

South Dakota



2026 *Policy Resolutions*



South Dakota



2026 Policy Resolutions

These resolutions reflect the current policy of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association (SDCA). Policy resolutions are proposed by SDCA board of directors, affiliates, or individual members, subject to discussion and debate by committee, and referred to the general membership for consideration during the annual business meeting.

The policies and directives instruct the Board of Directors and SDCA staff charged with the responsibility of carrying out the mission the association.

Mission – To advance the interests of South Dakota cattlemen through representation and promotion of the beef industry.

Vision – To be an organization where members work together to protect their industry; seek solutions to industry problems; provide a unified voice, and to build the good will, esteem, and recognition the industry deserves.

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Agriculture & Food Policy

The Agriculture and Food Policy Committee develops policy that ensures cattlemen are represented and their concerns addressed in legislation and regulation. This committee also considers federal and state budget issues.

AGP-2025-00

Support of SDSU Meat Lab

Whereas, the current South Dakota State University Meat Lab and classroom has been in use since 1977; and

Whereas, South Dakota's livestock producers rely on safe and modern meat processing facilities and qualified individuals to operate them; therefore be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports increased funding for immediately needed updates and renovations to the South Dakota State University Meat Lab and classroom; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA supports the future construction of a new facility or renovation of the existing Meat Lab and classroom that provides for teaching and research of modern meat processing.

AGP-2025-01

Grassland Restoration

Whereas there is growing recognition of the importance of grasslands; and

Whereas there's a growing need to rehabilitate marginal farm ground; and

Whereas there is a renewed appreciation for the benefits of cattle grazing on grasslands; and

Resolved that SDCA supports grassland restoration policy and projects that partner with landowners to provide seed, fence and water infrastructure to return cattle to grazing on these lands.

AGP-2025-02

Remote Grading

Whereas USDA has implemented a remote beef grading system for small and very small processing plants; and

Whereas the start-up costs and maintenance fees with the remote beef grading system is burdensome for many of the plants; and

Whereas the USDA quality grade add immense value to a carcass and shouldn't be reserved only for larger plants in more populous areas; therefore be it

Resolved that SDCA supports continued efforts for improvements to the remote beef grading program to make it feasible for more small and very small plants to implement.

AGP-2025-03

Yield Grade Formula

Whereas the current USDA yield grade formula was implemented in 1965; and

Whereas cattle genetics and performance have improved greatly since that time; and

Whereas beef on dairy cross cattle represent a growing percentage of the fed cattle slaughter in the US; therefore be it

Resolved that SDCA supports efforts from industry, academia, and USDA to identify the current deficiencies in the formula and work to develop new processes and technologies to predict retail beef yield.

AGP-2025-04

Equine Transport and Harvest

Resolved, that SDCA strongly supports equine harvest; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA strongly oppose the ban on equine harvest, or attempts to ban equine transport for feeding or harvest.

AGP-2025-05

Farm Bill Conservation Incentives

Whereas, Farm Bills have and will continue to have a direct economic impact on farmers and ranchers in South Dakota; and

Whereas, previous Farm Bills have relied heavily on commodity incentives; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA strongly supports a Farm Bill that encourages conservation incentives for working lands.

AGP-2025-06

South Dakota Ag Economy

Whereas, South Dakota's overall economy is directly affected by a strong agricultural economy; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports efforts to:

- Reduce the federal deficit by uniform cuts in all programs, not just agriculture.
- Develop new uses for agricultural commodities to help ensure the profitability of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers.
- Encourage a free market economy.
- Eliminate government interference in agriculture that directly inhibits the rights of individuals to manage land, water, and other resources consistent with long term conservation goals and to make a profitable living for themselves and their families.

AGP-2025-07

Redi Funds

Whereas, South Dakota agriculture is the number one industry in the state and employs thousands of people within and beyond agriculture; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the majority of South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Redi Funds support new agricultural processing and marketing outlets in the state.

AGP-2025-08

Funding for State Agriculture & Extension Prog

Whereas, agriculture is the single largest component of South Dakota's economy; and

Whereas, animal agriculture accounts for a significant portion of the total agricultural cash receipts; and

Whereas, agriculture research and extension programs are essential to the continued

viability of South Dakota's economy; and

Whereas, federal support for state agricultural research and extension programs is declining; and

Whereas, inflation has resulted in a decrease in "real" dollars from state support for agricultural research and extension programs; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports adequate funding from state appropriated and federal formula funds to maintain strong agricultural research and extension programs essential to a strong, productive cattle industry.

AGP-2025-09

ACEP-ALE Funding

Whereas, millions of acres of agriculture land have been lost to high- and low-density development in the United States; and

Whereas, the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) can play key role in rural South Dakota for production agriculture; and

Whereas, ACEP's Agricultural Land Easement Program (ACEP-ALE) allows farmers to sell development rights that they don't need if the land is kept in production; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports:

1. Increasing ACEP funding;
2. Increasing the ceiling on the eligible federal share for ACEP conservation easement to 80% of the easement value;

Allowing for ACEP-ALE funds to be used to cover transaction cost incurred by the landowners and eligible entity facilitating the transaction, as well as project startup costs.

