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the current check-off and the promotional, educational, and research activities that it funds, and,

WHEREAS, many Missouri cattle producers utilize retained ownership as a marketing tool, and,

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in the number of Missouri cattle in out-of-state retained ownership programs since the establishment of the rules and regulations governing check-off collections, and,

WHEREAS, this increase alters the traditional marketing channels and the collection of check-off revenues, affecting the revenue available for beef promotion, education, and research opportunities in Missouri,

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVE, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association endorses the elimination of the current 30 day requirement in the sate of origin rule, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association encourages Missouri producers to exercise their option to pre-pay their check-off dollars or sign a waiver to require their check-off dollars to be returned to Missouri when feeding retained ownership cattle out of state.

MISC-9

**Renewed 2007 BRANDING**

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Agriculture records for individual cattle producers an official brand registry of ownership; and,

WHEREAS, there are six locations on the animal for the placement of the brands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Agriculture refrain from certifying the rib-cage area right and left as a bonafide location for placement of an ownership brand.

MISC-15

**Amended 2007 CATTLE THEFT**

WHEREAS, most livestock and rural thefts occur resulting with a lack of information sharing and investigation leading to the prosecution of perpetrators, and;

WHEREAS, MCA supports the continuation of a centralized reporting procedure with the purpose of effectively investigating thefts by efficiently data basing, finding, prosecuting, and preventing livestock and rural theft, and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MCA supports the continuation of a livestock and rural theft task force to be funded and placed under the control of the Missouri Highway Patrol or another appropriate agency.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA support the concept of official identification for those presenting cattle for sale and those accepting payment in person at an auction market.

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

MISC-16

**New 2007 BEEF CHECK-OFF**

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff has been a positive influence on beef demand, safety and research,

WHEREAS, inflation has decreased the buying power of today's Checkoff funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED MCA supports a reasonable enhancement of the Checkoff program, to be assessed each time the animal is sold.

MISC-17

**New 2008 FERAL HOGS**

WHEREAS: Wild Feral hogs in some areas of Missouri have become a burden to landowners by the destruction of crops and habitat and;

WHEREAS: the cost of these damages cannot be reimbursed to the affected landowners.

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: that MCA supports efforts to allow these landowners to qualify through the Missouri Department of Conservation to take appropriate measures to resolve the problem on a case by case basis. Specifically the landowner should be allowed to eradicate the Feral hogs that have caused damage to their private property.  
Therefore be it further resolved: that MCA supports making unauthorized transporting and releasing of feral hogs a felony offense.

MISC-18

**New 2008                      PROPOSED DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS: the proposed changes to the Missouri Department of Conservation's Deer hunting regulations are far reaching and affect private property rights.

WHEREAS: MCA strongly supports the active management of deer population management to protect farms and crops.

WHEREAS: the operators of family farms are often lease holders of family owned farms and not owners themselves

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA oppose the 80 acre requirement for no cost deer hunting permits

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCA opposes the formation of any MDC owned private property database and obtain needed information from public tax records.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCA oppose the elimination of no cost qualifying lessee deer hunting permits.

MISC-19

**New 2008                      MISSOURI INSTITUTE FOR CATTLE (MIC)**

WHEREAS: The cattle industry is extremely vital to the state of Missouri's economy and;

WHEREAS: Preparing for the future and preserving the valuable assets now in place will be a significant challenge for our next generation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That MCA supports the formation and funding of the Missouri Institute for Cattle. This new group will be comprised of MU College of Veterinary Medicine and University of Missouri.

MISC-20

**New 2008                      EQUINE ABANDONMENT**

WHEREAS: most equine animals sold for processing have lived beyond their useful lives,

And

WHEREAS: Congress and other entities have interfered in the free market system by banning processing of equine animals resulting in the unintended consequences of sever devaluation of equine animals and their subsequent abandonment on public or private land

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any damage caused by such abandonment should be financially compensated.

Be if further resolved NCBA actively pursue a viable legislative solution to the equine processing issue.

MISC-21

**New 2009                      RESOLUTION MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, Missouri is the third largest cow calf producing state in the United States and is geographically located to represent the United States Beef industry and is the largest segment of Missouri's animal agriculture and has beef producers in all 114 counties and accounts for more than 2 billion dollars in economic impact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Cattlemen's Association supports the efforts to establish the National Center for Beef Excellence (NCBE) in Missouri. The NCBE will consist of a National Center for Genetic Evaluation for Beef Cattle, and create an opportunity for Breed Associations to co-exist. It will also allow for a business and commercialization division to assist in developing new markets and financially support efforts of the Center.