



POLICY BOOK

Updated 2020

AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES ACT of 1906 – renewed 2020

WHEREAS the intent of the America Antiquities Act of 1906 was to protect “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” in an area “confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the object to be protected.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED USCA opposes presidential use of the America Antiquities Act of 1906 that deviates from the original intent of the Act.

ANIMAL HEALTH RESOLUTION: approved 2019

Increased Customs and Border Protection Funding

WHEREAS the World Organization for Animal Health predicts that nearly 25 percent of the world’s pigs will ultimately be wiped out by African Swine Fever, a highly contagious and deadly viral disease that threatens both domestic and wild pigs of all ages, and

WHEREAS diseases - like African Swine Fever, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, and Foot and Mouth Disease – pose a significant risk to the health of the domestic livestock herd and, consequently, threatens the nation’s food supply and economic well-being,

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports increased funding and authority for Customs and Border Protection to conduct increased surveillance and inspections of live animals and agricultural products, and also hire additional inspectors, support staff and canine teams to fully staff America’s airports, seaports and land ports of entry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA requests all imported animal feed undergo additional screenings at U.S. points of entry to ensure no foreign diseases enter our borders.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE - renewed 2019

Resolution #1:

WHEREAS brucellosis is endemic to Yellowstone Park bison and elk herds; and

WHEREAS bison numbers within the park exceed forage production causing over-grazing and migration of infected bison and elk from park boundaries; and

WHEREAS cattle producers have eradicated brucellosis from their cow herds but are exposed to risk of infection from wild game;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA calls upon the Department of the Interior and USDA to reduce bison and elk numbers consistent with forage availability within park boundaries and to undertake an aggressive long-term brucellosis eradication program; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA urges the Department of the Interior and USDA to invest in more research to find an effective preventative vaccine for bison and cattle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of the Interior and USDA indemnify cattle producers for losses suffered as a result of herds being infected by wild game, i.e., elk, bison, and moose.

Resolution #2:

BE IT RESOLVED USCA opposes any efforts to restrict horse slaughter and/or transportation of horses.

Resolution #3:

WHEREAS, USCA supports continued research on Brucella abortus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution #36 for removal of or exemption for research of Brucella abortus from the Toxic Substances and Disease Control and Prevention Select Agent List.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE – renewed 2015 (under review)

Resolution #1:

BE IT RESOLVED, USCA opposes legislation that would restrict antibiotics for veterinary and farm use.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE – renewed 2020

WHEREAS, the gray wolf management under the Endangered Species Act has proven to be detrimental to livestock producers, and

WHEREAS, the gray wolf population has exceeded predetermined levels;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports efforts to fully remove the Gray Wolf from consideration under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE –renewed 2019

Federal Regulation of Conditions of Animal Care:

The United State Constitution specifically delegates the regulation of interstate commerce and the conduct of international trade to the Federal government. Therefore, the USCA support efforts of the Federal government to secure the proper care of animals while in interstate or international commerce.

With the same respect for the Constitution, the USCA supports the intent of the Tenth Amendment to leave local matters such as animal ownership and care to the people and to the states.

The care needs of the many different species and breeds of animals are best regulated on a state by state basis taking into account the widely differing conditions of climate, geography, and topography across the country. The owners of animals have responsibilities that will vary according to the climate and conditions where they



keep their animals. Increasing the Federal bureaucracy will not provide better care for animals nor will it help the owners as they hold the responsibility of caring for their animals higher than anyone else.

Therefore, the USCA does not support any effort by the Federal government to increase its role in the regulation of animal care.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND IDENTIFICATION RESOLUTION: approved 2019

Animal Health and ID Priorities

WHEREAS there have been ongoing discussions over the past few years regarding the transition of official identification from brands, tags, etc. to electronic identification tags (EIDs), and

WHEREAS there is concern across the countryside that a move toward EIDs will open the door for private tag and data companies, and other allied industries, to profit from the effort, leaving the producers' information in the hands of a third-party provider,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the main reason for official identification is for disease traceability, and it is with the above concerns in mind that USCA suggests that any official USDA identification remain focused on disease traceability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA supports the inclusion of the following points in any workable national animal identification program:

- There should be no private control of data, or access to the data, without the prior approval of the owner at the time of application.
- 840 series EID tags should be only used as official EID on US born and raised cattle (900 series tags are not unique in their official identification)
- All official USDA tag information should be held in state animal health data bases and shared with federal animal health officials as needed.
- The use of USDA metal NEUS tags and electronic tags should continue. The industry requires more time to adapt and transfer to an all-electronic system; time will determine whether multiple systems can be used.
- Official ID should only be required on breeding cattle and only as they move into interstate commerce, or as determined by each state's importation requirements
- As the industry looks to adopt EIDs, financial assistance from USDA will be required to supply reader equipment, both low frequency (LF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF).
- As any future transition is made to EIDs, the process will eventually need to move to UHF in order to improve read range and the ability to read animals and groups at speed of commerce.
- Producers should never be responsible for more than the cost of the tags.
- Premises identification numbers (PINs) should not be required to acquire and apply EID tags. The same information can be gathered on health certificates and test charts and other animal health documents

ANIMAL HEALTH: approved 2020

FMD Policy



WHEREAS Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) would devastate our industry and cost our economy billions and take many years to recover from; and

WHEREAS an outbreak of FMD in the US would leave independent cattle producers in financial ruins as entire herds would be depopulated and international markets would be closed indefinitely; and

WHEREAS FMD is endemic in wildlife and in domestic animal populations in many countries and therefore is not ever really eradicated in those countries; and

WHEREAS FMD moves across countries within domestic animals and wildlife and doesn't stop at imaginary barriers or at ineffective fences; and

WHEREAS the US cannot adequately monitor these inspections and movements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the US should not accept imports of meat, live animals, or livestock byproducts from countries with FMD, nor those who claim to be free with vaccination, but have FMD endemic in their wildlife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US should not accept imports of meat, live animals, or livestock byproducts from countries with regionalization for a period of twelve months and verified FMD free without vaccination by U.S. animal health officials to protect the US beef industry and our food supply.

Animal Health

WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers are held to high animal health and food safety inspection standards, making U.S. beef products sought after by consumers around the world; and

WHEREAS other countries utilize products such as certain beta agonists and antibiotics which are illegal for use in the US in food producing animals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the United States should not accept meat products from countries who allow drugs or beta agonists that are not legal for use in the U.S

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION: approved 2020

ADT approved Tags

WHEREAS to advance the US Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program and promote the safety of the beef supply chain.

WHEREAS Ultra High Frequency (UHF) technology is the rapidly accepted new and enabling RFID technology requested for use by the US beef industry.

WHEREAS the USDA should adhere to technology neutrality and include the equal purchase and distribution of UHF RFID ear tags in all future ADT tag procurements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the USDA should define and allow for an accelerated and/or abbreviated and stage qualification process of additional UHF tag styles and designs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the USDA should allocate funding for Dual Frequency tag readers, readers which will read either a LF or UHF or both, at points of highest probably of need such as points of livestock consolidation at backgrounders, auctions, feedyards and packers.

BEEF CHECKOFF – renewed 2020

Resolution #1: Amended December 2013. Amended 2020.



WHEREAS USCA 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; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED USCA finds the following to be vital and necessary amendments 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 the policy positions of any national organization.
2. Provide for a periodic referendum.
3. Direct that Beef Checkoff dollars collected from U. S. cattle producers, be used to promote products derived from cattle that are specifically born, raised and processed in the United States.
4. Enhance the current Beef Checkoff program through the commodity Promotion Act of 1996.

Resolution #2:

WHEREAS USCA 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 USCA recommends the following:

1. All USCA 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.

Resolution #3: Amended October 2014

WHEREAS USCA 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 USCA recommends that the NCBA, the CBB and the Federation each become individually independent and autonomous in order to alleviate the impression that they are operating as one entity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA recommends that the 5% cap on CBB administrative overhead costs be increased to 10%. This is in order to greater enhancing CBB’s ability to act with more independence and autonomy.

Resolution #4:

WHEREAS certain entities within the beef industry are proposing an increase in the per head assessment on cattle sold; and

WHEREAS USCA policies outline a number of other needed producer-driven changes to the Beef Checkoff Act and Order including, but not limited to, promoting born, raised, and harvested in the U.S., periodic referendums,



and major changes to the organization and structural relationships between the Cattlemen's Beef Board, Federation of State Beef Councils, and their contractors, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports the current One Dollar per head assessment and will not consider any increase until our policy recommendations have been implemented.