AGP-2024-00

U.S. Drought Monitor

Whereas disaster payments are important to livestock producers by providing the financial resources to mitigate the effects of drought; and

Whereas livestock forage program payments are triggered by the level and duration of the U.S. Drought Monitor created through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

Whereas having an accurate U.S. Drought Monitor is essential to depicting what areas are affected and the severity of the drought; and

Whereas, the U.S. Drought Monitor is created mostly by volunteers who donate their time to draft the map; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA calls for the U.S. Government to make funding available to gather, interpret, and utilize data to create the U.S. Drought Monitor; be it further

Resolved, if federal government funding is unavailable, SDCA calls for the USDA to utilize information from the Farm Service Agency county operating committees to determine when and at what level federal disaster programs that are currently triggered by the U.S. Drought Monitor should be implemented.

AGP-2024-01

Dietary Guidelines

Whereas, government-funded agencies and health organizations continue to issue dietary guidelines to promote health and are influencing food choices; and

Whereas, NCBA participates in establishing new dietary guidelines and provides science-based information; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports the role of beef in a recommended healthy dietary guideline. Through sound nutrition education programs and the wider awareness of beef's nutrient density and its important role in providing essential nutrients in diets.

AGP- 2024-02

Collaboration with Board of Regents

Whereas, agriculture is South Dakota's largest business; and

Whereas, the vitality and well-being of our agriculture sector is extremely important to our state; and

Whereas, South Dakota State University is our land-grant university and is vital to the education of our young people in the field of agriculture and the dispersal of knowledge and experience relating to the agriculture economy; and

Whereas, the presidency of this institution is important in guiding the direction this institution takes as far as South Dakota agriculture is concerned; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA uses all available opportunities to work with the Board of Regents and the South Dakota State University President and inform them of cattlemen's issues.

AGP-2024-03

Livestock Confiscation

Whereas SDCA supports industry established standards for the management, care, and treatment of animals in agriculture and in medical research; therefore, be it

Resolved, that suspected violations of those standards should be investigated by appropriate legal authorities and should include a waiting/warning period to allow the owner/operator to correct any problem prior to law enforcement action; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports due process before any private property, or any animals can be confiscated or disposed of by the humane society or similar groups; be it further

Resolved, that unlawful action taken against livestock owners, research or other facilities should be classified as a felony.

AGP-2024-04

Promotion of Cattle Feeding

Whereas, that cattle feeding is an important value-added process available to South Dakota's feed grain and feeder cattle producers; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the development and promotion of a viable cattle feeding industry within our state be a high priority.

AGP-2024-05

Health Care

Whereas, farmers and ranchers are concerned about rising health care costs and effects of a federal health care plan; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports 100 percent deductibility for health care expenses, including insurance premiums; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA does not support health care reform that raises federal deficits, limits individuals' choices or mandates coverage.

AGP-2024-06

False Claim Protection

Whereas, farmers' and ranchers' incomes are hurt when individuals or groups make false claims and statements about agriculture and agricultural food products; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports legislation that provides for civil liability for individuals or groups who make known false claims and/or statements.

AGP-2024-07

SD Beef Industry Council Support

Whereas, a checkoff on all cattle sold has been voted into law by a referendum of cattlemen; and

Whereas, the Beef Promotion and Research Act authorizes the funds from the checkoff program to be collected by qualified state beef councils, which have the right to retain up to 50 percent of the funds collected within the state; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports the South Dakota Beef Industry Council in a form that represents the state's cattle producers, be the sole qualified agency in South Dakota to collect and distribute the funds.

AGP-2024-08

Energy Pipeline Support

Whereas, transporting energy resources through pipelines is safe and effective; and

Whereas, the movement of energy resources via railroad causes congestion and delays for agricultural goods transported by railcars; and

Whereas, the movement of energy resources by trucks causes significant wear on the bridge and road infrastructure in South Dakota; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports responsible and safe pipeline projects that transport energy resources through the state of South Dakota while respecting private property rights.

AGP-2024-09

Beef Education

Whereas, the cattle industry is an important economic and nutritional factor for the American public; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA asks SDBIC and NCBA to support funding to develop and distribute informational and educational programs that show the economic, environmental, and nutritional value of beef and beef production to the public.

AGP-2024-10

Electric Service Territories

Whereas, current law allows municipal electric suppliers to expand their service boundaries and take over service territory and infrastructure currently supplied by electric coops and investor-owned electric utilities without recourse; and

Whereas, such action does not require the municipal electric suppliers to fairly compensate

the electric coops and the investor-owned electric utilities for the infrastructure and the loss of future income from servicing the territories in question; therefore, be it

Resolved, the SDCA supports amending the current law to prevent unfair takings by municipal electric utilities.

AGP-2023-00

Accurate Meat Labeling

Whereas, “meat” is defined in the Agricultural Marketing Act, 7 CFR 54.1 as “part of the muscle of any cattle, sheep, swine, or goats which is skeletal or which is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart, or esophagus, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and the portions of bone (and bone-in product such as T-bone or porterhouse steak), skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels with normal accompany the muscle tissue and that are not separated from it in the process of dressing.”; therefore be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes representing a product as meat that is not derived from the harvested livestock; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports labeling a protein product as “meat” only if it is produced from any live animal. Products derived from plant material or lab grown, should not be allowed to carry “meat” on their label.

AGP-2023-01

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Whereas Agriculture and specifically cattle production is one of the largest contributors to the overall economy in South Dakota; and

Whereas South Dakota has and continues to experience population growth in rural areas, often near agricultural operations; and

Whereas this growth has created conflicts in land use between traditional agriculture uses and residential uses; therefore, be it

Resolved SDCA should advocate on the local and state level to permit agricultural development in agricultural areas, whether they are zoned agricultural by the local government or traditionally used and recognized as agricultural areas; be it further

Resolved SDCA should educate and encourage producers to be mindful of dust, smells, and sounds which may give the public a negative attitude towards development, specifically Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations; be it further

Resolved, SDCA should oppose county ordinances or state statutes which could have overreaching and unintended consequences on livestock operations.

