



**Policy of
Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA)**

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2010

International Trade 1

Support and seek the aggressive enforcement of:

- * strong and strengthened anti-dumping laws;
- * strong health and safety standards on imported live and processed products, including replacing the term “equivalent” regarding food and agricultural import standards with “equal” or “better”];
- * restrictions on the use of the USDA grade stamp;
- * mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for all food products];
- * the definition of “origin” as born, raised and slaughtered;
- * classification of cattle and beef as “perishable and cyclical” and considered “like kind” products;
- * quantity and price safeguards for beef and live cattle.

U.S. international trade policy must rest in the hands of our elected representatives. Such decisions must not be carried out under any “fast track” procedures.

Support and work for the withdrawal of the U.S. from any trade agreements, treaties and organizations that usurp the power of the U.S. Congress, States, or local governments, weaken our sovereignty, or violate the U.S. Constitution.

Support a moratorium on any new trade agreements until a complete review has been accomplished on existing trade agreements, including an analysis of the “actual” versus “planned” results of those trade agreements.

Oppose the importation of beef products from cattle older than 30 months of age and the importation of live cattle over 30 months of age, from any BSE-affected country.

USDA is intended to protect U.S. producers of food and fiber, rather than managing disease after it gets here. We oppose any weakening of animal health or food safety standards concerning the importation of cattle or beef into the United States.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.

MARKETING

2000

Marketing Resolution 1: Domestic Trade & Market Issues

Independent economic analysis of packer concentration and its affect on market access and loss of competition. Such study to also breach subject of captive supplies and its affect on all segments of the industry including the commodity exchanges.

- A) Push U.S. Department of Agriculture for Grain Inspection/Packers and Stockyards Act hearings on Packers and Stockyards regulation of contracts, which have the potential to control market share and manipulate price. The Justice Department should be included in the hearings.
- B) Economic Analysis of retail, wholesale and live cattle pricing and the causes for such a spread.
- C) Continued support for strong implementation and strengthening of rules, which ensure full market visibility. Rules include but are not limited to:
 - 1) Mandatory price reporting of all cash and contract prices from live to retail
 - 2) Other market reporting tools assisting in visible, open and competitive markets

D) Increase domestic competition through laws that support interstate shipment of state inspected meat.

Marketing Resolution 2

WHEREAS Producers of food and fiber do not have access to the courts for class action suits against packers and retailers for price fixing.

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF supports the repeal of the Illinois Brick decision.

Marketing Resolution 3

BE IT RESOLVED We encourage States Attorney Generals and/or Governors to sue on behalf of its producers, chain stores and processors in final price fixing procedures.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2000.

2001

Marketing Resolution 4

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF supports legislation, which prohibits slotting, allowances, display fees, presentation fees, pay-to-stay fees and failure fees.

Marketing Resolution 5

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF supports aggressive action against any further concentration in the beef processing and retail sales sectors including the active application of section 7 antitrust provisions.

Marketing Resolution 6

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF supports a ban on the packer ownership of cattle for more than (14) fourteen days prior to slaughter, with the exception of plants that slaughter less than 100 head per day.

Marketing Resolution 7

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF will work to strike the 3/60 Mandatory Price Reporting Rule.

Marketing Resolution 8

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF supports state attorneys general action against the Tyson/IBP merger, and be it further resolved R-CALF supports further actions by state attorneys general in opposing any further mergers in the agribusiness and food retail sectors.

Marketing Resolution 9

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF supports a competition title in the farm bill.

Marketing Resolution 10

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF would request that USDA enforces the Mandatory Price Reporting Act and rules by continuing the voluntary reporting program to allow small packers and producers to report their prices.

Marketing Resolution 11

BE IT RESOLVED – R-CALF encourages the U.S. cattle industry to seek avenues to provide hormone free beef to those countries that oppose the importation of hormone-produced beef.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2001.

2002

Marketing Resolution 12

R-CALF USA opposes government-protected monopolies in the form of patent protection on life forms, including both plants and animals.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2002.

2003

Marketing Resolution 13

The definition of captive supplies include any livestock owned, committed to, or otherwise under the control of the packer before seven days of slaughter, including non-negotiated transactions and imported cattle and beef.

Marketing Resolution 14

BE IT RESOLVED the R-CALF USA Board of Directors recognizes water, environmental, and property rights as marketing issues that affect the economic viability of farms and ranches across the United States of America.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2003.

2004

Marketing Resolution 15: DISTINGUISHING THE UNITED STATES CATTLE INDUSTRY

R-CALF USA encourages the USDA and Congress to support and maintain the identity of the United States cattle industry and, therefore, the United States cattle industry shall not be referred to as the "North American cattle industry," which includes the United States, Canada and Mexico.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2004.

2007

Marketing Resolution 16

WHEREAS, the top five beef slaughterhouses in the United States control 85 percent of the cattle slaughter market;

WHEREAS, the horizontal concentration and vertical integration have been increasing drastically each year and each decade, with no change in the market-degrading trend;

WHEREAS, the U.S. poultry industry has matured in its horizontal concentration and vertical integration to the extend that the open market in poultry is gone and growers are serfs on their own land;

WHEREAS, the U.S. hog industry has progressed in horizontal concentration and vertical integration to a degree that less than 10 percent of market hogs are sold on the open market;

WHEREAS, supply and demand have little relevance in livestock markets where conditions are dictated by corporate bureaucrats and category captains;

WHEREAS, America and American agriculture were made strong by fair, open and competitive markets, as well as the individual innovation and entrepreneurship of rural agricultural citizens;

WHEREAS, our children have no future in agriculture without strong governmental corrective action;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA calls upon Congress to pass – and the appropriate government agency to implement – legislation requiring divestiture by the five major beef packers and five major pork packers of all livestock-production assets, all contractual relationships with livestock producers (to take delivery of livestock more than two weeks after commitment), and all but one slaughter plant each (possibly processing plants) by Jan. 1, 2008, in essence reverting to the Consent Decree of 1920.

Marketing Resolution 17

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA supports the inclusion of a competition title in the Farm Bill of 2007,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA supports legislation sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, that would reform USDA-GIPSA to ensure that the plain language of the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA) is followed.

