



2024 POLICY BOOK

*Updated
August 2024*



Index

American Antiquities Act of 1906.....	Page 3
Animal Health, Welfare, and Identification.....	Page 3
Beef Checkoff.....	Page 8
Capital Gains Tax.....	Page 10
Equal Access to Justice Act.....	Page 11
Estate Tax.....	Page 11
Labeling.....	Page 12
Marketing.....	Page 14
Processing.....	Page 16
Rural Broadband.....	Page 19
Trade & Foreign Affairs.....	Page 20
Transportation.....	Page 24
Water Rights, Public Lands and Environment.....	Page 24



AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES ACT of 1906

Resolution 1: Intent of the Act (Renewed 2022)

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, WELFARE, and IDENTIFICATION

Resolution 1: Addressing Johne’s Disease (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS Johne’s Disease is still a widespread problem impacting the cattle industry;
WHEREAS it is very costly to test and control/eliminate in cattle herds; and
WHEREAS education and testing are the only practical tools available to assist producers in minimizing the disease impact in their own herds and also prevent the spread of disease to other herds;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USCA asks the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services- Veterinary Services to reinstate a cost share program through cooperative agreement program funding to state animal health officials for the purpose of testing herds/animals and providing ongoing education to all livestock producers.

Resolution 2: ADT-approved Tags (Amended 2022)

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; and
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 standardized qualification process of additional UHF tag styles and designs; and
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, feed yards and packers.

Resolution 3: Animal Disease Traceability Rule Phase 2 (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS under the USDA’s proposed Animal Disease Traceability rule, Phase 2 requires the identification of all cattle moving interstate would be initiated by a notice published in the Federal



Register upon completion of the Phase 1 assessment and a determination that the ADT program can be successfully implemented in all cattle;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports a separate rulemaking for Phase 2; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA strongly opposes the implementation of the ADT requirements for “all cattle” in Phase 2 by Federal Register notice rather than through separate rulemaking.

Resolution 4: Animal Health and ID Priorities (Renewed 2023)

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; and

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 databases 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 for 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.



Resolution 5: Animal Health (Renewed 2022)

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

Resolution 6: Antibiotics for Veterinary and Farm Use (Amended 2023)

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

Resolution 7: Brucellosis in Bison & Elk (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS brucellosis is endemic to Yellowstone Park bison and elk herds;
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;
THEREFORE, 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;
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 8: Federal Regulation of Conditions of Animal Care (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS 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;
WHEREAS 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 livestock industry leaders and to the state animal health officials and state animal health leaders; and
WHEREAS 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, BE IT RESOLVED the USCA does not support any effort by the Federal government to increase its role in the regulation of animal care.

Resolution 9: FMD Policy (Renewed 2023)

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

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;

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

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; and

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.

Resolution 10: Gray Wolf Management (Renewed 2022)

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;

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

Resolution 11: Horse Slaughter (Renewed 2023)

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA should work to reinstate horse slaughter infrastructure.

Resolution 12: Increased Customs and Border Protection Funding (Renewed 2023)



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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports increased funding and authority for all federal agencies with jurisdiction over the importation of live animals, animal products, and animal by-products, and animal feed 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; and

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

Resolution 13: Trich Testing of Non-Virgin Bulls (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS bovine trichomoniasis (Trich) is a serious venereal disease of cattle that causes early pregnancy loss and occasional late-term abortions; and

WHEREAS there currently exists a patchwork of state regulations related to Trich testing, placing an undue regulatory and financial burden on seedstock producers selling animals across state lines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA encourages state animal officials to require that interstate movement of all non-virgin bulls have a Trich test prior to entry into a state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA supports a cost share program that decreases testing fees to alleviate the financial burden of seedstock producers in helping to eliminate this disease from the domestic cattle herd.

Resolution 14: UHF Standards (Passed 2022)

WHEREAS certain entities and companies within the US are producing UHF tags that do not meet established standards;

WHEREAS ISO 18000-63 establishes UHF transponder and reader standards and;

WHEREAS the "Interim Tag Data Standard for UHF Animal Identification" dated August 2016 found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/uhf-interim-tag-data-standard.pdf>;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT USCA endorses using the established standards referenced above in the context of UHF tags.

Resolution 15: Removal of Brucella abortus from Select Agent List (Renewed 2023)

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.