BEEF CHECKOFF – renewed 2018

Resolution #1—STATE BEEF COUNCIL FUND ALLOCATION *Not renewed in 2020, clarification from committee needed.*

WHEREAS, qualified State Beef Councils may direct that a portion of their funds be forwarded for use in national Checkoff programs; and

WHEREAS, the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) is presently authorized to receive such funds from State Beef Councils; and

WHEREAS, the CBB provides oversight and recommendations for distribution of all national Checkoff funds and is the mandated funding conduit for national Checkoff dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Operating Committee, which is composed of both CBB and Federation of State Beef Council members, is charged with considering budget recommendations proposed by the CBB and with the awarding of national Checkoff contracts funded by national Checkoff dollars;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association urges that all State Beef Council funds forwarded for use by the national Checkoff program should be forwarded to the CBB and awarded by the Beef Checkoff Operating Committee, in a like manner as the national Checkoff monies expended by the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, State Beef Councils at their direction be allowed to earmark such funds to certain specific programs.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS, USCA is a strong supporter of the Beef Checkoff; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to rebuild trust in and support for the Beef Checkoff,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in order to strengthen the firewall between NCBA and the Federation of State Beef Councils, USCA supports a complete separation of NCBA and the Federation of State Beef Councils or the removal of the Federation of State Beef Councils from the Beef Promotion Operating Committee.

Resolution #3

BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports assessment exemption on animals that are sold for less than \$50;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports the opportunity for a periodic referendum to allow changes in the Checkoff, with the first referendum being held within one year of the amendment of the current marketing order;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports CBB officer terms be extended if the officer term goes beyond the member's second consecutive term.



CAPITAL GAINS TAX –renewed 2020

WHEREAS, the influx of beginning farmers and ranchers continues to decline and land prices continue to escalate;

WHEREAS, a Reduction in the capital gains tax for any individual selling land to beginning young farmer or rancher may provide longevity in the agriculture sector;

WHEREAS, in an effort to keep young producers in the agriculture sector, a competitive marketplace must be achieved

WHEREAS, Agriculture land is increasingly being bought up by individuals from urban areas in attempts to lower their personal tax rates in a given year

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Cattlemen's Association resolves to work with policymakers and agency officials toward to the goal of:

1. Inform policymakers on the need to address the issue of reforming capital gain rates and Investment Tax Credit when relating to a purchase of land by a beginning/young farmer or rancher;
2. Work with Congressional Finance Committees and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to draft language that will apply this change
3. When working with lawmakers, ensure that loopholes for potential abuse are closed.

COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING - renewed 2019

Amended December 2013. Further amended October 2015.

WHEREAS the amount of food and commodities the United States imports are increasing from sources other than the United States; and

WHEREAS United States citizens have the right to know where their beef and other food comes from;

BE IT RESOLVED that United States Cattlemen's Association supports Country-of-Origin Labeling information to the final consumer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Cattlemen's Association supports mandatory Country-of-Origin-Labeling language as modified through the USDA's final rule as published on May 23, 2013 and implemented on November 23, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports maintaining the integrity of the "US Beef" label "Born, Raised and Harvested in the U.S." as defined in Country-of-Origin-Labeling language as modified through the USDA's final rule as published on May 23, 2013 and implemented on November 23, 2013.

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT – renewed 2019

WHEREAS, the Equal Access to Justice Act passed in 1980 was enacted to restrain overzealous regulators and reimburse parties subjected to unreasonable government action by providing equal access to court; and



WHEREAS, the statute was designed to reimburse attorney's fees so that a party that otherwise would not be able to afford litigation against the government could have an opportunity to justify its position in court and recover attorneys fees afterward; and

WHEREAS, environmental groups have greatly abused the original intent of this Act so that they are able to find procedural flaws in agency actions, sue the government, and receive millions of federal taxpayer dollars in attorney fees for settling or winning these cases which in turn, allows them to continue litigating the government; and

WHEREAS, ranchers must pay their own attorneys' fees in order to attempt to participate in the litigation as interveners,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association shall support efforts to bring substantive reform to the Equal Access to Justice Act; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association will seek for the following changes to EAJA and its implementation:

1. There should be better oversight in how EAJA fees are distributed.
2. There should be complete transparency and reporting on the government's expenditures of taxpayer dollars when EAJA fees are awarded.
3. A change in the "for-profit v. non-profit" inequities.
4. Any other amendments which would level the playing field for ranchers and prohibit the abuse and overuse of this law.