Marketing Resolution 18

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA supports all actions by Congress of the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) that would improve the futures markets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA support actions that:

1. Provide the greatest transparency possible.
2. Address the causes of volatility in the market unrelated to the underlying commodity fundamentals.
3. Establish the preeminence of the original purposes of the markets as a risk-transfer device for producers and users.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

2008

Marketing Resolution 19

WHEREAS, open and competitive markets are extremely important to the prosperity and survival of independent cattle producers;

WHEREAS, formula pricing contracts effectively deny independent producers access to open and competitive markets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA adopt policy and aggressively pursue legislation that allows formula pricing contracts for slaughter cattle that only have a base price on the contract at the time of signing the contract. These contracts shall be available to any independent cattle producer.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2009

Marketing Resolution 20

WHEREAS: Excessive speculation has reduced the effectiveness of the commodities futures market to provide cattle producers accurate price discovery and meaningful opportunity to offset price risk,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA supports fundamental reforms to the commodities futures market, including:

A prohibition against speculative short selling (i.e., selling commodity contracts without either owning the commodity or purchasing commodity contracts).

Establishment of aggregate speculative position limits across all markets and imposed on the portion of speculative activities carried out by participants that may also participate as physical market hedgers.

Speculative position limits must be determined by physical market hedgers (i.e., by participants who use the futures market for its intended purpose of providing price discovery and risk management to buyers and sellers of cattle).

Excessive daily market volatility must be minimized by restoring the more reasonable daily limit of \$1.50 per hundredweight (cwt).

A prohibition against cash settlements on futures contracts in lieu of actual cattle delivery.

Marketing Resolution 21

WHEREAS: Due to concentration and collusion by many major corporations and the economic condition of this country, which both have stifled free market competition, the Packers and Stockyards Act must be enforced,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA should ask Congress to pass legislation that would ban the practice of packers subject to mandatory price reporting from feeding and owning livestock that would go further than the Consent Decree of 1920.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2009.

2010

Marketing Resolution 22

WHEREAS: recent court decisions have nullified protections afforded cattle producers under the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA) by imposing standards not contained in the PSA – for example, courts have required producers to demonstrate competitive injury and harm to competition and have allowed meatpackers to claim a business justification for their otherwise unlawful actions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that R-CALF USA urges clarification of the PSA to make the unlawful acts or practices by meatpackers, as enumerated by Congress in Section 192 of the PSA, unlawful on their face: 1) regardless of whether the acts or practices were actuated by intent; 2) regardless if such acts or practices caused a competitive injury or otherwise adversely affected competition; and, 3) regardless of any alleged business justification for such acts or practices.

Marketing Resolution 23

WHEREAS: The United States cattle industry has been, and continues to be, in a state of contraction, AND WHEREAS: currently four major packers slaughter approximately 88 percent of all market-ready steers and heifers,

AND WHEREAS: these same four major packers engage in the anticompetitive practice of captive supply and the manipulation of the cash market thereof,

AND WHEREAS: the practice of captive supply eliminates competitive bidding, transparency and true price discovery in the open marketplace,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strenuously recommends to the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and the Department of Justice that they immediately and vigorously enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA) of 1921, thereby eliminating anticompetitive market practices including captive supply, and thereby restoring competitive bidding and transparent price discovery.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2010.

MEMBERSHIP

2000

Membership Resolution 1

R-CALF supports the producer's right to vote on the beef checkoff on a periodic basis.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2000.

2002

Membership Resolution 2

Proposed that R-CALF USA would form a committee to study and then propose a nationwide voluntary \$.50 per head check-off to the benefit of the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry.

Proceeds from said check-off to be utilized for the purpose of:

- A. Promoting U.S. LIVE CATTLE and the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry.
- B. Promote the policy matters set forth by the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry.
- C. Protect the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry from unfair trade practices, anti-trust violations, violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act and other rules and laws as they may apply to the industry.
- D. Promote family ranching operations and specifically to educate the public as to the environmental practices and ranching activities and the resulting beneficial effects of those practices on wildlife, water, open space, a safe and healthy food supply, and the quality of life in rural America.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2002.

2004

Membership Resolution 3: PROMOTING THE DOMESTIC CATTLE INDUSTRY

R-CALF USA shall continue to work with all state cattle organizations regardless of affiliation to promote the domestic cattle and beef industry

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2004.

2007

Membership Resolution 4

WHEREAS, increasing R-CALF USA awareness and increasing membership is vital to the future of R-CALF USA,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA aggressively pursue expanded media exposure to increase awareness and membership.

Membership Resolution 5

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA was formed by U.S. cattle producers in 1998 because they believed that the largest segment of the U.S. cattle industry – the producer segment – was in need of a national organization representing the interest of U.S. producers exclusively;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA membership adopt this official slogan: "R-CALF USA: Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer".

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

BEEF CHECKOFF

2006

Beef Checkoff Resolution 1

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA seeks to provide the motivation, information and support necessary to our members so they can become more involved in influencing decisions regarding the Beef Checkoff, and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of dollars collected by the Beef Checkoff comes directly from U.S. cattle producers,

Therefore, be it resolved, R-CALF USA recommends the following:

1. All R-CALF USA affiliate organizations seek approval as "qualified" organizations or associations in their respective states, nominate from within their membership and actively promote those nominees for appointment to the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB).
2. Those affiliate organizations also work diligently to obtain seats on their respective state beef council by providing candidates for appointment or election.
3. Be it further resolved, R-CALF USA seeks appropriate changes to the Beef Promotion Act and Order that would allow Beef Checkoff dollars collected from U.S. cattle producers to be used to promote products that are specifically born, raised and processed in the United States.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 2

BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA will lead a nationwide referendum to amend the National Beef Promotion Act to make such Acts responsive to grassroots family cattle producers.

This is NOT an effort to kill the program, but rather an effort to make the program better.

Specifically, R-CALF USA is suggesting the Checkoff program be amended to include the following:

1. Checkoff dollars may be used to promote USA beef from cattle born, raised, and processed in the United States of America.

