



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

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2010

International Trade 1 – revised 2016

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 unlimited by any “fast track” procedures.

R-CALF USA, therefore, opposes approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

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, not managing disease after it gets here nor facilitating multi-national corporate power. 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 effect on market access and loss of competition. Such study to also breach subject of captive supplies and its effect 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 includes 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 extent 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.

Marketing Resolution 24

WHEREAS, USDA/APHIS is attempting to relax U.S. foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) restrictions for Argentina and Brazil even though FMD remains endemic in South America and in regions within those countries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that R-CALF USA opposes any relaxation of FMD safeguards for any country that is not certified free of FMD without vaccination in every region within the country.

2015

Marketing Resolution 25

R-CALF USA opposes the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) efforts and rules which allow expanded imports of cloven-footed live animals and/or meat products, fresh and/or chilled from cloven-footed animals, live animals and/or meat products from cloven-footed animals (fresh and/or chilled meat from cloven-footed animals) from any country or regions of any country with documented and/or suspected cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus or from any region or any country not free of FMD without vaccination.

2016

Marketing Resolution 26

WHEREAS the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) has **lost credibility with cattle** feeders, background operators, and cow-calf producers as a risk management option due to extreme daily volatility and the influence of algorithmic trading.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly recommends that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission CFTC institute changes that require an asset-based system with delivery and based on an industry standard system established by industry professionals. Also, trades should be tied to actual U.S. beef production and domestic supply fundamentals for both live and feeder cattle trading systems.

2017

Marketing Resolution 27

WHEREAS, in the interest of market transparency R-CALF USA requests that CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) on days of high volume of trade release trader identity to public.

R-CALF USA further urges the USDA, -through its Mandatory Price Reporting (MPR) service report, to report -all slaughter cattle sales at the time of sale, regardless of whether the cattle are purchased for future delivery or contracted without a fixed price. Upon delivery, the price for cattle without a fixed price should then be reported.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2017.

2018

Marketing Resolution 28

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA represents producers who make their livelihood from producing animal protein from live animal production and harvest;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly opposes the use of the word meat, particularly beef and lamb and beef- and lamb-cut descriptors, by those developing a man-made or lab-created source of protein and such creations can only be labeled as such.

Marketing Resolution 29

WHEREAS, there is a continuing trend of mergers and acquisitions of companies in the agricultural product supply side and in the processing and procurement side of agriculture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly urges Congress to enact an immediate moratorium on mergers and acquisitions of dominant market participants in agricultural markets until the U.S. Department of Justice becomes more proactive in enforcing antitrust law.

Marketing Resolution 30

WHEREAS, foreign ownership and take-over of domestic food production is becoming more commonplace, e.g., Marfrig's recent purchase of National Beef.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA urges the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to place an immediate moratorium on any future foreign acquisitions of food production firms and food processing firms in the U.S.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2018.

2019

Marketing Resolution 31

WHEREAS, many states' laws limit the use of state-inspected livestock processing facilities to custom harvesting for livestock producers;

WHEREAS, there are very few USDA inspected processing facilities that the U.S. cattle producers and producer-owned beef companies can utilize;

WHEREAS, U.S. cattle producers would have significantly more direct access to the beef market if they had the right to harvest their cattle at state-inspected processing facilities;

WHEREAS, selling beef derived from cattle born, raised, harvested, and processed all within the same state complies with the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, R-CALF USA supports legislative changes in certain states so that producers have the right to sell beef derived from cattle, harvested and processed at state-inspected processing facilities.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2019.

2020

Marketing Resolution 28

WHEREAS, the price determination in all segments of the beef production chain is based on price discovery in the fed cattle market.

WHEREAS, that market, and the reporting of those cash sales, has become extremely thin and in some regions non-existent, resulting in negative downward price pressure in all levels of cattle pricing.

THEREFORE, R-CALF USA supports proposed legislation, (i.e.) SB 3693 and H.R. 7501 The Spot Market Protection Act.

Marketing Resolution 29

WHEREAS, in order for producers to be able to better compete in the marketplace, transaction data reported to USDA AMS must be transparent.