Resolution 16: Animal Health & ID: Use of mRNA Vaccine Platform in Livestock & Beef Cattle
(New Policy passed 2023)

WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers raise the safest and most desirable beef in the world; and
WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers institute science-based production practices to ensure the highest level of animal welfare and beef quality and safety; and
WHEREAS these protocols include best management practices in handling, feeding, and vaccinating (both preventive and curative) livestock; and
WHEREAS pharmaceutical companies are experimenting with the use of messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccines in animals intended for human consumption; and
WHEREAS the synthetic RNA used in the vaccine may potentially cause the vaccinated animal to produce antigenic proteins in great volume for an indeterminate amount of time; and
WHEREAS there are no available impact studies on the short- or long-term health of vaccinated animals or humans after consumption of the resulting meat or milk products; and
WHEREAS there is no mechanism by which the U.S. is able to track or discern imported meat or milk products that originated from mRNA vaccinated animals; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association opposes the use of mRNA vaccines in livestock and all foods.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association calls for all raw data from research concerning mRNA in livestock or food to be completely transparent and available for independent scientists without conflicts of interest to scrutinize and study the short and long term health and safety effects in both vaccinated animals and consumers.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA expects all mRNA vaccines to be prominently labeled as an mRNA product, so the administrator clearly is aware, prior to administration; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA expects any mRNA technology used in any food source, plant, or animal, to be classified as a medical therapy requiring informed consent as to risks, benefits and alternatives.

Interim Policy
Passed by BOD on 8-12-24

Resolution 17: Use of multiple forms of Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Gene Therapy Platform Technology, e.g., messenger RNA (mRNA), modified RNA (modRNA), self-replicating RNA (sRNA) and self-amplifying RNA (saRNA) with or without misnomer vaccine, in Livestock & Beef Cattle

WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers raise the safest and most desirable beef in the world; and



WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers institute science-based production practices to ensure the highest level of animal welfare and beef quality and safety; and

WHEREAS these protocols include best management practices in handling, feeding, and vaccinating (traditional definition of both preventive and curative) livestock; and

WHEREAS pharmaceutical companies are experimenting with the use of RNA Gene Therapy Platform Technology inoculations under the misnomer vaccine, e.g., messengerRNA (mRNA), modifiedRNA (modRNA), self-replicating RNA (sRNA) and self-amplifying RNA (saRNA), in animals intended for human consumption; and

WHEREAS U.S. cattle producers recognize mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA based technologies are Gene Therapy Platform Technology inoculations (not traditionally defined "Vaccines") with no history of disease treatment success; and

WHEREAS the synthetically modified RNA used in the Gene Therapy Platform inoculations, under misnomer vaccines, may potentially cause the inoculated animal to produce toxic pathologic antigenic proteins in great volume for an indeterminate amount of time; and

WHEREAS there are no available impact studies on the short- or long-term health of mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA inoculated animals or humans after consumption of the resulting meat or milk products; and

WHEREAS there are no available impact studies on the short- or long-term effects on fertility of mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA inoculated animals or humans after consumption of the resulting meat or milk products; and

WHEREAS there is no mechanism by which the U.S. is able to track or discern imported meat or milk products that originated from mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA inoculated animals; and

WHEREAS the synthetically modified RNA used in the mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA inoculations may potentially cause the inoculated animal to produce toxic pathologic antigenic proteins in great volume for an indeterminate amount of time; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association opposes the use of Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Gene Therapy Platform Technology inoculations, e.g., messengerRNA (mRNA), modifiedRNA (modRNA), self-replicating RNA (sRNA) and self-amplifying RNA (saRNA) with or without misnomer vaccine, in meat or milk producing animals, until scientifically sound raw data is available for open review by researchers with no conflicts of interest and publicly available research studies are published and peer-reviewed on the short- and long-term health, safety and fertility effects in mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA inoculated animals and humans consuming the resulting meat or milk products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA expects all Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Gene Therapy Platform Technology inoculations, e.g., messengerRNA (mRNA), modifiedRNA (modRNA), self-replicating RNA (sRNA) and self-amplifying RNA (saRNA) with or without misnomer vaccine, be prominently labeled as mRNA, modRNA, sRNA or saRNA products, so the administrator clearly is aware, prior to administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, USCA expects any Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Gene Therapy Platform technology used in any food source, plant or animal, be classified as a medical therapy



requiring informed consent of the consumer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no liability protection be given to pharmaceutical companies for harms or adverse effects caused by Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Gene Therapy Platform Technology products (with or without misnomer vaccine), e.g., mRNA, modRNA, sRNA and saRNA.