AGP-2023-02

Energy Policy

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the value and growth of conventional and renewable energy, and

Whereas, SDCA reserves the right to monitor and evaluate any energy source that is based on, or impacts, agricultural commodities, waste, and/or byproducts to determine their effects on the marketplace, land, water, and the profitability of cattlemen; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports national energy policy that protects the rights of landowners and lessees while protecting wildlife and the environment.

AGP-2023-03

Statement on Biofuels Co-Products

Whereas, co-products of the bio-fuels industry are a valuable asset to South Dakota livestock producers; and

Whereas, that value is captured by keeping more cattle in the state of South Dakota; and

Whereas more of the value of those cattle is captured by South Dakota cattle farmers and rancher; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages the bio-fuels industry to market as many of their co-products as possible to the cattle industry in South Dakota.

AGP-2023-04

CRP Grasslands Funding

Whereas, SDCA believes the best approach to conservation is through voluntary cooperation with property owners; and

Whereas, leases or easements, whereby the land can stay in production, are preferable to government or other entities purchasing land and removing it from production and the tax rolls; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports funding for easement programs such as the CRP Grasslands.

AGP-2023-05

Pasture Range Forage County Base Values & Transparency

Whereas, the Pasture-Range-Forage (PRF) program is a USDA authorized risk management tool South Dakota ranchers use; and

Whereas, PRF's indemnities are based on rainfall; and

Whereas, PRF has helped sustain our ranches and communities in dry years; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages RMA to establish a county base value of no less than the most recent NASS pasture cash rental rate for each county and calls for greater transparency in the formula for determining the county base value and the sites for the rainfall determinations.

AGP-2023-06

Definition of Beef

Whereas, alternative sources of protein are being labeled and promoted as an equivalent or substitute for beef; and

Whereas, the use of traditional beef nomenclature on alternative products is confusing to consumers and weakens the value of products derived from actual livestock production; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the definition of beef to only include products derived from actual livestock raised by cattle farmers and ranchers, grown with a circulatory system, and harvested for human consumption.

AGP-2023-07

Dairy Labeling

Whereas, consumer data shows the use of the term "milk" on plant-based foods is misleading for consumers; and

Whereas, a 2018 survey conducted by the market research firm Ipsos showed more than half of consumers believe that plant-based foods are labeled “milk” because those products have a similar nutritional value to cow’s milk; and

Whereas, dairy products are an important part of a healthy diet for children and adults, and most Americans are not meeting the recommended intake of dairy foods; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes the use of established dairy terms such as “milk” by plant-based products.

AGP-2023-08

Teen Driving

Resolved, SDCA supports obtaining a restricted driving permit at age 14, including passage of driving test, driver’s ed, and 3–6-month probation periods.

AGP-2023-09

Beef Check-Off Increase

Resolved, SDCA supports an increase of the national beef check-off that results in additional funding at the state level.

AGP-2023-10

State Beef Check-Off

Resolved, SDCA supports the creation and implementation of a state beef checkoff for in-state beef promotion, research, and education activities by the South Dakota Beef Industry Council.

AGP-2022-00

Equine Brand Inspection

Resolved, that SDCA supports the elimination of equine brand inspection.

AGP-2022-01

Zoning Ordinance Restrictions

Whereas, private property rights of livestock producers may be restricted or diminished by zoning ordinances; and

Whereas, profitable livestock operations must utilize the same economies of scale that are commonplace in other businesses; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA work to develop zoning ordinances that allow livestock producers to operate and expand without undue and unnecessary regulation while protecting the private property rights of all citizens.

AGP-2022-02

Grass & Forage Risk Management

Whereas grasslands and forages currently do not have adequate risk management products available; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports development of products which provide multi-peril revenue protection and premium subsidies comparable to the major grain commodities; be it further

Resolved, any risk management proceeds do not diminish the indemnity from other USDA programs.

AGP-2022-03

Brand Program

Resolved, SDCA supports the current brand inspection area; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports animal ownership inspection on a cost recovery basis under a system that is transparent, efficient, and low-cost; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports brand registration, application, and other fees that are sufficient to allow the brand program to continue to be self-sustaining.

AGP-2022-04

Precision Ag

Whereas, South Dakota State University (SDSU) has built a Precision Agriculture Facility in Brookings, South Dakota; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the continued development of precision ag technology and a precision ag program at SDSU and the state's technical institutions.

AGP-2021-00

Commercial Vehicle Designation

Whereas vehicles frequently used have become heavier and more powerful resulting in higher gross vehicle weight ratings; and

Whereas the federal definition of a commercial vehicle has not changed to keep up with the increasing weight ratings; and

Whereas producers using heavy duty pickups may be required to receive a commercial driver's license to conduct their typical hauling needs; be it therefore

Resolved, SDCA advocate for increased Gross Vehicle Weight Ratings that are consistent with uses that are typical of farm and ranch hauling.