THEREFORE, R-CALF USA shall work to ensure slaughter cattle sales agreement information be reported at the time of the agreement between packer and producer (including formula sales without a fixed price).

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Spring of 2020.

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:

1. Promoting U.S. LIVE CATTLE and the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry.
2. Promote the policy matters set forth by the U.S. LIVE CATTLE industry.
3. 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.
4. 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.

2012

Membership Resolution 6

Add ‘independent’ in slogan so it will read: “Fighting for the Independent U.S. Cattle Producer”

Note: The slogan is currently, “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 Fall of 2012.

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 to 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.

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

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 as well as the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) require that authorization requests include all implementation fees and total costs of the request from all contractors as well as indicate the names of all contractors and sub-contractors.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2011. And updated Fall of 2013

2012

Beef Checkoff Resolution 14

WHEREAS R-CALF USA recognizes the inherent conflict of interest presented by any policy advocacy organization being selected as a contractor or sub-contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program

BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA calls upon the Secretary of USDA to

1. Prohibit any policy advocacy organization from contracting or sub-contracting with the CBB (Cattlemen's Beef Board) or Federation of Qualified State Beef Councils based on section [1261e] of the Act prohibiting lobbying, and
2. Amend the order to allow the CBB (Cattlemen's Beef Board) to contract directly only with non-policy advocacy independent parties to promote beef under the parameter of the current order.

2014

Beef Checkoff Resolution 15

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff program as it now stands is corrupt and has been and is being abused; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff program has been declared by the United States Supreme Court to be a tax; and

WHEREAS, the members of R-CALF USA desire to no longer be required to pay said tax;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Directors of R-CALF USA are hereby directed to communicate to the Congress of the United States of America that we desire that The United States

Congress shall discontinue the current Beef Checkoff program.

2018

Beef Checkoff Resolution 16

~~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 Proposed Amendment to Resolution #1:

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.~~

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

Beef Checkoff Proposed Amendment to Resolution # 3:

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,

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 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.
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 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 (1260.113e) in the Beef Promotion and Research Order.-~~

~~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 Proposed Amendment to Resolution #4:

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.65. 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.~~

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

Beef Checkoff Proposed Amendment to Resolution #5:

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. 3, 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 e).~~
- 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.

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

Beef Checkoff Amendment to Resolution #7:

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.

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

Beef Checkoff Proposed Amendment to Resolution #10:

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 to 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,~~ and an annual forensic audit posted on the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) and the state council websites for publication.

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

Beef Checkoff Proposed Amendment to Resolution #13:

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff program as it now stands is corrupt and has been and is being abused; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff program has been declared by the United States Supreme Court to be a tax; and

WHEREAS, the members of R-CALF USA desire to no longer be required to pay said tax;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Directors of R-CALF USA are hereby directed to communicate to the Congress of the United States of America that we desire that The United States Congress shall discontinue the current Beef Checkoff program.

The Above Resolution was approved by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Fall of 2014. (Note: - There were no amendments to the above resolution, but it is included because it is the strongest of R-CALF USA's Beef Checkoff Resolutions.)

Beef Checkoff Resolution 16

WHEREAS, U.S. cattle producers are assessed a \$1 per head checkoff fee to establish, finance and carry out a coordinated program of research, producer and consumer information and promotion to improve, maintain and develop markets.

WHEREAS, the 1985 beef checkoff was orchestrated to strengthen the U.S. cattle producers position in the market place.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Beef checkoff funds shall not be utilized in any of the above manners to promote products derived from cultured lab grown sources.
2. Beef checkoff funds shall not be awarded to any organization, processor or retailer who invests in or promotes the use of cultured beef products in direct competition against born, raised and slaughtered USA BEEF.
3. The entire amount of beef checkoff funds collected from the sale of cattle born and raised in the United States shall be used to promote beef exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 17

WHEREAS, the Federation of Qualified State Beef Councils invests checkoff funds under the pretense of a private entity using the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) identification.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA calls for the complete separation of the Federation of State Beef Councils from the NCBA.

Beef Checkoff Resolution 18

WHEREAS, the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) calls for reducing consumer consumption of red meats.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA calls for the termination of affiliation and beef checkoff membership funding in the GRSB.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2018.