ESTATE TAX – renewed 2019

Resolution #1: Amended December 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports the estate tax exemption provisions created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which declared for deaths occurring between 2018 and 2025 an estate tax exemption of \$11.2 million (adjusted annually for inflation) would apply. Furthermore, USCA supports extending permanently these estate tax exemption provisions after 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports permanently establishing the estate tax rate at 35%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports retaining the stepped up basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports the portability of the deceased spouse's unused estate tax exemption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports increasing to \$2,000,000 (adjusted annually for inflation) the valuation discount available under section 2032A (special use valuation) and a decrease in the percentage of farm assets required to qualify from 50% to 40% of the gross estate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA opposes preferential estate tax treatment for farms or ranches with environmental easements, or legislation creating new tax incentives that would encourage more environmental easements, unless those easements are donated by the landowner and not purchased with funds sourced from any governmental agency;



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA supports capital gains rates of 15%.

LABELING – new policy approved 2020

Resolution #1 Definition of Beef & Meat

WHEREAS, plant-based proteins are being marketed using the terms “meat” and “beef”, and

WHEREAS, major companies are investing in technology to create cell culture-based proteins

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports the use of the term beef and/or its product names or nomenclature (such as steaks, roasts, hamburger, ground beef) in a food label to be exclusively for beef from cattle raised and harvested from live animals in the traditional manner.

Resolution #2 Plant based and cell cultured proteins

WHEREAS, cell cultured technology continues to be developed, and

WHEREAS, USCA supports the use of USDA inspection stamps be used on beef and meat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, If a stamp is used on cell cultured proteins, USCA asks USDA to create a separate USDA stamp or marking for cell cultured proteins that are inspected by the USDA and by states, using a different format and color ink on the stamp. Neither the Federal or State meat inspection stamps shall appear on the cell culture protein products, retail packaging or wholesale containers or shall the USDA grade shield appear on any cell cultured product or packaging. While we believe these products should be required to pass the same strict standards of food inspection as meat products that come from animals raised in the traditional manner, we do not believe they are the same category of food and therefore should not bear a USDA meat inspection stamp.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports that a new category of food be developed and used for cell cultured proteins and that while we understand that the product is protein we ask that it not be included as meat or dairy or eggs in the Dietary guide lines but as its own class of protein.

Promotion and Research of Beef

WHEREAS USCA recognizes that cell cultured proteins are destined to be in international trade deals we believe that they should require separate negotiations than beef, pork or poultry as the process of production, packaging and inspection will be different than that of real meat products. And,

WHEREAS countries such as France have recently created labeling laws that do not allow alternative proteins to use meat related terms. Each country will need to define how cell cultured product will be inspected and standards for trade acceptance for these products separate from beef, pork or poultry. And,

WHEREAS the Beef Check Off helps to fund the US Meat Export Federation and

WHEREAS The U.S. Meat Export Federations website defines themselves as “*The U.S. Meat Export Federation (www.usmef.org) is the trade association responsible for developing international markets for the U.S. red meat industry. It is funded by USDA; the beef, pork, lamb, corn and soybean checkoff programs, as well as its members representing nine industry sectors: beef/veal producing & feeding, pork producing & feeding, lamb producing & feeding, packing & processing, purveying & trading, oilseeds producing, feed-grains producing, farm organizations and supply & service organizations.*”



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED USCA does not support that alternative proteins, plant based proteins, or cell cultured proteins be allowed to be included in the BEEF CHECK OFF ACT & ORDER.

LABELING: approved 2020

Product of the U.S.A. Labeling

WHEREAS, since the repeal of mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) requirements for beef and pork products in 2015, there has been no official definition of U.S. beef, nor any specific “Made in USA” labeling requirements for beef products that are so labelled, and

WHEREAS USCA is concerned that voluntary “Made in USA” labeling for beef products, without a clear definition of what constitutes “Made in USA” or “Product of USA” or other such similar designations will lead to consumer confusion, and

WHEREAS there are presently many beef products being presented as of U.S. origin being sold in grocery stores across the country without any indication that those claims are accurate, and

WHEREAS the large number of cattle from Canada and Mexico that enter the United States each year and are slaughtered in U.S. packing facilities, the possibility of beef products which are not born and raised as well as harvested in the United States carrying a label indicating “Product of USA” or some such other claim of U.S. origin is very real,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, voluntary labels indicating “Made in USA,” “Product of USA” or similar content should be limited to beef only and entirely from cattle born, raised, harvested, processed, and further processed per USDA FSIS definitions in the United States.