BEEF CHECKOFF

Resolution 1: Beef Checkoff Participation (Renewed 2022)

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 2: Beef Checkoff Problems (Amended 2022)

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; and

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 3: Beef Promotion (Amended 2022)

WHEREAS USCA believes a producer-driven, beef promotion program is vital to the future of the cattle industry;

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 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 4: CBB Terms (Renewed 2023)

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; and

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

Resolution 5: Increase in Per Head Assessment (Renewed 2022)

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.

Resolution 6: Separation of NCBA and Federation of State Beef Councils (Renewed 2022)

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 7—State Beef Council Fund Allocation (Renewed 2022).

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

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

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; and

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

Resolution 8: Alternative Proteins and the Beef Checkoff Program (Renewed 2022)

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;

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;

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.



CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Resolution 1: Capital Gain Rates (Renewed 2022)

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; and

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.

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Resolution 1: EAJA Fees (Renewed 2023)

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;

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 attorney's fees afterward;

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
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

Resolution 1: Estate Tax (Renewed 2023)

BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports permanently adjusting the estate tax exemption to \$10,000,000.00 and adjusting it for inflation thereafter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA supports permanently repealing the estate/death tax;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA supports retaining the stepped-up basis which adjusts the value, or "cost basis", of an inherited asset to fair market value at the time of the decedent's death;

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 the valuation discount available under section 2032A (special use valuation) and a decreasing 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 and not purchased; and

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

LABELING

Resolution 1: Definition of Beef & Meat (Renewed 2022)

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: Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling (Renewed 2023)

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;

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, and repealed on December 18, 2015;

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, and repealed on December 18, 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED any attempts by Congress or federal agencies to reestablish a mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling program should be done in coordination with industry and stakeholder groups.

Resolution 3: Plant Based and Cell Cultured Proteins (Renewed 2022)

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 nor 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; and

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 guidelines but as its own class of protein.

Resolution 4: Product of the U.S.A. Labeling (Renewed 2022)

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;
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;
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

Resolution 1: Cattle Futures Contracts (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, 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:

1. Volatility driven by algorithmic, ‘black-box’, or automated pre-programmed and high frequency trading.
2. Lack of convergence between cash and futures markets.
3. Lack of long participation at times.
4. Is deliverable capacity adequate for needed long position limits in the delivery month?
5. Current contract specifications lag the current market practices.

Resolution 2: Farm Bill (Renewed 2023)

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

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

Resolution 3: Mandatory Cash Trade (Amended 2022)

WHEREAS negotiated cash trade is vital for price discovery; and



WHEREAS negotiated cash prices trade falls to less than 10 percent in certain regions;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports a minimum cash trade, supported by economic data and analysis, that will affect robust price discovery.

Resolution 4: Mandatory Price Reporting (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that USCA supports these actions:

1. 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.
2. Continue providing access to the MPR Dashboard, Data Mart, and AMS Market Reports. Further, the USCA calls for public access to transaction level data from these and other agencies. Including access to transaction level data
3. Define committed cattle as any cattle upon which buyers and sellers have agreed to exchange.
4. Report basis trades on a daily basis instead of the current weekly report.
5. Weekly top trades should be separated from the current formula category.
6. Cash sale reports should include only cattle for delivery in the next 14 days not the 30 days.
7. system presently used.

Resolution 5: Packers & Stockyards Act (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that USCA supports legislative clarification of the P&S Act;

- 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.
- “Business justification” is not a valid defense of actions covered in the Act.
- “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.
- 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.
- Require the usability of the MPR Dashboard and Data Mart and AMS Market Reports, including access to transaction level data.
- Clarify the current definition for committed cattle to occur when agreement is first made.

- Report basis trades on a daily basis instead of the current weekly report.
- Weekly top trades should be separated from the current formula category.
- 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;

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.