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 feeds 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, colostrum, 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 know 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 be 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.⁵

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.

2017

Food Safety, Animal Health Resolution 18

WHEREAS: Bovine tuberculosis causes extreme economic loss to individual producers and to all producers who reside in states where the disease is identified by the USDA; and

WHEREAS: the human form of tuberculosis is transmissible to cattle, sheep, and buffalo.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA demands that all cases of bovine tuberculosis be genetically identified by using PCR analysis and that, all immigrants entering the United States of America be tested for tuberculosis.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2017.

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.

WHEREAS, the WTO has ruled against the sovereignty of the United States' consumer using a conflicted panel with a plaintiff trade representative as a judge.

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA calls for the President and Congress to immediately withdraw the U.S. from the WTO.

Now, **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER 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, RCALF 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. Underlined text added in 2015.

2014

COOL Resolution 3: Resolution to Expand MCOOL law to include all meats.

WHEREAS consumers have the right to know where food comes from
WHEREAS the current law does not cover all meat sales **WHEREAS**
all meat sales shall be covered at all levels

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we support expanding the mandatory country-of-origin labeling to include all meats and meat products at all points of sale, so that the consumer will be fully informed about the origin of their food.

(updated in 2015)

2016

COOL Resolution 4

WHEREAS, most countries in the world charge a consumption tax on US exports of manufacturing and food products averaging 17% of the product's value;

WHEREAS, most countries in the world rebate the consumption tax when their goods and food products are shipped to the USA, R-CALF USA favors enacting a US value added or goods and services tax on food and consumer goods;

WHEREAS, US tax revenue consists exclusively of taxes that are not border adjustable (charged to imports and rebated upon export);

WHEREAS, the result is a tariff on exports and a subsidy of foreign shipments to the US;

Now, therefore be it resolved:

That R-CALF USA supports the implementation of a US consumption tax to the importer such as a value added or goods and services tax applied on a credit/invoice basis in combination with reduction of existing domestic taxes and costs, such as payroll taxes and health care costs, in a manner that is tax revenue neutral and maintains progressivity in our tax system.

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 ByLaws 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 threeyear 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.

2014

Bylaws Resolution 8: The bold, italic text below are additions.

Article II - Nonprofit Purpose

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose for which the corporation is organized shall be to address the market interest of U.S. cattle ***and sheep*** producers with the primary purpose of addressing the threats posed to the domestic live cattle ***and sheep*** industries by unfair and illegal trade practices and imports. The corporation may address national and international issues which affect the profitability of U.S. cattle ***and sheep*** producers.

Bylaws Resolution 9: The bold, italic text below are proposed additions

Article III

Section 1 Classes & Qualifications of Members

B. Associate Members

Associate membership shall be available to all affiliated businesses *and individuals* and shall be classified in categories and dues set annually by the Board of Directors.

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.

2016

Animal ID Resolution 12: Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

WHEREAS: The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef has proposed the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) to promote a system of full supply-chain traceability.

WHEREAS: The SAI is using the same business model that was used to vertically integrate the poultry and swine industries.

WHEREAS: R-CALF USA believes that SAI will lead to a fully vertically integrated livestock industry.

WHEREAS: The term of sustainability has not been clearly defined.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes the SAI as defined by the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, and opposes the funding of any GRSB program including SAI with Checkoff dollars.

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 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 noncommodity 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.

2012

Private Property Rights 16:

WHEREAS our founders secured inalienable rights in our founding documents The Declaration of Independence, and The Constitution, as those granted by God,

WHEREAS there is no citizenship requirement for inalienable rights,

WHEREAS the United States of America has existed for centuries with the four categories of relationship of persons to the nation being citizens, non-citizens, convicted felons, and enemies in war,

WHEREAS in our nation’s past history no person in any of the four categories was denied human rights,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) rejects and refuses to accept any categorization of persons which denies all human rights to any human being.