MARKETING - renewed 2019

Resolution #1: Amended December 2019.

1. WHEREAS competitive markets require participants with access to open and transparent market information;

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports the continued implementation of mandatory price reporting and efforts to keep it relevant to the current market.

Be it Resolved that USCA supports these actions:

- a. Report export prices in the daily cut-out values; these figures are currently reported in the weekly report, however, inclusion in the daily reports would result in more accurate projections and information
- b. Require the usability of the MPR Dashboard and Data Mart.
- c. Clarify the current definition for committed cattle to occur when agreement is first made.
- d. Report basis trades on a daily basis instead of the current weekly report.
- e. Weekly top trades should be separated from the current formula category.
- f. Cash sale reports should include only cattle for delivery in the next 14 days not the 30 days system presently used.

2. WHEREAS large firms may exhibit pressure on producers to accept unfair production contracts or terms of sale;



BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports the inclusion of a “competition chapter” in any Farm Bill.

3. WHEREAS recent rulings have negated the intent of the Packers and Stockyards act;

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports legislative clarification of the P&S Act.

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports legislative clarification of the P&S Act.

- g. The Act differs from other antitrust law. Proof or intent to control or manipulate prices is not required; rather it is that outcome that must be prevented.
- h. “Business justification” is not a valid defense of actions covered in the Act.
- i. “Captive supplies” negatively affect prices and must be controlled. Captive supplies include any livestock owned, committed to or otherwise under the control of the packer before fourteen days of slaughter, including non-negotiated transactions and imported cattle and beef.
- j. Report export prices in the daily cut-out values; these figures are currently reported in the weekly report, however, inclusion in the daily reports would result in more accurate projections and information
- k. Require the usability of the MPR Dashboard and Data Mart.
- l. Clarify the current definition for committed cattle to occur when agreement is first made.
- m. Report basis trades on a daily basis instead of the current weekly report.
- n. Weekly top trades should be separated from the current formula category.
- o. Cash sale reports should include only cattle for delivery in the next 14 days not the 30 days system presently used.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports the ban of packer ownership or control of cattle for more than 14 days before slaughter, except for those packers with processing capacity less than 500 head per day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports legislation requiring that a majority of the weekly cattle procurement for packers with processing capacity over 500 head per day, be obtained through negotiated sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports legislation requiring all contractual and marketing agreements with producers be offered in ways open to all qualified producers and subject to negotiation.

Resolution #2

Whereas the futures market has great impact on cattle producers as both a risk management tool and for its role in price discovery.

Be it resolved that USCA supports continued efforts to keep futures contract specifications and trading rules relevant and fair for market participants. Specific concerns about futures trading include:

- a. Volatility driven by computer driven trades.
- b. Lack of convergence between cash and futures markets.
- c. 1) Lack of long participation at times
- d. 2) Is deliverable capacity adequate for needed long position limits in the delivery month?
- e. 3) Current contract specifications lag the current market practices.

MARKETING: approved 2020

Marketing

WHEREAS negotiated cash trade is important for price discovery; and

WHEREAS negotiated cash prices trade falls to less than 10 percent in certain regions; and

BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports a mandatory cash trade, supported by economic data and analysis, that will effect robust price discovery.



PROCESSING: approved 2020

Grading of Meat Products in the United States

WHEREAS in 1924 Congress passed the United States Agricultural Products Inspections and Grading Act and in 1926, initial beef carcass grading systems were implemented as a free voluntary service to all meat processors in the United States.

WHEREAS in 1946 Congress passed the Agricultural Marketing Act which established a fee to meat processors who sought out meat grading in the United States.

WHEREAS there is a lack of access to USDA meat graders in all states.

WHEREAS the additional cost of meat grading does not lead to a significant increase in income at small and very small plants due to a lack of volume.