PROCESSING

Resolution 1: Access to Offal Management and Value in the United States (Passed 2022)

WHEREAS Independent slaughter and processing is developing in the US;

WHEREAS There is a reduction in and consolidation of rendering companies in the US;

WHEREAS Independent processors rely on rendering offal to maintain operation;

WHEREAS there is monetary value in offal that small and very small plants are not able to access;

WHEREAS there is a reduction in landfill availability for offal products; and

WHEREAS The lack of availability of natural resources and changing environmental regulations calls for an adjustment in the offal rendering process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- The USDA to evaluate and provide cost share for new technology to render offal products at small and very small plants.
- The NRCS evaluate opportunities for the application and use of offal products.
- The NRCS evaluates incentives for the use of offal products in the agricultural industry.
- The USDA evaluates and provide educational opportunities for the application of offal products in the agricultural industry.

Resolution 2: Anti-Competitive Behaviors within the Retail Distribution Sector (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS major Packers employ rebate incentives with retail Distributors (A food service distributor functions as an intermediary between food manufacturers and the food service operator), based on volume movement of meat products;

WHEREAS distributors place up to an average 45% mark-up on retail beef prices, paid for by the



consumer;

WHEREAS distributors then receive an additional 10-15% in rebates from major Packers due to their exclusive incentive programs. This causes Distributors to streamline their warehouse offerings to maximize receipt of available Packer rebates;

WHEREAS Distributors offer contracts to their customers (those businesses, institutions, and companies responsible for any meal prepared outside of the home), that require up to 80% purchasing from that Distributor. In return, Distributors then offer an additional incentive of providing marketing services to the customer; and

WHEREAS when the Customer purchases beef outside of the Distributor contract, it places them in violation of the contract, which means they lose the rebate and marketing incentives. This essentially forces the Customer from purchasing more than 20% of their beef offerings from outside of the major Packers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA requests the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Department of Justice to investigate this practice as a form of market manipulation within the U.S. beef industry. USCA will continue to gather evidence of this nationwide practice and submit it to those decisionmakers responsible for investigating competition matters.

Resolution 3: Beef Inventory Capture (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS recent industry incidents have shown that it is possible to sell cattle to a Packer that did not exist;

WHEREAS Packers more frequently own backgrounding operations and feedlots, speeding up the process of vertical integration within the beef industry;

WHEREAS there is no clear definition as to what constitutes "beef inventory" within USDA AMS and other Reporting Agencies;

WHEREAS in private treaties payment is often made on Live Cattle before delivery, and businesses must reflect on their balance sheets Assets for Liabilities; and

WHEREAS current available beef inventory will reflect on Live Cattle value;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate potential market manipulation by clarifying how USDA agencies like Agriculture Marketing Services identify and records available beef inventory data, and how pre-purchased Live Cattle is reflected on the Packers balance sheet.

Resolution 4: Grading of Meat Products in the United States (Renewed 2022)

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; and
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:

1. 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
2. Independent slaughter and processing facilities be allowed to utilize electronic instrument grade.
3. augmentation systems within their plant; and
4. The USDA allow current USDA-FSIS inspectors stationed at independent slaughter and processing.
5. facilities to monitor the validation, verification, and calibration of the electronic instrument grade augmentation system utilized by the independent slaughter and processing facility.

Resolution 5: Lack of Independent Slaughter and Processing Facilities in the US (Amended 2022)

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The USDA continue to provide support to programs such as the Food Supply Chain Guarantee Loan and the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, and continue to find ways to implement and expand similar programs and opportunities.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The USDA set aside a percentage of their bids for meat purchase to Very Small/Small Independent Meat Packing facilities.
5. 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

Resolution 1: Broadband Expansion (Renewed 2022)

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:

- Informing policymakers on the basics of expanded broadband access and its contributions to rural America and the current government regulations that stifle its success.
- 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.
- Urging for universal broadband access through possible government programs, initiatives and private sector investment.
- Encouraging a working relationship between policymakers and the private sector to bring America's communication infrastructure into the 21st century.

Resolution 2: Broadband for America (Renewed 2023)

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:

- Educating policymakers and stakeholders on key fundamentals of how the internet and wireless networks work.
- Leading the policy discussion and driving the debate on how we as a nation can achieve broadband everywhere.
- 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, including the utilization of public-



private partnership opportunities to deploy networks further into rural America.