AGP-2021-01

Farm Bill Policy – Grasslands

Whereas, emerging technology provides methods to increase crop production with petroleum-based products; and

Whereas, existing farm program payments and crop insurance encourages investors and speculators to expand tillable acres; and

Whereas, not all of South Dakota's agricultural land base is suitable for crop production because of soil and moisture limitations; and

Whereas, current farm program policy has inadvertently created financial incentives that has led to the conversion of grazing land to subsidized cropland in South Dakota each year. This policy has created an economic playing field that prevents young farmers and ranchers from entering or expanding their operations; and

Whereas, the loss of grazing land has resulted in loss of pasture, increased cost of livestock production, increased fuel consumption, and excessive grazing on the remaining grazing lands; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA will work to include in the new current Farm Bill a provision that will eliminate all federal subsidy supports, including commodity payments and crop insurance, on new cropland acres put into production by breaking grassland with no previous cropping history; be it further

Resolved, conservation programs such as EQIP, CSP, GRP, WRP, and CRP must be funded at levels that meet the high demand for implementation.

AGP-2021-02

Beginning Farmer Program

Whereas, the South Dakota Legislature has created a Value-Added Finance Authority, which is an essential element of the Beginning Farmer Program; and

Whereas, this program has experienced initial successes in assisting young farmers and ranchers; and

Whereas, the Internal Revenue Code has modified its “beginning farmer” definition, which governs eligibility to participate in the Value-Added Finance Authority tax exempt bonds; and

Whereas, the new definition is less restrictive and will enable more young farmers and ranchers to qualify; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports a revision of the State’s definition of a beginning farmer to match the definition allowed by the revised IRS Code.

AGP-2021-03

Livestock Indemnity Program

Whereas, South Dakota Cattlemen face weather issues and losses like crop producers; and

Whereas, there currently isn’t a federally subsidized insurance program that provides coverage for losses due to weather-related disaster; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA strongly supports a livestock indemnity program with parameters for all extraordinary storms and nature-related disasters and a streamlined application process that is not burdensome for producers; be it further

Resolved, indemnity payments should be updated annually to reflect the current value of livestock.

AGP-2021-04

CAFO Reporting

Whereas EPA has increased reporting requirements for CAFOs; therefore, be it

Resolved SDCA opposes the increased reporting requirements made to the Clean Water Act Section 308.

AGP-2021-05

Temporary Vehicle Licenses

Whereas, the first day of the month occasionally falls on a weekend; and

Whereas, the county treasurers’ offices are closed on weekends; and

Whereas, state statute does not allow citizens to purchase temporary vehicle licenses until the current month and requires said purchase to be done in person; and

Whereas, the arrangement could force a citizen to operate an unlicensed vehicle over a weekend; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports changing the state statute to allow citizens to purchase temporary vehicle licenses at least two weeks prior to the month that the temporary license is to take effect; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports changing the state statute to allow temporary vehicle licenses to be purchased via mail or online.

Cattle Health & Wellbeing

The Cattle Health and Wellbeing Committee develops policies to ensure cattle health and well-being issues are addressed to maintain the health and quality care of cattle. The committee develops policies and recommendations to ensure that consumers receive safe and wholesome beef products.

CHW-2025-00

Brucellosis Vaccination and Testing

Resolved, that SDCA's policy regarding brucellosis is to support regulations that provide for:

- Calf-hood vaccination for dairy and breeding cattle;
- Improved identification of breeding animals;
- No testing of feedlot cattle intended for slaughter; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA encourages producers and SDAIB to maintain a brucellosis-free status.

CHW-2025-01

Wildlife Feeding

Whereas, experience in other states has demonstrated that establishing seasonal feeding grounds for free-roaming populations of elk, deer, and other animals capable of transmitting disease to cattle presents animal health concerns; and

Whereas, South Dakota cattlemen are deeply concerned that such feeding may not be accompanied by other good animal husbandry techniques involving concerns for animal health; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA urges the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission and the SDGFP Secretary to use extreme discretion in establishing such feeding policy and use other means of population control and management when at all possible.

CHW-2024-00

Animal Disease Traceability

Whereas, maintaining a national identification program is essential for protecting and preserving our nations cow herd from catastrophic diseases such as Tuberculosis, Foot and Mouth Disease, and other highly contagious diseases; and

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the increasing risk of catastrophic disease entering the United States through the movement of both people and cattle; and

Whereas, diseases do not respect states' or nations' borders; and

Whereas, efficient and effective contact tracing can only be achieved with a mandatory program to ensure compliance; and

Whereas, brands and inspection programs are adequate for ownership verification but are not adequate for individual animal identification and disease traceability; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports mandatory identification of all breeding cattle, and supports and

encourages voluntary ID of all cattle; be it further

Resolved, data must be held by a secure entity that ensures a 48-hour trace back capability, whether it be public or private, and may only be used for traceability or ownership purposes; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the costs of developing the infrastructure at marketing points should be borne by the government, and operational costs should be borne by both producers and the government; be it further

Resolved, data collection forms and procedures should be standardized from state to state; be it further

Resolved, the system must be able to evolve with new developments and changes in technology to enhance traceability; be it further

Resolved, SDCA accepts that unique national registered numbers of identification may be also considered as legal proof of ownership as new technologies, such as but not limited to Block chain technology, are developed and become accessible to producers.

CHW-2024-01

New World Screwworm Eradication and Control Program

Whereas, the U.S. has been free of the screwworm pest for decades due to a successful eradication program; and

Whereas, USDA, ARS needs to coordinate the various screwworm research programs to increase their efficiency and productivity; and

Resolved, SDCA insists that negotiations with Panama ensure availability and access to requested screwworm flies as well as allow appropriate research programs without disruption; therefore be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the ongoing research on cryopreservation, all male screwworm production, improved mass rearing techniques, and procedures to quickly manage outbreaks; therefore be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the continued development of, and approval and access to vaccination and treatment options to help prevent and treat screwworm infection; therefore be it further

Resolved, SDCA strongly supports the continued work of screwworm eradication and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) recommendations for importation, quarantine, and transportation of cattle from countries considered infested with screwworm flies.