Private Property Rights 17:

WHEREAS the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) supports the United States Constitution,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support and ask our Congressional delegations to support Federal legislation H.R 3875 which would restore habeas corpus and due process rights taken by the National Defense Authorization Act

Private Property Rights 18

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

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

WHEREAS: United Nations 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 any implementation of United Nations Agenda 21, and supports policy to get the United States out of the United Nations and cut funding to the United Nations.

Private Property Rights 19

WHEREAS the County Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of each County according to the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878.

WHEREAS R-CALF USA supports local coordination between the County Sheriff and federal agents, and the federal agents must follow due process of law obtaining search warrants/ seizures, establishing probable cause, before they interact with citizens.

WHEREAS the federal government encourages county sheriffs, to give up their authority by signing cooperative agreements in exchange for federal money, and R-CALF USA encourages their members to educate County Sheriffs about the dangers of cooperative agreements and reject them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED R-CALF USA supports county sheriffs who arrest and resist federal agents violating the constitution of the United States.

2013

Private Property Rights 20

WHEREAS private property cannot exist without the desire and the means to defend it,

THEREFORE R-CALF USA opposes any legislation which attempts to restrict the rights of self defense and/or the right to defend private property,

AND FURTHERMORE, R-CALF USA will support legislation which broadens the base of tools and means to defend life and private property.

2014

Private Property Rights 21

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers propose to amend the definition of "waters of the United States" within the Clean Water Act, thereby expanding the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, the federal government is improperly prosecuting agricultural producers for violating Section 404 of the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act permitting requirements are a means to control the use and enjoyment of private property and create an economic burden on livestock production;

WHEREAS, it was not the intent of Congress to impede agricultural production in the United States through the enactment of the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act includes exemptions from Section 404 permitting requirements, including those for farming and ranching activities, upland soil and water

conservation practices, and the construction and maintenance of stock ponds and irrigation ditches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA supports strict interpretation of the original Congressional language and opposes the creation of any agency policy or federal law, including, but not limited to, statutes, regulations, executive orders, and judicial decisions, which would effectuate an expansion of the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and any other government agency shall not enforce the Clean Water Act in any way that would impair, diminish, divest, or destroy the water rights vested under state and local laws; the traditional customs and usage; and the decisions by the courts.

Private Property Rights 22

WHEREAS, the establishment of National Heritage Areas adversely affects private property rights by influencing local officials to pass zoning laws;

WHEREAS, National Heritage Area designations infringe upon private property rights, subverts local sovereignty and compromises the authority and integrity of locally elected officials through a creation of a non-elected management cooperative entity advised by the National Park Service and whose management plan is approved by the Secretary of the Interior;

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are outside the purview and jurisdiction of the National Park Service;

WHEREAS, a fundamental interdependence exists between individual liberty and the ability to own property, and R-CALF USA is very concerned that National Heritage Area designations deprive landowners of their ability to use and enjoy their property as they see fit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA opposes any National Heritage Area within the boundaries of the United States and any future designation.

2015

Private Property Rights Resolution 23

WHEREAS, the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) is an effort to control the U.S. live cattle supply chain;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA opposes the GRSB.

Private Property Rights Resolution 24

WHEREAS, historic preservation groups are surveying large areas of private property to include in maps and National Park Service forms for the purpose of supporting or proving additional context to the listing of individual sites on the National Register of Historic Places;

WHEREAS, the historic preservation groups do not provide notice to or receive consent from the private property owners before using their property for such purpose;

WHEREAS, the appropriation of any interests in private property for the use of and benefit to the historic preservation groups is a deprivation of the rights and benefits of private property ownership;

WHEREAS, when the historic preservation groups receive state or federal funding to conduct their surveys and prepare the National Park Service forms, such use of federal and state funding causes an unauthorized invasion of the private property owner's constitutional right to exclude others from their property;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA opposes the use of private property to support the listing of sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including, but not limited to, listing private property on a National Park Service Multiple Property Documentation Form, without the private property owner first receiving notice and providing written and authorized consent for their property to be used for that purpose.

Private Property Rights Resolution 25

WHEREAS, Congress has included language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) reauthorizing historic preservation and environmental initiatives of the federal agencies;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, R-CALF USA supports restricting the scope of the NDAA to the national defense of the United States of America.