TRADE & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Resolution 1: Beef Trade with East Asian Countries (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, 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; and

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.

Resolution 2: Brazil Forced Labor (Renewed 2023)

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;

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;

THEREFORE, 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 3: Currency (Renewed 2022)

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; and

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.



Resolution 4: Demonstrated Trade Risks (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, 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; and

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 5: Establishment of Trade Agreements (Renewed 2023)

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;

THEREFORE, 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 6: Fast Track Trade Authority (Renewed 2023)

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

THEREFORE, 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 7: Foreign Land Ownership (Passed 2023)

BE IT RESOLVED that USCA does not support ownership stake by a foreign entity in U.S. agricultural land, nor a controlling interest in U.S. agribusiness companies.

Resolution 8: Import Data (Amended 2022)



WHEREAS beef imports at times on an annual basis have reached record highs;
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. ;
and
WHEREAS beef import and export reports are often 60 days post entering the US;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports efforts to receive more timely beef import and export
data, both on quantity and type.

Resolution 9: J-List (Renewed 2023)

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;
THEREFORE, 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,

Resolution 10: Regionalization of Trade (Renewed 2023)

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;
THEREFORE, 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 11: Trade of Products Using Cell-Cultured Technology (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS select companies are developing products intended for human consumption utilizing cell-
culturing processes in an attempt to imitate traditional beef and meat products;
WHEREAS USCA believes this new category of food is NOT beef, nor meat, and should utilize entirely
different terminology than those that consumers already understand to be related to beef and
meat products; and
WHEREAS it is assumed that these select companies will endeavor to begin importing and exporting their
cell-cultured products to consumers around the world;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA believes that cell-cultured products should have different import
and export codes as assigned by the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Customs and Border



Protection, and other federal agencies tasked with identifying, inspecting, or otherwise having jurisdiction over the import and export of food products in the U.S.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED cell-cultured product should NOT be comingled with domestic, imported, or exported meat and beef products to reflect the high food safety standards that the U.S. prides itself on. It is unknown how cell-cultured products interact with the human body, especially with long-term consumption, and should be kept separate from traditional beef and meat products in case of a food safety recall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a maximum quota shall be established for cell-cultured products that are imported into the U.S.

Resolution 12: USMCA (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS the U.S. has renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement, and it is now the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA);

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

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

TRANSPORTATION

Resolution 1: Addressing Supply Chain Disruptions and Labor Shortages (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS supply chain disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic are upending the provision and delivery of a wide array of consumer goods, including the transportation of live cattle and beef;

WHEREAS the pandemic highlighted the trend in recent years of fewer available drivers. Current estimates show that the transportation industry is nearly 80,000 drivers short of the workers needed to keep goods moving freely; and

WHEREAS the livestock hauling sector is even more complex and devoid of the highly-skilled workers needed to transport live animals as quickly and efficiently as possible;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that USCA seeks to identify the underlying factors driving the labor shortage within the cattle and beef transportation sector, and where possible, provide recommendations to remedy the issue and attract new talent to the industry.

WATER RIGHTS, PUBLIC LANDS and ENVIRONMENT

Resolution 2: Clean Water Restoration Act (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS various proposals are being introduced, which will amend the Clean Water Restoration Act



and increase federal regulations and control over water;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA opposes any federal regulations which would adversely impact ranchers.

Resolution 3: Waters of the U.S. (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS USCA opposes the expansion of Federal authority by codification by Executive Order; and
WHEREAS USCA opposes any actions that infringe State water codes or laws that are in existence;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED USCA supports the involvement of agricultural interests in developing policy in protecting waters of the United States.

Resolution 4: Wilderness Study Areas (Renewed 2023)

WHEREAS the Wilderness Act of 1964 places restrictions on designated areas to protect their perceived “natural” characteristics;
WHEREAS these restrictions apply equally to federal lands that have been formally designated by Congress as “wilderness” areas as well as those which are simply declared to be “wilderness study areas” (“WSAs”) by agencies; and
WHEREAS this is problematic as many WSAs have never been formally declared to be wilderness areas by Congress yet have been managed as such for decades;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that USCA requests Congress and the Administration to establish a 4-year deadline to designate WSAs, after which point WSAs are released from consideration for designation.