2. A periodic vote on the checkoff program (every 5 years).
3. Prohibit any one cattle organization from serving as the “prime contractor” for the program, but allow all cattle organizations to participate in approved projects on a case-by-case basis.
4. Reform the Cattlemen’s Beef Board to reflect proportional representation from all national cattle organizations.
5. Allow checkoff expenditures to promote branded products from small and large packing entities.
6. Provide that 70% of all funds collected remain in the state where collected, and 30% to the Cattlemen’s Beef Board.
7. Reset the date for cattle organizations to be able to bid on Checkoff contracts from 1985 to the date the Act is amended.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2006.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 3

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA feels that the present National Beef Checkoff mechanism has created a framework that is far too complicated and excludes a large portion of U.S. beef producers and,

WHEREAS, two segments – the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB) and the Federation of State Beef Councils (Federation) – are mandated by the Beef Promotion Act and Order, and the third segment – the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) – is a policy-driven organization that also is the main contractor for the Beef Checkoff,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA recommends that the NCBA, the CBB and the Federation each become more individually independent and autonomous in order to alleviate the impression that they are operating as one entity.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 4

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA seeks to provide the motivation, information and support necessary to our members so they can become more involved in influencing decisions regarding the Beef Checkoff,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA recommends the following:

1. All R-CALF USA affiliate organizations seek approval as qualified organizations or associations in their respective states, nominate from within their membership and actively promote those nominees for appointments to the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB).
2. Those affiliate organizations also work diligently to obtain seats on their respective state beef councils by providing candidates for appointment or election.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 5

WHEREAS, the Industry-Wide Beef Checkoff Task Force made the following recommendations:

1. The beef-referendum process should be revised to provide producers the opportunity to petition every five years for a referendum on continuing the Checkoff. Ten percent of beef producers signing the petition at county offices will trigger the USDA to conduct a vote within a year.
2. Increase the assessment to \$2 per head.
3. Enhance the identity of the Federation of State Beef Councils.
4. Any reference to the charter date of established national nonprofit industry-governed organizations be eliminated from the definition (1260.113c) in the Beef Promotion and Research Order.

And,

WHEREAS, most of these findings are not consistent with existing R-CALF USA policy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA does not accept the recommendations of the Beef Checkoff Task Force with the exception of eliminating the charter date for established national nonprofit industry-governed organizations that are eligible to contract for Checkoff funds.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 6

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA believes a producer-driven, beef promotion program is vital to the future of the cattle industry and,

WHEREAS, this program must be focused on promoting the products of the stakeholders, not just those of the beef-production sector and,

WHEREAS, the majority of dollars collected by the Beef Checkoff come directly from U.S. cattle producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA finds the following to be vital and necessary amendments to be made to the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985:

1. Sec. 2904, paragraph (6) be modified to eliminate the requirement that the Operating Committee contract only with “established, national nonprofit industry-governed organizations.” This would allow the Committee to contract directly with vendors and avoid possible conflicts of interest generated by policy positions of any national organization.
2. Provide for a periodic referendum every five years.
3. Include language that would assure the proportion of representation on the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB) and its attendant committees does not exceed 40 percent of producer-members who would represent any one national policy organization.
4. Direct Beef Checkoff dollars collected from U.S. cattle producers to be used to promote products from cattle that are specifically born, raised and processed in the United States.
5. Remove the requirement that contracting organizations must have been in existence prior to the implementation of the current Act and Order.
6. No person, organization, corporation, entity, nor any of their associates, subsidiaries, affiliates, etc., shall be awarded a contract or contracts in an amount or aggregate amount which would exceed 30 percent of the total amount available for contracts during any fiscal year.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

2008

Beef Checkoff Resolution 7

In an effort to enhance the Beef Promotion and Research Act to better benefit cattle producers in the United States, BE IT RESOLVED,

- 1) R-CALF USA will support no consideration of an increase in the \$1.00 per head assessment until and unless all of the conditions and requirements of Checkoff Resolution No. 4, 2007, as approved by the membership by mail-in ballot are accomplished;
- 2) In addition, to help USDA formulate an effective and workable structure to conduct any future referendum, R-CALF USA proposes and supports the following procedures:
 - a) No one under 18 years of age shall be eligible to vote in any referendum.
 - b) All partners 18 years and older involved in enterprises that result in contributions of more than \$10 be eligible to vote. This shall include both spouses involved in a sole proprietorship venture.
 - c) Any operation responsible for the collection and remittance to the Qualified State Beef Councils of more than \$1,000 be qualified polling places to cast ballots. Such locations shall have the responsibility to assemble ballots for totaling, bundling, and passing both ballots and totals on to the USDA for final tallying;
 - d) Official ballots shall be sent by USDA by mail to all producers showing proof of payment of more than \$20 per year. These ballots may be cast at any polling place including FSA offices, extension offices or other qualifying polling places as outlined in c).
- 3) Importers be considered a Qualified State Beef Council entitled to retain one half of their contributions for qualified purposes under the Act and Order.

- 4) Qualified State Beef Councils may advertise exclusively United States' beef or may advertise generic beef if they so desire, but nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting any QBC from advertising U.S. beef only.
- 5) The Act and Order shall be modified to allow Checkoff funds to be spent on projects and research to enhance raising of live cattle, including improving pastures, handling procedures or transportation methods.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2009

Beef Checkoff Resolution 8

WHEREAS: In order to ensure full and fair participation in any future referendum by the maximum number of National Beef Checkoff Program contributors,

BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes any requirement by USDA that mandates premises registration to qualify for a Checkoff ballot.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2009.

2010

Beef Checkoff Resolution 9

WHEREAS: R-CALF USA believes that because all cattle producers pay the federally mandated Beef Checkoff and that the Federation of State Beef Councils was put in place to represent all cattle producers regardless of affiliation or non-affiliation in various policy driven organizations within the cattle industry,

AND WHEREAS: this is in accordance with Beef Checkoff Resolution No. 2, Point 4 of 2006 and Checkoff Resolution No. 1 of 2007,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA rejects the idea of any one organization or any one organization's board of directors having the sole authority for the decisions made, or direction of, the Federation of State Beef Councils;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that contractors be prohibited from placing their name or logo on Beef Checkoff projects they oversee.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2010.

2011

Beef Checkoff Resolution 10

WHEREAS R-CALF USA has determined that membership in, or support in any way for, the U.S. Farm and Ranch Alliance (USFRA) would not be in the best interest of the cattle producers of the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA request the Secretary of Agriculture to institute a rule prohibiting the CBB and/or the Federation of Qualified State Beef Councils from expending any Checkoff funds for that purpose.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 11

WHEREAS R-CALF USA has become aware of a \$2 million interest free loan from the CBB to NCBA

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA request the Secretary of Agriculture institute a rule prohibiting CBB and/or the Federation of Qualified State Beef Councils from making any loans or advances to any person or group regardless of contractor status and any outstanding loan be repaid immediately with interest.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 12

While R-CALF USA is aware of and applauds the efforts of the Office of Inspector General to audit the beef checkoff

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA request the Secretary of Agriculture institute a rule requiring a full and complete audit of the beef checkoff every 5 years beyond the ordinary annual in-house audits currently utilized.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 13

WHEREAS R-CALF USA wishes to have the very best contractors possible promoting beef,

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA request the Secretary of Agriculture require that authorization requests include all implementation fees and total costs of the request from all contractors.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.

FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH

2000

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 1

A - Be it resolved – R-CALF supports a moratorium on all imports of live cattle, beef, pre-cooked beef and all beef products for a period of (3) three years. Until importers can prove the cattle and beef are Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) “Mad Cow Disease” and Foot and Mouth Disease “free” for the protection of the American consumer.

B - R-CALF's Board of Directors formally asks and invites the Livestock Marketing Association, Western Organization of Resource Councils, National Farmers Union, state and local cattle organizations, consumer groups and any other interested organizations for their formal and public help and support on resolution A to present a unified front to Congress.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2000.

2003

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 2

WHEREAS the present HACCP type of meat inspection has failed to protect the consuming public and thereby hurts beef demand,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA recommends the following:

The U.S. government provides federal funding to employ more meat inspectors to work the lines in the large processing plants. FSIS must return to a “hands-on” method of inspection rather than HACCP's “hands-off” type of non inspection. Paper work must be reduced and inspection of meat production lines must increase. FSIS must be responsible to perform scientific microbiological sampling at plants of all sizes. The sampling must be scientific and FSIS must be able to perform accurate trace-backs. Plants killings and processing up to 5000 head of cattle daily should have several tests per day. Small plants would require less frequent testing.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2003.

2004

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 3: Food Safety

Members of R-CALF USA reaffirm that consumer safety and confidence in beef is our highest priority. R-CALF USA confirms its intention to work with the Administration and the Congress to make a good food security system even more secure. R-CALF USA is generally supportive of the initial steps taken by USDA to address the one case of mad cow (BSE) discovered, and R-CALF USA will be working to supply written comments on additional steps or clarification of existing steps that could be taken to achieve the stated objectives of USDA. We continue to support mandatory country of origin labeling to provide important information to consumers, and we support efforts to ensure the safety of the food chain and other actions to continue the high level of consumer confidence in the US food supply. R-CALF USA will also work with the Administration and Congress to ensure that actions taken will be effective in achieving an ever more effective food security system while at the same time avoiding adding unnecessary costs or other burdens on participants in the food supply chain.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 4: Protecting Consumers

Consistent with the R-CALF USA resolution on the importance of consumer protection, R-CALF USA supports an expanded testing program for identification of BSE and elimination of any animals so infected from the food supply. The BSE committee appointed by the R-CALF USA president is instructed to develop proposals on the nature and extent of testing that would be appropriate to secure consumer confidence and the safety of the food supply on an expedited basis.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 5: Strengthening the United States' Resistance to BSE

A. Imported Feed

R-CALF USA makes one of its highest priorities the safety of the domestic food chain and is concerned that the Food and Drug Administration has placed 14 foreign livestock feed suppliers on the agency's high risk list and 6 foreign livestock feed suppliers on the agency's import alert list for violations of the federal feed ban. R-CALF USA members deem the continued importation of livestock feed from these known feed ban violators as a critical risk to the U.S. cattle industry. Therefore, R-CALF USA calls for the immediate development of feed import bans from any foreign feed manufacturer found in violation of the federal feed ban. R-CALF USA further calls for the testing of all imported livestock feed for meat and bone meal contamination prior to its arrival in the United States

B. Strengthening the United States' Feed Ban

1. R-CALF USA supports banning the use of ruminant blood meal, bone meal and ruminant tallow in ruminant animal feed. This includes banning these products in milk replacer, colostrums, and pet foods. R-CALF USA also supports the banning of litter and residue from ruminant animals, poultry and pork from being used as a feed source in ruminant animal feed.

2. R-CALF USA shall support and work toward a ban on the feeding of poultry and/or pork litter to ruminant animals in an effort to add an additional level of security to the safety of the U.S. food chain.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 6: Protecting the United States Cattle Industry Industry from Disease

Recognizing the adverse effects that Canadian Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has had on our markets and the ongoing extreme potential risk Canadian cattle pose to the health of the United States live cattle industry as reflected in the loss of 90% of U.S. export markets from the discovery of one imported Canadian cow in the US with BSE, R-CALF USA adamantly opposes the re-opening of the Canadian border to live cattle imports but in the event the U.S. Government elects to reopen the United States border to Canadian live cattle imports, R-CALF USA will evaluate the legality of actions taken by USDA and will consider pursuit of all reasonable remedies that might be available including but not limited to possible litigation in an effort to protect the integrity and safety of the U.S. beef supply for consumers and producers.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2004.

2005

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 6: Feed Ban

R-CALF USA wants to take the lead on the issue of banning all ruminant-sourced animal protein known to be, or considered to be, a source of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy prion from livestock feed in order to ensure the protection of our cattle herds;

R-CALF USA wants to continue to assure consumers that United States producers will continue to produce the safest beef in the world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: 1) that R-CALF USA supports the ban of all ruminant-sourced animal protein and animal by-products known to be, or considered to be, a source of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy prion from livestock feed; 2) that R-CALF USA supports the ban on any ruminant-sourced animal protein known to be, or considered to be, a source of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy prion from being used in hog and chicken feed; and, 3) that R-CALF USA advocate the use of vegetable-sourced proteins or animal proteins in which no BSE prion contamination had been identified as the protein source for animal feed manufacturing.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 7: BSE "Minimal Risk" Designation

WHEREAS USDA has designated Canada as a BSE "minimal risk" country, and "minimal risk" is not recognized by the OIE;

WHEREAS a “minimal risk” designation may set a precedent for other countries with native BSE cases to petition for access to the U.S. market;

WHEREAS there are 36 countries presently on the list of countries banned from importing cattle and beef into the U.S., either because BSE exists in those countries or because those countries have inadequate import standards against BSE;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA demands USDA retract the rule designating Canada as a minimal risk country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. should continue adhering to the existing standard as reflected by the 1989 USDA policy of prohibiting the importation of cattle and beef from BSE-infected countries. This is a standard of disease avoidance and prevention based upon sound science that protects the U.S. Cattle Industry from the introduction of BSE.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 8: VOLUNTARY TESTING FOR BSE

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA shall encourage USDA to allow voluntary BSE testing of cattle born and raised in the USA by USDA-inspected beef processing facilities.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 9: Animal Health, Phytosanitary and Food Safety Requirements

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA shall demand that 100% of cattle and beef products imported to the United States be required to meet or exceed animal health, phytosanitary and food safety requirements of the United States.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2005.