CHW-2024-02

Animal Care

Whereas, farmers and ranchers have long been concerned with the welfare of livestock, recognizing that good animal health, care, production, and handling practices are essential to efficient and profitable production; therefore, be it

Resolved, for reasons of clarification, SDCA recognizes the following definitions:

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

- Animal Rights: a position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights like humans; be it further

Resolved, SDCA monitors the animal rights issue if it develops in the courts and regulatory and legislative bodies and takes appropriate action when necessary.

CHW-2024-03

Change to Brucellosis and TB Programs

Whereas, South Dakota is recognized by USDA/APHIS as free of Bovine Tuberculosis and Bovine Brucellosis; and

Whereas, USDA/APHIS is considering changes to the national Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis programs; and

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the need to make significant changes in the national Tuberculosis and Brucellosis eradication programs; therefore be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages inclusion of industry input in developing any new program for controlling or eradicating these diseases or any changes to the existing regulations for these programs.

CHW-2024-04

Use of Antibiotics in Animal Management

Whereas, the benefits of antibiotics in livestock rations can be documented by years of research; and

Whereas, theoretical questions have been raised regarding the safety of feeding antibiotics to livestock; and

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the consumer's right to expect wholesome meat products; and

Whereas, SDCA encourages the proper use of antibiotics to maintain the wholesomeness of beef; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA strongly urges that any proposed changes in FDA policies regarding the use of antibiotics and approval of new drugs be based on factual research.

CHW-2024-05

Johne's Disease

Whereas, there have been documented cases of Johne's Disease in South Dakota; and

Whereas, the disease cannot be treated and is known to be fatal to livestock; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports continued research for effective, affordable diagnosis and treatment, including support for pilot project testing; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA encourages producers to participate in the SD Animal Industry Board voluntary control program.

CHW-2023-00

Vaccine Development

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the usefulness of vaccination and vaccines as an integral part of cattle health and wellbeing; therefore be it

Resolved that SDCA supports the development and thorough research of

vaccines that benefit cattle health and ensure a wholesome product for consumers.

CHW-2023-01

Wildlife and Exotic Game Animal Research

Whereas, SDCA is interested in maintaining the health and productivity of the U.S. cattle population; and

Whereas, the population of free roaming deer, elk, bison, hogs, et al. significantly increases the potential of disease and pest exposure to cattle due to cohabitation; and

Whereas, there is risk of exposure to disease (both eradicated domestic and foreign animal disease); therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA encourages USDA Agriculture Research Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, universities, and other researchers to do needed disease surveillance and research on wildlife and exotic game animals to protect the cattle population.

CHW-2023-02

Non-Vet Practices

Resolved, procedures commonly performed in animal husbandry, including but not limited to, castration, and dehorning of cattle, sheep, horses, and swine should not be considered the practice of veterinary medicine within the meaning of state law.

CHW-2023-03

Regulation of Growth Promotants & Feed Additives

Whereas, growth promotants and feed additives can be helpful for efficient beef production; and

Whereas, excessive regulations and increasingly lower tolerance levels threaten the loss of many of these drugs; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA continue to fight for reasonable tolerance levels and common-sense regulations based on science that will accommodate the beef industry as well as provide a safe, top-quality, and economical product for the consuming public.

CHW-2023-04

Handling Guidelines

Whereas, cattlemen have long recognized the need to properly care for livestock; and

Whereas, cattlemen need to try to prevent the spread of disease, especially with co-mingled cattle; and

Whereas, consumer groups are demanding written guidelines; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the NCBA Guidelines for Care and Handling of Beef Cattle.

CHW-2023-05

South Dakota Beef Quality Assurance Program

Whereas, Beef Quality Assurance is critical to assuring the consumer of the quality and safety of beef; and

Whereas, a South Dakota Beef Quality Assurance program is essential to the long-term competitiveness of South Dakota cattlemen; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the continuation of a statewide BQA/CMP program; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the BQA plan developed by a task force representing SDCA, South Dakota Stockgrowers, South Dakota Beef Industry Council, South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association, South Dakota Animal Industry Board, South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and South Dakota State University; be it further

Resolved, South Dakota beef checkoff funds should be used in support of the funding of the South Dakota Beef Quality Assurance programs; be it further

Resolved, SDCA encourage members to support and participate in the South Dakota Beef Quality Assurance program; be it further

Resolved, that the state BQA/CMP program remain producer-driven and managed and not regulatory.

CHW-2023-06

Support of the Rural Veterinary Medical Education Program

Whereas, agriculture is the largest industry in South Dakota with livestock representing 40% of the income; and

Whereas, vibrant agricultural communities are vital to the South Dakota economy and way of life; and

Whereas, veterinary medicine is an indispensable component in the support of agricultural communities and requires Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) knowledgeable in food animal production practices and companion animal care and welfare; and

Whereas, veterinary medicine is an essential element of the one health initiative where the health and well-being of people are connected to the health and well-being of animals; and

Whereas, the education and recruitment of future veterinarians are crucial to the continued growth, strength, and vitality of communities in South Dakota; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the collaborative rural veterinary medical education program between South Dakota State University and other accredited colleges of veterinary medicine for educating veterinary medical students dedicated to serving agricultural communities and fostering excellence in diagnostics, research, and clinical practice.