2016

Private Property Rights Resolution 26

WHEREAS, livestock producers can own allotments on split estate federal land (which includes grazing/forage, water, right-of-way, and range improvement rights) and patented land that are statutorily established under the Stock Raising Homestead Act and protectable under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, tragedies and injustices can occur and have occurred when said livestock producers are not knowledgeable of their property rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA shall help educate livestock producers of their property rights on split estate federal land and patented land.

Private Property Rights Resolution 27

WHEREAS, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) lack adequate transparency pertaining to their disbursements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA proposes that NGOs be subject to adequate disclosure as to their disbursements.

2017

Private Property Rights Resolution 28

Amendment to R-CALF USA Private Property Rights Resolution #10 (2009) (underlined words):

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, national parks, national monuments, and/or any federal designations without due process and appraisal at highest and best use under uniform appraisal standards for federal land acquisition.

Private Property Rights Resolution 29

WHEREAS: R-CALF USA in its Private Property Policy #21 (2014) supports state and local water rights and strict interpretation of the original congressional language of the Clean Water Act,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA strongly supports HR 2939 Surface Water Protection Act that was introduced on June 21, 2017 to the 115th Congress.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA's membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2017.

2018

Private Property Rights Resolution 30

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the land in the western United States is either owned by the state or federal governments or is tied up in perpetual conservation easements;

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments continue to acquire more private land, and land trusts and governments continue to purchase more conservation easements;

WHEREAS, the acquisition of private land by government entities creates a double negative on taxpayers, as it:

- 1) reduces the number of lands subject to county ad valorem taxes, shifting the property tax burden onto fewer landowners,
- 2) increases the already-heavy income tax burden on citizens to cover the cost of the land purchase and the costs to manage and maintain the land;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA supports a no-net-loss policy for private property and, thus, opposes the continued loss of privately-owned land and private property rights in the United States.

Private Property Rights Resolution 31

WHEREAS, the Wild Animal Sanctuary has purchased a 9,004-acre ranch in Baca and Las Animas counties in southeastern Colorado for the purpose of creating “The Refuge” for many of its 450 lions, tigers, bears, wolves, and other carnivores;

WHEREAS, three of the lions to be “set free” at the ranch are from South Korea where at least one of the lions mauled a zookeeper to death in 2015;

WHEREAS, the location of The Refuge poses a serious threat to the safety of the surrounding ranching families and their livestock, and the quiet enjoyment of their private property;

WHEREAS, the containment of said wild animals can’t be governed or guaranteed due to current topography in the form of canyons, draws, cap rocks, water gaps, etc. and changes in that topography caused by unpredictable weather events in the form of natural disasters such as, but not limited to, floods, tornadoes, blizzards etc.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes the purchase of property for housing, release, or reintroduction of any lions, tigers, bears, wolves, or other carnivores in historically rural livestock producing counties in the United States.

Private Property Rights Resolution 32

WHEREAS, R-CALF USA understands the importance of the ad valorem tax base to funding the operations of rural counties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: R-CALF USA opposes any property tax exemptions for non-religious non-profit organizations that own private property in rural counties.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2018.

2019

Private Property Rights Resolution 33

WHEREAS, federal agencies have engaged in prescribed fires that have escaped and caused great damage to private property and endangered life.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, R-CALF USA supports state legislation that requires state and federal agencies to submit an adequate bond calculated proportionate to the potential property loss before igniting any fire within a state, where such fire is planned to burn within the county of private property.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2019.

2020

Private Property Rights Resolution 34

Policy Position Statement on Livestock Grazing within USFS Forest Districts and DOI Grazing Districts West of the 100th Meridian; and the proper relationship with government regulatory agencies.

WHEREAS, Following the United States acquisition of the Western Territories in the mid 1800’s, Congress encouraged settlement of the West by stockraisers through enactment of ‘legislative grant’

statutes that recognized and validated rancher's property rights to the surface of their stock-ranges established under State or Territorial law or custom on 'mineral lands'. Beginning with the Survey Act of 1853, Congress granted the 'right of occupation and cultivation' to stockraisers on or near the mineral lands of the West. This split-estate policy was continued by Congress through specific statutes thereafter that granted rights: of ownership based on State or territorial property law (1865, 1870, 1873, 1872, 1880), of occupation and improvement to the surface (1872, 1874), to the grazing, grass and trees (1875), to water for stockwatering and irrigation (1866/1870/1877), to construct improvements (1866, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1885), to the surface title (1872, 1880, 1884, 1885), and ultimately the government's title to the surface by the Validation Act of 1890.