2006

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 10: Animal Health

BE IT RESOLVED, that R-CALF USA requests that APHIS and APHIS Wildlife services look into the cause and spread and distribution of neospora caninum infection in cattle and/or livestock.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2006.

2007

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 11

WHEREAS, the health of the U.S. cattle herd is vital to independent cattle producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA strongly opposes USDA’s policy of subdivision of foreign countries with cattle disease problems to allow animals from within those countries to imported into the United States.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 12

The R-CALF USA Animal Health Committee, on behalf of and in support of, the organization’s affiliates in Western states, requests that the Board of Directors consider the adoption of the following policy:

R-CALF USA supports mandatory Brucellosis testing of bison in the Yellowstone Ecosystem; working toward the eradication of Brucellosis in bison in said ecosystem by multiple means, including but not limited to: trapping, testing and vaccinating bison in that area.

R-CALF USA supports the implementation of humane management practices by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Parks & Wildlife Service that would control the size of both the bison and elk herds in said vicinity.

The R-CALF USA Animal Health Committee also requests the Board of Directors to implement policy to request that USDA continue Brucellosis testing, vaccination, and surveillance in states where such action already occurs, and to implement Brucellosis surveillance in all other states where cattle are present but no formal testing program is in place, and to fund all such programs.

Maintain a nationwide Brucellosis surveillance/vaccination program, which would be a means to provide a proven method of Animal ID for livestock disease traceback purposes, with minimal financial burden or recordkeeping burdens on independent U.S. livestock producers and related livestock marketing facilities.

We recommend that USDA funds presently appropriated for an Animal ID program be redirected to fund ongoing and existing Brucellosis surveillance/vaccination programs.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

2008

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 13

BE IT RESOLVED, due to the increased prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle of Mexican origin, R-CALF USA requests USDA-APHIS to require all cattle from Mexico be tested for bovine tuberculosis, and that all cattle entering the United States from Mexico shall go to designated feedlots and remain in such feedlots until time of slaughter.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 14

BE IT RESOLVED, that R-CALF USA shall form policy to address the concerns of producers regarding wildlife as a disease source.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2009

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 15

WHEREAS: The Department of Homeland Security has received bids from states for a site for a proposed National Bio Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to replace the present Plum Island, N.Y., site; and,

WHEREAS: The United Kingdom recently experienced an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from a laboratory that was located in close proximity to farms and ranches; and,

WHEREAS: The livestock population of the United States is susceptible to numerous foreign diseases, and an outbreak could have severe consequences for producers and consumers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly promotes extensive biosecurity measures to prevent the release of animal disease agents into the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly supports maintaining and implementing a workable emergency management plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: R-CALF USA demands that any National Bio Agro-Defense Facility remain on Plum Island or be built in a similarly secure area, taking full advantage of natural barriers, out of proximity of farms and ranches.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 16

WHEREAS: The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) is to be moved from an island – Plum Island, N.Y. – to the mainland of the U.S. in Manhattan, Kan., and

WHEREAS: The jurist Learned Hand devised a calculus of risk: the *magnitude* of the harm multiplied by the *probability* of harm, versus the *burden of prevention*, and

WHEREAS: The magnitude of harm moving the NBAF is beyond disastrous. A contagious pathogen could be unleashed that would decimate the entire U.S. cattle herd because the disease research site would be placed squarely in the heart of cattle country: Kansas. Airborne pathogens, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) could travel vast distances to infect the entire cattle herd of our country. The probability of this happening is a near certainty since no human plan is foolproof, and total containment has never happened.

HENCE: Congress originally insisted that livestock disease research be kept away from the mainland and placed on

an island where water would form a natural boundary protecting against the possibility of spreading disease. Given the natural water boundaries of Plum Island, N.Y., sometimes outbreaks occurred but were stopped before reaching land.

HENCE: The burden of preventing this harm is minimal. Simply keep Plum Island operating. Upgrading Plum Island would be no more expensive than building from scratch an entire new facility in Kansas. Until now, Plum Island has proven itself capable of keeping contagious disease from being transmitted to the mainland.

HENCE: The risks are too great. The public has not been given adequate time to make its case against the Kansas site, nor has the public truly been heard.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA supports keeping such research on Plum Island to protect U.S. livestock, and opposes the NBAF being located in Kansas or any other mainland site.

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 17

WHEREAS: Independent animal owners, through years of experience, know how to best care for their animals because their livelihoods depend on it, and

WHEREAS: States such as California and Florida, by referendum ballot initiatives, have adopted animal husbandry practices that are dictated by thousands of voters, most of whom have no knowledge of what is best for the animals or their owner,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes ballot initiatives to dictate animal husbandry practices and stresses the fact that those decisions are best made by the independent animal owner.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2009.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING (COOL)

2004

COOL Resolution 1: SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: Proposed Amendments to the COOL Act Following Amendment which Delays COOL Until 2006

The following amendment is designed to address concerns that 1) USDA has imposed an overly burdensome origin-verification system on producers; 2) USDA has created an overly burdensome multi-origin labeling scheme for packers and retailers; and 3) the Act does not require or allow the labeling of all beef sold at retail or at restaurants.

Congress should amend the COOL Act to accomplish the following:

1. Restore the Act's implementation date of September 30, 2004.
2. Direct the Secretary to require all imported livestock to be permanently marked with a mark of foreign origin.
3. Direct the Secretary to work cooperatively with state health officials, brand officials, and tribal officials to identify all known cattle of foreign origin currently residing in the U.S. by September 30, 2004.
 - a. Establish an incentive program to ensure producers are not financially harmed by identifying foreign-origin livestock.
 - b. Permanently mark all imported cattle with a foreign mark of origin and designate all cattle of unknown origin as "unknown."
4. Direct USDA to certify the origins of livestock at the point of slaughter by relying exclusively on marks of origin to certify the foreign origins of livestock. All unmarked cattle shall be certified as exclusively born and raised in the United States.