WHEREAS the average American citizen is now three to four generations removed from the farm and rely on grading systems to assist in making educated purchasing decisions for them and their families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- Meat plants classified by the USDA-FSIS as small or very small be provided a USDA licensed grader by the USDA-AMS free of charge; or
- Independent slaughter and processing facilities be allowed to utilize electronic instrument grade augmentation systems within their plant; and
- The USDA allow current USDA-FSIS inspectors stationed at independent slaughter and processing facilities to monitor the validation, verification, and calibration of the electronic instrument grade augmentation system utilized by the independent slaughter and processing facility.

Lack of Independent Slaughter and Processing Facilities in the United States

WHEREAS there is a loss of competitive access to livestock in the United States.

WHEREAS there is a loss of competitive access to markets in the United States.

WHEREAS the significant cost of building facilities that meet federal and state environmental and food safety guidelines is difficult to afford.

WHEREAS there is a lack of a new generation of independent meat processors due to low salaries and benefits.

WHEREAS there is a misunderstanding of federal regulations and their management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- The USDA provide capital infrastructure improvement grants to communities for water sewage systems to support the development of independent slaughter and processing facilities.
- The USDA provide tax income incentives to individuals who invest in the construction of independent slaughter and processing facilities.
- The USDA provide substantial grants rather than cost-share programs to individuals for the purchasing of re-use buildings and to upgrade the buildings to meet FSIS regulations for the development of independent slaughter and processing facilities.
- The USDA to remove federal subsidies to major meat packing plants, distributors, and retailers to replace with subsidies for small and very small meat plants.



- The USDA to shift federal payments from major meat packing plants, distributors, and retailers to replace with federal payments to small and medium sized meat packing plants, distributors, and retailers.
- The USDA set aside a percentage of their bids for meat purchase to Very Small/Small Independent Meat Packing facilities.
- Congress establish federal tax credits for establishments that make purchases from Very Small/Small Independent Meat Packing facilities or if purchased directly from a family farm.

RURAL BROADBAND – renewed 2019

WHEREAS, universal access to broadband is essential to the prosperity of rural America; and

WHEREAS, spurring broadband access and adoption in remote areas of the country will build a stronger foundation in which future generations can experience the benefits of broadband enabled technologies and will allow our country to reach its full potential,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Cattlemen's Association resolves to work with Broadband for America, and its members, to achieve its primary goals of:

1. Educating policymakers and stakeholders on key fundamentals of how the internet and wireless networks work;
2. Leading the policy discussion and driving the debate on how we as a nation can achieve broadband everywhere; and
3. Working with the Administration, key agencies like the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and Congress to develop and promote policies that maximize access and adoption through increased investment in better and smarter wire line and wireless network technology.

RURAL BROADBAND –renewed 2020

WHEREAS, expansion of high-speed broadband networks is vital to the economic growth and global competitiveness of rural America; and

WHEREAS, the continued deployment of next generation capabilities in remote areas of the country will allow for increased access to new IP (Internet Protocol) technologies by farmers, ranchers and their families in which they can benefit from the increased access to global opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Cattlemen's Association resolves to work with policymakers and interested parties to work toward the goals of:

1. Informing policymakers on the basics of expanded broadband access and its contributions to rural America and the current government regulations that stifle its success;
2. Encouraging lawmakers and agency officials to continue focusing on principles that will modernize the current regulatory landscape to allow for high-speed internet capabilities to expand;



3. Urging for universal broadband access through possible government programs, initiatives and private sector investment;

4. Encouraging a working relationship between policymakers and the private sector to bring America's communication infrastructure into the 21st century.

TRADE – renewed 2019

Resolution #1: Amended December 2019.

WHEREAS the long-term profitability of independent U.S. cattle producers is impacted significantly by international trade policy; and

WHEREAS the Trade Act of 2002 outlines specific items to be included in all trade agreements;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA requires that the following provisions be included in all trade agreements:

1. Classification of cattle and beef as perishable and cyclical items, and considered like kind products,
2. Rules of origin (born, raised and slaughtered)
3. Quantity and price safeguards,
4. Upward harmonization of import and health and safety standards.

Resolution #2:

WHEREAS the health of the U.S. cattle herd is vital to the profitability of independent cattle producers; and

WHEREAS the US policy was built on protecting US producers of food and fiber, and not managing a disease once it gets to the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA opposes efforts by the government of the United States to allow regionalization of foreign countries with animal disease problems if such regionalization weakens animal health or food safety standards concerning importation of cattle or beef into the United States.