CHW-2023-07

Animal Disease Indemnity Programs

Whereas, FMD, TB, Brucellosis, and other devastating animal diseases can pose an economic threat to livestock producers; and

Whereas, these diseases may also pose a threat to neighboring livestock operations; and

Whereas, a sound disease indemnity program is needed to help affected livestock producers survive a disease outbreak; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the continuation of federal livestock disease indemnity programs at funding levels adequate to provide financial assistance to livestock producers whose animals are destroyed due to a relevant disease outbreak.

CHW-2022-00

Trichomoniasis

Whereas, Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease in cattle that can cause severe economic and production losses; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports the current rules of the South Dakota Animal Industry Board addressing trichomoniasis control.

CHW-2022-01
Cervid Disposal

Whereas, SDCA is concerned with the health of all animals in South Dakota, and prompt carcass disposal and treatment are a key to that goal; and

Whereas, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been identified in South Dakota; and

Whereas, there has been an excessive dumping of wildlife carcasses due to the refusal of rendering services for these carcasses; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA encourages Game, Fish and Parks Department and the Animal Industry Board to take all measures possible and necessary to control CWD and other diseases; be it further

Resolved, SDCA urges prompt disposal of all cervid carcasses along SD highways to promote the health of all ruminants.

CHW-2022-02
Shortage of Food Animal Veterinarian Graduates

Whereas, there is a significant shortfall in the number of food animal veterinarian graduates to service the livestock production areas of the United States; and

Whereas, livestock producers rely on their local veterinarians for guidance to ensure food product safety, herd management and disease control; and

Whereas, animal welfare issues and the increasing public scrutiny of humane care and management of livestock is often closely related to emergency veterinary attention; and

Whereas, the physical nature of the work as well as accrued indebtedness tends to divert many capable graduate veterinarians away from food animal practice; and

Whereas, the increased complexity of pharmaceutical and biological product use requires veterinarian supervision; and

Whereas, veterinarian practice can involve long travel distances and extended absence from their clinic in rural areas, so a demand for multi-veterinarian staffed clinics is created; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA encourages colleges of veterinary medicine to vigorously pursue recruiting and training students with the aptitude and desire to fill the increasing void of food animal veterinarians; be it further

Resolved, that, even though SDCA recognizes the importance of scholastic excellence, it also recommends an attempt be made to identify a process of recruitment that selects individuals with skills and physical capabilities in addition to academics; be it further

Resolved, that agricultural interests in South Dakota work to modernize the veterinary workforce using credentialed food animal veterinary assistants; be it further

Resolved SDCA supports the recruitment of SD students with an ag background to the SDSU Pre-Vet Program.

CHW-2022-03

Food Borne Pathogens

Whereas, USDA and other funding sources have resources to do research on food borne pathogens such as E. Coli 0157:H7, campylobacter, salmonella, etc.; and

Whereas, food borne pathogen incidents, though few, impact individual producers' profitability; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages prioritization, by all funding agencies, of vigorous research on food borne pathogens for the enhancement of food safety; be it further

Resolved SDCA supports research of these pathogens at state supported research facilities including the SDSU Agricultural Experiment Stations.

CHW-2022-04

Animal Industry Board Reports

Resolved, that SDCA reaffirms its position that the SDAIB should be attached to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for reporting purposes only, as in its present status.

CHW-2022-05

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Whereas, SDCA believes that protection of human health and the human food supply is of the highest priority, and consumers' perceptions regarding meat safety issues can have a devastating effect on the beef industry in the United States; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports efforts by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that the United States remains free of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports increased research funding from the public and private sector with the objective to continue to provide the American consumer with beef of the highest quality, consistency, safety, and wholesomeness; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the current USDA ban on the use of mammalian-derived proteins and byproducts in our domestic livestock feeds; be it further

Resolved, SDCA strongly believes that no cattle or beef from cattle be imported into the U.S. from countries that have not established firewalls for BSE equivalent to those of the United States or have demonstrated a lack of proper and timely reporting of BSE cases; be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes the importation of breeding cattle and beef from cattle born before a meat and bone meal (MBM) feed ban was enacted from any country with a verified case of BSE.

CHW-2022-06

Nondomestic Animals

Whereas, South Dakota Animal Industry Board has the specific statutory responsibility of protecting the health of livestock in South Dakota; and

Whereas, SDAIB has authority for the importation of non-domestic animals into South Dakota once it determines that such animals are safe to the public and the free-roaming animals of the state; and

Whereas, SDAIB may require a public hearing prior to the importation of non-domestic

animals giving additional opportunity for public involvement in such a decision; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the continued authority of the Animal Industry Board to participate in any state agency decisions regarding the importation of non-domestic animals. Once official identification is applied to an animal it should not be removed or tampered with except at slaughter or to replace a failed device.

CHW-2022-07

Buffalo Movement

Whereas Bison in Yellowstone National Park are infected with Brucellosis; and

Whereas movement from the park may present diseases to the domestic cattle herd; therefore, be it

Resolved all buffalo movement must meet the requirements set forth by the Animal Industry Board for moving animals from Department of Interior lands to other locations.

CHW-2022-08

Brucellosis Testing and Surveillance

Whereas free ranging elk and bison in the Yellowstone National Park are reservoirs of infection of bovine brucellosis; and

Whereas domestic cattle herds adjacent to the Yellowstone National Park should be tested prior to movement out of the Designated Surveillance Areas (DSA) to prevent the spread of Brucellosis in domestic cattle herds; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA urges USDA and Department of Interior to support Brucellosis surveillance in animals moved out of the DSA's of the Greater Yellowstone Area.