5. Direct the Secretary to reserve the name “United States” only for beef exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S. All beef derived from imported animals shall be ineligible to include the name “United States” on its label and shall bear only the name of the importing country, regardless of how much time the animal was in the U.S.
6. Expand definition of “Retailer” to include butcher shops and smaller retailers.
7. Include “food service establishment” as a “final point of sale” consumer to ensure that food service establishments receive labeled commodities from suppliers, thus enabling food service establishments to voluntarily label beef at their establishments.
8. All beef and product containing beef shall be labeled.

Note: Other applicable resolutions include Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 3: Food Safety.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2004.

2011

COOL Resolution 2:

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA’s policy duly enacted by a majority vote of its members in 2010 directs R-CALF USA to work to withdraw the United States from any trade agreement, treaty or organization that usurps the power of the U.S. Congress, States, or local governments, weakens our sovereignty, or violates the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as an exercise of our sovereignty and in full conformity with the U.S. Constitution, the United States Congress and the President of the United States in 2002 passed into law, and later expanded that law in 2008, a requirement for mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for beef, pork, lamb, chicken, goat meat, wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, fruits and vegetables, peanuts, pecans, ginseng, and macadamia nuts; and

WHEREAS, COOL is intended to provide valuable information to United States consumers enabling them to identify the country in which the food they purchase for themselves and their families was grown, raised and produced; and

WHEREAS, the information COOL is to provide allows consumers to exercise choice in the marketplace by empowering them to choose from what country they want to purchase their food, choose from what country’s production and safety standards they want their food produced, and choose to support United States farmers and ranchers by purchasing food grown, raised and produced exclusively in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the food exporting countries of Mexico and Canada, and later joined by third-party exporting country participants Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, European Union, Guatemala, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Peru and Chinese Taipei, filed a complaint against the United States’ COOL law with the international tribunal known under the World Trade Organization (WTO), which formally cooperates and coordinates with the United Nations¹; and

WHEREAS, the WTO has selected a three-judge tribunal panel of foreign citizens to decide the fate of the United States’ COOL law that consist of the following unelected, foreign citizens: Pakistan Ambassador Manzoor Ahmad, who represents the country that harbored the world’s most dangerous terrorist, Osama Bin Laden, as well as a country with a history of exporting beef products to the United States; Christian Häberli, a research employee of the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland – a country also with a history of exporting beef products to the United States; and João Magalhães, a former employee of the WTO turned consultant and of unknown nationality; and

WHEREAS, this WTO tribunal, at least two members of which have a clear conflict of interest as they represent countries with a history of exporting beef to the United States, has reportedly issued a preliminary ruling that would

strike down the United States COOL law alleging that the law violates provisions of the WTO's agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; and

WHEREAS, this WTO tribunal members of which are known to be trained on the rights and privileges accorded to U.S. citizens [under the U.S. Constitution] was further reported to have usurped the U.S. Congress by ruling that U.S. COOL requirements do not fulfill the stated congressional objective of helping to inform consumers of the origin of meat; and

WHEREAS, any action on the part of this tribunal to demand *any* form of concession from the United States with respect to the United States' law would constitute a direct attack on the sovereignty of the United States of America.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if the reported, preliminary ruling against the United States' COOL law stands as the official ruling of the WTO, and should the WTO attempt to demand any form of concession from the United States as a condition for the United States to continue to exercise its sovereign right to inform its citizens as to the country-of-origin of their food through its 2002 COOL law as amended in 2008, R-CALF USA will call on Congress and the President of the United States to immediately withdraw from and not support the World Trade Organization.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.

RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO BYLAWS

2001

Bylaws Resolution 1

The purpose of the change is to amend the Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation and Article IV of the By-Laws creating a tenth board seat and a corresponding tenth board district to be geographically defined by the Board of Directors.

FURTHER, By-Law Article IV, Section 3, Subparagraph C, shall be amended to allow only for members within each board district to vote for and select their respective board representative.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2001.

2004

Bylaws Resolution 2: Bylaw and Purpose Statement Change

The President's committee on Purpose Statement and Bylaws consider adopting a bylaw change to the Purpose Statement and Bylaws of R-CALF USA to allow R-CALF USA to be involved in all issues that affect the live cattle industry.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2004.

2005

Bylaws Resolution 3: Bylaw Change

The current policy reads as such:

“The purpose for which this corporation is organized shall be to address the market interests of the U.S. cattle producers with the primary purposes of addressing the threats posed to the domestic live cattle industry by unfair and illegal trade practices and imports.”

The proposed insertion to the policy reads as such:

“The corporation may address national and international issues which affect the profitability of U.S. cattle producers.”

It precedes a sentence beginning: “The corporation may do . . .”

This same change must also be made to the Article of Corporation under Article VI. The text is exactly the same.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2005.

2008

Bylaws Resolution 2: Bylaw Amendment 1: Article IV - Directors

Page 4. Line one under Section 1. Delete "the immediate past president and".

Page 5. Line four under Section 3. Delete after nominating "two or more".

Page 6. Line nine. Delete "two or more".

Bylaws Resolution 3: Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2: Article V - Officers Section 2. Duties of Officer

Page 10. Line one under Section 3. Removal from Office, delete "with cause."

Bylaws Resolution 4: Proposed Bylaw Amendment 3: Article IX - Meetings Section 5. Procedures and Protocol of meetings

Page 13. Bottom line, add, "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised."

Bylaws Resolution 5: Proposed Bylaw Amendment 4: Article IX – Meetings Section 8. Notice and Agenda,

At the last line delete after director, "or officer"

Bylaws Resolution 6: Proposed Bylaw Amendment 5: Article XIII - Books and Records Section 2. Member's Inspection Rights

Add "The documents are to be in the sole possession of R-CALF USA. This right is for inspection only and shall not be deemed to allow the member rights to possession, or public dissemination of any of these documents either in whole or in part, without the approval of the board of directors."