WHEREAS, These 'legislative grants' were the highest evidence of rights or title (Whitney v Morrow, 1885), and all that remained for the administrative officers to do thereafter was survey the boundaries of the claim and record the survey maps (Shaw v Kellogg, 1897). The Congress reserved: the mineral estate (vein, lode, ledge or deposit) for separate disposal, the timber for local settlers and residents, certain reservoir sites for irrigation (and secondarily hydro-power sites), and easements for irrigation works (United States v New Mexico, 1978). The 1866 Mineral Land Act opened all 'mineral land' to split estate disposal. However, the 1872 Mineral Land Act applied the split estate policy to all land owned by the United States, and this split-estate 'mineral land' policy was incorporated into all the 'agricultural' land laws between 1910 and 1916 (Kinney Coastal Oil v Kieffer, 1928 and Watt v Western Nuclear, 1983).

WHEREAS, Following the Grazing Rights Act of 1875, land that had been occupied, settled, claimed, and had stockwater and other improvements made as a stock-range or stock-grazing ranch, was no longer unoccupied 'public land' (Atherton v Fowler, 1877, Hosmer v Wallace, 1878, Basey v Gallagher, 1879, Nickals v Winn, (NV) 1882, Griffith v Godey, 1885, Dodge v Jones, (MT) 1887, Webber v Clarke, (CA) 1887, Comm Natl Bank of Ogden v Davidson, (OR) 1889, Cameron v United States, 1893, Grayson v Lynch, 1896, Salina Stock Co v Salina Creek Irrigation Co, 1896, Ward v Sherman, 1904, Bacon v Walker, 1907, Curtin v Benson, 1911).

WHEREAS, The Enclosure Act of 1885 had authorized all stockraisers to enclose their ranges if they had a 'claim or color of title made or acquired in good faith, or an asserted right ... by or under claim, made in good faith with a view to entry thereof at the proper land office under the general land laws of the United States', (Webber v Clarke, (CA) 1887, Cameron v United States, 1893, Menotti v Dillon, 1897, Curtin v Benson, 1911). The Survey Act of 1897 (aka Forest Organic Act), authorized the Secretary of Interior to 'permit the use of timber and stone' in Forest Reserves. This is in keeping with the split estate condition of Forest Reserves where the United States reserved 'commercial timber' and 'mineral deposits in the land'. No mention is made of 'grazing permits' in any of the enabling legislation for Forest Reserves. However, Congress did allow for land owners (allotment owners) to enter into 'cooperative agreements' for the purpose of constructing range improvements and to cooperate with 'range investigations' (Act of June 30, 1914, 38 Stat 430). Similar language was included in the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, providing authority for the Secretary of Interior to enter into 'cooperative agreements' with 'owners of grazing rights.' Likewise, the Secretary was authorized to issue 'permits' to regulate the use of 'public lands' (namely commercial timber and minerals). This split estate definition of 'public lands' is supported by the Federal Power Act of 1920 that defines 'public land' as 'land and interest in land'. After the 1890 Validation Act ranchers were the surface owner of their allotments, and the only 'public land' within those allotments were the minerals, commercial timber, easements for irrigation works and for access to the reserved minerals and timber.

All limitations, restrictions and conditions within 'cooperative permit agreements' or other documents are limited to the regulation of the government's reserved minerals, commercial timber and related easements. Any conditions or restrictions that go beyond regulation related to commercial timber harvest or mining activities are inapplicable to Allotment Owners. This interpretation of the law is directly supported by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) Section 6 (i) that specifically says 'all permits, contracts and other instruments...shall be subject to valid existing rights'. Also, the Federal

Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) Title VII says ‘All actions by the Secretary concerned shall be subject to valid existing rights’.