CHW-2022-09

Brucellosis-National Parks

Resolved, SDCA continues to support the eradication of brucellosis from the bison and elk populations in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), and further supports legislation that accomplishes the following:

- Requires state managed population controls for bison and elk in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.
- Requires range management practices in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks be consistent with other federal land use programs and utilize realistic migratory animal control on public lands adjacent to the national parks.
- Identifies APHIS-VS as the lead agency in the eradication effort.
- Provides necessary funding to accomplish the goal of eradication.
- Requires APHIS-VS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to coordinate and cooperate with state animal health officials in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming in the eradication effort.
- Ensures any movement of bison and elk within or out of the GYA will not affect marketability of any state's domestic livestock nationally or internationally.
- Removal of Brucella abortus from the Select Agent list so that critical research may be conducted.

CHW-2022-10
FMD Vaccine Bank

Whereas, all export markets would immediately close if there is an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the US; and

Whereas, the 10-year economic impact of an FMD outbreak is estimated at \$128 billion for the beef and pork sectors; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports adequate federal funding to establish an FMD vaccine bank to mitigate the costs of a potential FMD outbreak in the US.

CHW-2021-00
Beef Production Research Long Range Plan

Whereas, future advances in the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of beef are dependent on the collaboration and efficient uses of resources allocated for the purposes of research, development, and diffusion; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA promotes information accessibility so that every segment of beef production can make knowledge-driven decisions to respond to market signals by creating a blueprint for enhancing the adoption of research-based technology and knowledge.

CHW-2021-01
USDA/FSIS National Residue Monitoring Prog

Whereas, consumer confidence in beef is a critical issue for the cattle industry; and

Whereas, chemical residues are an important factor influencing consumer attitudes; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA strongly encourages USDA/FSIS to maintain the present level of testing in the National Residue Monitoring Program.

CHW-2021-02
Safe Food Supply

Resolved, SDCA supports efforts by government agencies and private food industries to continue to keep our food supply safe from terrorist acts.

CHW-2021-03
Biotechnology

Whereas, SDCA is committed to the production of beef that is safe, healthy, and nutritious for the consumer; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages the industry to modify advertising programs to emphasize the positive aspects of biotechnology.

CHW-2021-04
Drug Harmonization

Resolved, SDCA supports veterinary drug harmonization within North America as well as a strategic, science-based North American approach at CODEX*.

**The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1963 by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines, and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/ WHO Food Standards Programme. The main purposes of this Programme are protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.*

Federal Lands

The Federal Lands Committee develops policy direction for a viable federal lands cattle industry using historical means and new opportunities which will enable SDCA to achieve their goals and objectives.

FED-2025-00

National Monuments

Resolved, SDCA opposes additional designation of national monuments, national parks, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, national conservation areas, primitive areas, wildlife refuges, and other special use areas which take away multiple uses of the land.

FED-2024-00

National Environmental Policy Act

Whereas, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review is a complex process that creates opportunities for litigation and or burdensome delays; and

Whereas, Accepted resource management practices should be the highest priority and the needs of the resource be addressed in the timeliest fashion; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports categorical exclusions to reduce paperwork and save time and resources; be it further

Resolved, Archeological studies should be given deference across government entities; be it further

Resolved, local governments should be granted cooperative agency status; be it further

Resolved, SDCA encourages the prioritization of input from parties with grazing permits during the project review process, while still allowing public comments; be it further

Resolved, that socioeconomic analysis is given equal weight as the environmental analysis.

FED-2024-01

Wild Horses & Burros

Whereas, excessive number of feral horses and burros continue to damage rangeland.

Along with the escalation of costs to run the Wild Horse and Burro program and the end of horse slaughter, has led to a greater problem; therefore be it

Resolved, SDCA supports using sound range and herd population management tools such as fertility control, sex ratios, and other humane means of herd control, including sale and adoption authority. These practices will be administered by federal land management agencies.

FED-2024-02

Agency Regulations Based on Science

Whereas, sustainability is important to beef producers who depend on and care for the natural resources in their care; and

Whereas, state and national regulatory agencies allow for public input when forming their rules and regulations; and

Whereas the laws, rules and regulations imposed on SDCA members can be influenced by social attitudes instead of supported by science; and

Whereas the economic sustainability of agricultural operations is important to the ecological health of our natural resources; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports using sound science as the basis for agency regulations that affect the natural resources of agricultural operations; be it further

Resolved the ecological benefits of long term sustainable agricultural land management practices should be given a high priority when creating laws, rules, and regulations.

FED-2023-00

Enforcement of Rules for Recreationalists

Whereas, the USFS and BLM are building roads and more infrastructure to promote recreation on Federal Land. The occurrence of more of more problems are going to increase. (Fire, off road driving, damage to riparian areas, dumping of garbage, drug use, manufacturing and distribution, illegal camping); therefore be it

Resolved, that SDCA encourages the USFS and BLM to hire more law enforcement personnel.

FED-2023-01

Conservation Use Only on USFS and BLM

Whereas, in some areas the USFS and BLM have allowed groups to purchase permits and then retire them from grazing. This land is already being conserved with the help of livestock; therefore be it

Resolved, that SDCA only supports transferring permits to producers that will graze livestock on them; be it further,

Resolved, that SDCA oppose non grazing “conservation use” as a management alternative.