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2010

Bylaws Resolution 7: Bylaws Change

(underlined, added to original resolution; strikethrough, removed from original text)

ARTICLE IV – DIRECTORS; Section 1. Numbers of Directors, Director Regions, and Terms of Office

The Board of Directors shall consist of at least ten (10) persons representing ten (10) regions as follows:

- A. Region I shall consist of Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, and the director shall serve an initial three-year term. ~~The initial director will be term limited in 2006.~~
- B. Region II shall consist of Wyoming, Utah and Colorado ~~and New Mexico~~, and the director shall serve an initial three-year term. ~~The initial director will be term limited in 2006.~~
- C. Region III shall consist of North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The director shall serve an initial three-year term. ~~The initial director will be term limited in 2006.~~
- D. Region IV shall consist of California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico ~~Hawaii~~. The director shall serve an initial two-year term. ~~The first term of the initial director expired in 2005.~~
- E. Region V shall consist of Texas. The director shall serve an initial two-year term. ~~The first term of the initial director expired in 2005.~~
- F. Region VI shall consist of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, ~~Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi~~. The director shall serve an initial two-year term. ~~The first term of the initial director expired in 2005.~~
- G. Region VII shall consist of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, ~~Illinois, Indiana and Michigan~~. The director shall serve an initial one-year term. ~~The first term of the initial director expired in 2004.~~
- H. Region VIII shall consist of Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Rhode Island, Maryland, ~~West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee,~~

~~Virginia and Ohio. The director shall serve an initial one-year term. The first term of the initial director expired in 2004.~~

- I. ~~Region IX shall consist of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina. The director shall serve an initial one-year term. The first term of the initial director expired in 2004.~~
- J. ~~Region X shall consist of the areas of the country on which cattle are produced by members of native tribes of the United States. The board of director representing this region shall be selected by the Intertribal Agricultural Council. The first term of the initial director expired in 2003.~~

Region XI shall consist of California, Nevada and Hawaii. The director shall serve an initial three-year term.

Region XII shall consist of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The director shall serve an initial three-year term.

Region XIII shall consist of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The director shall serve an initial two-year term.

Region XIV shall consist of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. The director shall serve an initial two-year term.

Region XV shall consist of Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island. The director shall serve an initial one-year term.

ANIMAL ID

2007

Animal ID Resolution 1

WHEREAS, existing systems for identification of livestock, including brands, are effective for disease control;

WHEREAS, changes to optimize existing systems can be accomplished by state authorities without implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS);

WHEREAS, the implementation of the NAIS – whether by federal or state governments – raises concerns about the impact on private property, privacy and the ability to conduct business;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA opposes any government action that funds or mandates premise registration and individual or industry participation in the NAIS.

Animal ID Resolution 2

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA opposes making premises registration or animal identification mandatory for 4-H and FFA, which are USDA-driven programs.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

2008

Animal ID Resolution 3

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS intends to use existing federal disease control programs, breed association registries and interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (health certificates) to implement NAIS (National Animal Identification System), as outlined in a draft titled “A Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability” and dated Dec. 12, 2007,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA opposes implementation of NAIS through coercive or exclusionary tactics.

Animal ID Resolution 4

BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA opposes any form of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) including any that infringe upon the sovereignty of the states, tribes or individuals, or that would cause the loss of inherent freedoms (life, liberty, right to privacy, property and the pursuit of happiness).

Animal ID Resolution 5

BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA will work for the passage of legislation that would prevent any department of the U.S. government from making NAIS premises registration a prerequisite for participation in state or federal programs.

Animal ID Resolution 6

Amendment to 2007 Animal ID No. 2. The current policy states:

R-CALF USA recommends that USDA-APHIS continue the funding, ear tags, and traceback program used for Brucellosis (which is a proven program) as an animal health traceback identification program, in conjunction with state brand laws. All data would continue to be held by the states and APHIS, as it is currently.

Proposed Amendment (Replacement of current policy above):

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA recommends that USDA-APHIS continue the funding of ear tags and systems pre-dating NAIS for federal disease control programs for livestock as an animal health traceback identification program, in conjunction with state brand laws. All data would continue to be held by the states and APHIS, as it is currently. R-CALF USA opposes the harmonization of these existing systems with, or the use of, these existing systems to implement or promote NAIS.

Animal ID Resolution 7

In the 2007 Animal ID Resolution No. 3, delete “premises and cattle” and replace with “livestock.”

WHEREAS, existing systems for identification of livestock, including brands, are effective for disease control;

WHEREAS, changes to optimize existing systems can be accomplished by state authorities without implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS);

WHEREAS, the implementation of the NAIS – whether by federal or state governments – raises concerns about the impact on private property, privacy and the ability to conduct business;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA opposes any government action that funds or mandates premises registration and individual or industry participation in the NAIS.

Animal ID Resolution 8

Motion to delete entirely the following current policies (because they are replaced by No. 1-5 above):

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2009

Animal ID Resolution 9

WHEREAS: the U.S. Department of Agriculture has violated its promise to maintain a voluntary status for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) at both the federal and state levels, and

WHEREAS: NAIS has neither been debated or adopted by the members of Congress, nor presented to the President for signature, but rather is being implemented solely through USDA rules, regulations and funding under statutes adopted and previously implemented, and

WHEREAS: the implementation of NAIS has not been subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to prevent the cost-prohibitive impact on the small producer and the negative impact on the custom, culture and economic stability of local communities, and

WHEREAS: NAIS has no demonstrated value for disease control, which is already well served by existing state brand laws and veterinarian services, and its benefits are solely to USDA for control of private property, to mega-agribusiness and to the manufacturers of equipment for the implementation of NAIS, and

WHEREAS: combining mandatory state programs with NAIS premises registration is in violation of the Fourth

Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated,” and

WHEREAS: USDA has implemented policies that compel accredited veterinarians, at the risk of losing their state licenses, to register premises that are not voluntarily registered, and

WHEREAS: combining mandatory state programs with NAIS violates the Fifth and 14th Amendments, which guarantee that neither the federal government nor any State “Shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law,” and

WHEREAS: NAIS has usurped states’ rights by violating the 10th Amendment, which states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the U.S. Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people,” and

WHEREAS: USDA has established rules and regulations for the levying of excessive fines, from \$5,000 to \$500,000, or imprisonment of up to 10 years, a violation of the Fifth and Eighth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, and for the enforcement of said rules and regulations through its Investigative and Enforcement Services, and

WHEREAS: USDA continues its pattern of violating Constitutional rights by pursuing critical mass to justify its objectives,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA vigorously opposes USDA’s implementation of the National Animal Identification System as a means of registering private property as premises subject to increased government control, a system which was neither originated by grassroots producers, nor warranted for disease prevention, control or traceback ability.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2009.

2011

Animal ID Resolution 10

WHEREAS: the USDA/APHIS proposed rule for Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) does not recognize the hot iron brand or tattooing as official animal identification.

WHEREAS: the USDA/APHIS proposed rule for Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) includes identifying livestock of all ages, not just the breeding herd.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA opposes the USDA/APHIS proposed mandatory Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule.