THEREFORE, R-CALF USA proposes that all federal regulations related to livestock grazing within Forest Districts or Grazing Districts (or any other federal reservations established after 1875) follow these guidelines:

1. All ‘permits for grazing’ shall be solely limited to ensuring that Allotment Owners are not engaged in ‘commercial timber harvest’ or ‘mining activities’ without complying with the lawful requirements related to mining and commercial timber harvest. This shall not be construed to affect the right of Allotment Owners to make use of all timber, wood, or common variety stone, or coal for personal use as provided in existing law.
2. Where Allotment Owners choose to enter into ‘cooperative agreements’ to cost-share on improvements and range studies, investigations or management plans, it shall be stated plainly that those ‘permits, contracts, and other instruments’ are subject to valid existing rights and that all other activities are subordinate and secondary to the Allotment Owner’s surface property rights for stockraising. Additionally, no land, water, improvements, forage or other property interests of the surface Allotment Owner shall be infringed on in any way without due process, just compensation and the consent of the State Legislature as required by law and the Constitution, Amendment 5.
3. Where Allotment Owners choose not to enter into ‘cooperative agreements’ with the USFS or DOI, federal employees shall be demoted, fired or otherwise punished and held accountable for harassing Allotment Owners or encouraging trespassers to destroy, steal or otherwise violate the property rights of Allotment Owners.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2020.

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.

SHEEP

2013

Sheep Resolution 1

WHEREAS a Nation's ability to provide defense for its citizens depends on its ability to feed and clothe the nation and its military

WHEREAS 80% of the domestic production of wool is used by our military

BE IT RESOLVED that agricultural or food production should be a national security issue.

Sheep Resolution 2

The Sheep Committee supports all aspects of R-CALF USA policy that applies to our sheep industry.

Sheep Resolution 3

WHEREAS many state and national sheep organizations have existing policy that does not conflict with R-CALF USA policy

BE IT RESOLVED that R-CALF USA supports the efforts of sheep producers in policy developed to establish a level of economic stability in lamb prices that will stimulate a stable producer base that promotes a viable industry infrastructure.

2018

Sheep Resolution 4

TITLE: Securing a future for Sheep and Wool Production in United States through legislation and federal trade policies that will promote and insure fair competition and market stability.

WHEREAS, the sheep and wool industry in the Northern Plains produces and supplies more than 25% of all sheep and wool in the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers rely on income from sheep and wool to significantly contribute to the viability of their agricultural operations; and

WHEREAS, the US sheep industry has lost 50% of its total sheep numbers and producers since 1990.

WHEREAS, the industry infrastructure (including but not limited to shearers, sheep veterinarians, sheep feed suppliers, extension, scientists, financial lenders who understand the value of a sheep to a rancher's bottom line) which is necessary support to a viable sheep and wool industry has experienced a similar decline.

WHEREAS, the sheep industry has provided an honorable living for families at all skill levels in rural America, while serving as the financial foundation for many small towns throughout the United States.

WHEREAS, the state and national sheep inventory continues to be negatively pressured by loss of access to public and private land resources for grazing and conducting viable sheep enterprises due to government policy makers that lack the understanding of the role of the grazing animal in nature's ecosystem to cycle nutrients, water, and lessen the severity of wild fires,

WHEREAS, domestic market share in lamb product sales has been driven to less than 50% by inequitable foreign competition; and trade agreements which have forsaken United States Farm and Ranch families,

WHEREAS, a viable sheep industry will end with this generation of producers if we do not act immediately,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that R-CALF USA supports the drafting and adoption of federal guidelines and/or legislation to set a fair market value on domestic lamb based on a percentage of parity with the intent to establish a level of economic stability in lamb and wool market prices that will stimulate growth in the sheep industry while sustaining consumer demand for a higher quality product, securing financial sector confidence and maintaining a stable producer base to provide enough lamb to keep industry infrastructure in operation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that R-CALF USA supports limitations to foreign imports until the “fair market value” target price is exceeded by domestic markets before any “triggers” allow an increase in foreign imports.

These Resolutions were approved by vote by R-CALF USA’s membership via mail-in ballot in the Winter of 2018.