Resolution #3:

WHEREAS International Trade Agreements have a significant impact on independent cattle producers;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA opposes fast-track trade negotiation authority and believes that international trade policy and trade agreements related to that policy should reside in the hands of the U.S. Congress.

Resolution #4: Amended December 2013.

WHEREAS cattle and beef are imported into the United States from various foreign countries, and that many of these countries have histories of foreign animal disease problems;

BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports the following efforts to identify imported cattle and beef:

1. Removal of livestock from the U.S. Department of Treasury's J-List thereby requiring all imported cattle to be marked with a mark of origin as a condition of entry into the United States,

TRADE –renewed 2019

Resolution #1:

Brazil forced labor (*interim policy passed on March 10th USCA BOD Call: Paul Looney moved to approve. Bert Paris seconded. Motion passed.*) *Approved by the membership in September 2017.*



WHEREAS the prevalence of forced labor used by the Brazilian livestock industry provides an unfair economic advantage in the global trade arena, to the detriment of U.S. cattle producers, and

WHEREAS Brazilian cattle producers are documented as persistent offenders in the use of forced labor and a continued pattern of inaction by the Brazil government is employed in all association legal cases, and

WHEREAS the Tariff Act of 1930 explicitly prohibits the importation of goods produced wholly or in part by forced labor,

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports the filing of a petition with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) to immediately suspend the importation of Brazilian beef products to the United States due to the use of forced labor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA requests the CBP to take all necessary action to enforce the Tariff Act of 1930 to its fullest extent, placing an indefinite suspension on the import of Brazilian beef products to the U.S.

Resolution #2:

WHEREAS the U.S. has entered into, or is negotiating, international trade agreements,

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA work with the Administration to see that cattle and beef are addressed under Section 102(b) (3) (J) and (K) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where a country has a history of a risk problem and any demonstrated difficulty in enforcing US health standards, USDA will reopen the US market only upon a demonstration that:

the country has in fact addressed the risk in a particular area, that there is no risk, or insignificant risk, of contamination from neighboring areas, and the country has a track record of at least two years of shipments to a third country where compliance with health standards comparable to the US have been met without incidence, or are at least at a level of incidence comparable for other approved suppliers.

Resolution #3:

WHEREAS the U.S. is renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

BE IT RESOLVED that traceability and marking accepted by the US for export shipments to trading partners be included as part of NAFTA requirements for imports and exports

BE IT RESOLVED that all products that qualify for NAFTA duty preferences be 100% from cattle that are born, raised, and processed in the NAFTA area.

Resolution #4:

WHEREAS USCA supports expanded U.S. beef access to international markets,

BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports prioritization of improved market access to Japan for beef products as part of the US-Japan bilateral dialogue seeking market access comparable to any other trading partner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports maintenance and/or improvement of market access to the Korean market for beef



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports monitoring of compliance by China with the recent reopening commitments and further supports efforts to liberalize the Chinese market to US beef.

TRADE: approved 2020

Currency

WHEREAS the U.S. cattle industry and its product have been recognized as perishable and cyclical products for trade agreement and are eligible for Special Rules or Safeguards.

WHEREAS a strong dollar has historically resulted in increased imports and a negative impact on cattle prices;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports introducing language for Special Rules that addresses a triggered mechanism system to account for currency fluctuations and potential impact on beef prices.

TRADE: approved 2020

Import Data

WHEREAS beef imports at times on an annual basis have reached as high as 12 %;

WHEREAS USDA and other livestock analyst have stated a 1 % change in beef supplies impacts prices 1 1/2- 2 percent,

WHEREAS the cattle industry receives daily and weekly beef supply numbers, slaughter numbers, etc.

WHEREAS beef import reports are often 60 days post entering the US

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports efforts to receive more timely beef import numbers, both on quantity and type.

WATER RIGHTS – renewed 2019

Resolution #1: Amended December 2011. Further amended December 2013.

WHEREAS, various proposals are being introduced, which will amend the Clean Water Restoration Act and increase federal regulations and control over water;

BE IT RESOLVED, USCA opposes any federal regulations which would adversely impact ranchers.

Resolution #2:

WHEREAS, USCA opposes the expansion of Federal authority by codification by Executive Order,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, USCA supports the involvement of agricultural interests in developing policy in protecting waters of the United States.