Animal ID Resolution 11

WHEREAS: R-CALF USA views the USDA/APHIS Animal Disease Traceability rule to be just as onerous as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: All policy referring to National Animal Identification (NAIS) will apply to the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

2006

Private Property Rights 1

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA establish a standing committee to help protect and preserve private property rights.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2006.

Private Property Rights 2: Supporting, Updating and Modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation amending the ESA to offer greater incentives to landowners to participate in species recovery; and

WHEREAS, the House legislation provides for compensation to property owners to aide the recovery of species; and

WHEREAS the House legislature calls for better science in listing species and development of recovery plans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate is currently considering updating and modernizing the ESA;

Now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA strongly supports amending the ESA to advance protections of private property rights, insuring that listing and recovery decisions are based on credible science and providing financial incentives for property owners to participate in recovery of species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that R-CALF USA strongly encourages the U.S. Senate to go forward with updating and modernizing the ESA.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2006.

2007

Private Property Rights 3

WHEREAS, vested and/or riparian water rights are being threatened and compromised by a variety of methods,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA will make every effort to educate members as to their ownership of vested and/or riparian water rights and will help whenever possible in defending and protecting those vested and/or riparian water rights.

Private Property Rights 4

WHEREAS, U.S. citizens have a constitutional right to keep and own property and make decisions determining its use,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA will work aggressively to protect those constitutional rights.

Private Property Rights 5

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA strongly believes that judges are to rule according to the law and not legislate from the bench,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA will, whenever necessary, take all action at their disposal when judges act in a legislative capacity rather than upholding the laws and constitutions regarding our private property rights

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2007.

2008

Private Property Rights 6

WHEREAS, the horse slaughter ban is creating an economic hardship on horse owners and an ecological hardship on private and federal lands;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA supports abolishment of the horse slaughter ban.

Private Property Rights 7

WHEREAS, title to the land is a vital component of property and the right of the owner to determine its use;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that R-CALF USA strongly encourages its members to document their exhaustive Chain of Title, and demands that legislative, executive and judicial officials recognize these historic titles.

Private Property Rights 8

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA strongly believes that any arbitration agreement should be entered into freely and voluntarily,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA supports legislation that would require that if a livestock or poultry contract or marketing contract provides for the use of arbitration to resolve a controversy under the livestock or poultry contract or marketing contract, arbitration may be used to settle the controversy only if after the controversy arises, both parties freely and voluntarily consent in writing to use arbitration to settle the controversy.

Private Property Rights 9

Oppose H.R. 2421. Congress should not expand the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Restoration Act.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2008.

2009

Private Property Rights 10

WHEREAS: National scenic byways and scenic landscapes, which are promoted by economic development governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies, create any and all inverse takings of private property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes all national scenic byways, scenic landscapes and acquisitions without due process and appraisal at highest and best use under uniform appraisal standards for federal land acquisition.

Private Property Rights 11

BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes the use of condemnation and eminent domain for benefits to others, such as governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, private entities and entities of the proposed North American Union, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Land acquired by eminent domain cannot be sold or re-dedicated unless it is to the original owner, heirs or assigns.

Private Property Rights 12

WHEREAS: The United States of America is a sovereign nation, and the U.S. Congress did not debate or vote in favor of Agenda 21 (Sustainable Development);

WHEREAS: The United Nations has proposed and promulgated Agenda 21, which is a collectivist planning document;

WHEREAS: Agenda 21 alienates you from your owner rights in private property, as states the U.S. Constitution,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes Agenda 21.

Private Property Rights 13

WHEREAS: Custom and culture determine the direction of societies, and good government makes the pursuit of custom and culture a realistic possibility; and

WHEREAS: The American custom and culture mechanism is based in individualism and personal responsibility; and

WHEREAS: The nature of the cultural mechanism requires a fixed and measurable money system to reward individuals for their skills, labor and productivity; and

WHEREAS: People who produce value in society deserve to have a stable storage system to secure that wealth and provide for their future needs; and

WHEREAS: The historically respected system of measuring and storing the fruits of labor and skill has been through gold and silver and landed property; and

WHEREAS: Banking lenders have been entrusted through the Federal Reserve to replace the gold and silver system with a stable non-commodity-based monetary system, and they have failed in that trust; and

WHEREAS: The lack of stable property in the form of commodity based money has made self-earned security impossible for most wage earners, and therefore, the burden of property rights protection has fallen on landed property owners; and

WHEREAS: Farmers and ranchers lament the loss of property rights and find political success extremely difficult due to minority numbers; and

WHEREAS: Stable value money would bring together wage earners, farmers and ranchers for the common goal of property rights protection; and

WHEREAS: A return to commodity based money as property would perpetually secure all producers' self-earned wealth, and would bring a political majority into the fold as property rights protectors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA supports legislation to dismantle the Federal Reserve and its non-commodity based monetary system, and to re-establish a commodity based currency as the lawful money of the United States according to Article 1, Sections 8 and 10 of the U.S. Constitution.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2009.

2010

Private Property Rights 14

R-CALF USA opposes extremist animal rights individual's or groups' views and tactics that impair animal owners' Constitutional rights to the pursuit of life, liberty and the right to own property.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2010.

2011

Private Property Rights 15

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA Private Property Rights Committee is making a motion to rescind the current policy regarding the federal estate tax private property resolution No 5 passed and adopted in 2009. In favor of new policy submitted below.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA supports the permanent repeal of the federal Estate Tax or the "death tax" due to the financial burdens on ranchers and farmers that may force the sale of the family ranch or farm at the time of death in order to pay the estate taxes owed, preventing the next generation from producing food and fiber for the nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Estates meeting the foregoing will not be subject to the estate tax.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.

TRANSPORTATION

2011

Transportation Resolution 1

WHEREAS recent efforts by federal and state Departments of Transportation vigorously enforce unreasonable and non-traditional truck regulations and interpret these rules for revenue enhancements using a hyped up safety hysteria,

WHEREAS adhering to these unreasonable new limits is detrimental to any and all agriculture customs, culture and economic stability,

WHEREAS these rules now can apply to small pickup-trailer combinations

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA lobby for Agriculture Exemption on time in service; unreasonable and non-traditional safety inspections when loaded with livestock and/or perishable agriculture products and unreasonable and non-traditional weight regulations

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA lobby for a United States state of origin law that if a load is legal in the area where loaded, that load shall be deemed legal in any state in the union.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011.