FED-2023-02

Enforcement of Management Plan Standards

Whereas, SDCA supports multiple use on Federal Lands; and

Whereas, all Forest Service lands are governed by a Forest Plan and all BLM lands are governed by a Resource Management Plan; and

Whereas, the Forest Plan and Resource Management Plan establish standard and guidelines for all commodity and recreational uses; and

Whereas, these standards are not consistently enforced for all users; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA calls on the Forest Service and BLM to consistently enforce the standards of their respective management plans for all users.

FED-2022-00

Liability of Animals at Large

Whereas, recent court decisions have held owners responsible for livestock on public roads and property; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports the “open range laws” and declines to support landowner/operator responsibility except in the case of absolute negligence.

FED-2022-01

Water Development Funding

Whereas, most successful water projects started with interest and funds on the local level;

therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA promotes a continuation of this to generate more state and federal assistance in funding water development projects.

FED-2022-02

Federal and State Land Grazing

Whereas, federal and state grazing permits are important to the economic viability of many livestock producers; and

Whereas, livestock grazing is an important tool for control of invasive plant species, fuel load management, and overall health of grasslands; and

Whereas, various non-agricultural organizations and individuals have expressed interest in obtaining grazing permits with the intent of retiring them from grazing; therefore, be it

Resolved, that grazing permits be issued on vacant permits or unpermitted lands; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the continuation of livestock grazing on federal and state lands and opposes any programs that are intended to permanently retire or vacate federal and state grazing permits.

FED-2022-03

Controlled Burning

Whereas, permittees grazing federal grasslands need all the available grass; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA opposes prescribed burning for managing species and practices on national grasslands during periods of drought.

International Markets

The International Markets Committee develops international marketing initiatives and trade policy provides direction and support for USMEF activities, and coordinates with the U.S. market so global market opportunities are maximized. Policies developed by the committee are designed to:

- 1. Foster a positive regulatory and legislative climate to ensure the U.S. beef industry benefits; and*
- 2. Maintain access to international markets for beef, beef by-products, cattle, semen, embryos; and*
- 3. Increase access and acceptance of U.S. beef in international markets.*

INT-2024-00

Meat Export Federation & Market Access Program Funding

Whereas, a strong program for moving beef and beef by-product into foreign markets exists; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA strongly opposes any cuts in Federal funding to the Meat Export Federation (MEF) and the Market Access Program (MAP); be it further

Resolved, SDCA recommends very strong financial support of International Marketing through SDBIC and CBB.

INT-2024-01

International Treaties

Resolved, SDCA, in partnership with NCBA, works to ensure that all international treaties are equal and fair to all parties involved and support multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.

INT-2024-02

Enforcement of Trade Laws

Resolved, SDCA requests NCBA actively lobby U.S. government to enforce free and fair tariff and trade laws.

INT-2023-00

Imported Beef Compliance

Whereas, food safety is an important concern of the beef industry and our consumers; and

Whereas, enforcement of countries importing beef into the United States has been in question; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports enforcement restricting imports from countries who are not following agreed upon conditions.

INT-2022-00

Country of Origin Labeling

Whereas country of origin labeling (COOL) continues to be discussed within our industry; and

Whereas consumer demand for source verified beef has been met by source verified programs available to the consumer, providing an opportunity for the producer to add value to cattle; and

Whereas mandatory COOL has not demonstrated an added value to United States cattle, but may add costs to processing which may be passed down to producers; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports voluntary COOL and is opposed to mandatory COOL; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the use of technology to more accurately and efficiently source verify cattle.

INT-2021-00

Beef Priority

Whereas, beef has the largest dollar value within the meat industry; and

Whereas, beef is an excellent dietary source of protein, iron, B vitamins, and other nutrients; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA advocates for inclusion of beef as a top priority in all U.S. trade negotiations.

INT-2021-01

Trade Agreements

Whereas, the US beef industry competitively produces a quality product of the highest standard on the globe; and

Whereas, cultures of other nations can put a significantly higher value on certain cuts of meat and offal; and

Whereas, the US beef producer stands to benefit from increased value from exports; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports trade agreements that can give US beef greater access to countries around the globe while ensuring the safety of our domestic beef supply.

Live Cattle Marketing

The Live Cattle Marketing Committee provides develops policies to ensure live cattle marketing, grading, and transportation issues are addressed in an effective manner, allowing the beef industry to maximize profitability while consistently meeting consumer needs and increasing market share. Areas include risk management; prompt payment for livestock and meat; effective regulation of weights and weighing practices; market news and statistical reports and reporting practices; packers and stockyards regulations; anti-trust enforcement; and beef grading and transportation.

LCM-2025-00

Fair Marketing

Whereas, a free marketing system in which prices are established on a competitive basis is essential to the cattle industry in South Dakota; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA encourages the Packers and Stockyards Administration to closely monitor cattle marketing and reporting to ensure the free-market system is not being compromised.

LCM-2025-01

CME Boxed Beef Contract

Whereas, the boxed beef trade has escalated faster than the cash market, showing some changes must be made to give the producer an equal chance to participate; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the exploration of a boxed beef contract on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).

LCM-2024-00

Mandatory Price Reporting

Whereas, the data provided through USDA's LMR system is vitally important to producers and enhances their ability to make informed marketing decisions; and

Whereas, national negotiated trade reports through LMR currently report price and volume in categories of 0-14 and 15-30 day delivery periods; therefore be it,

Resolved, SDCA supports regional LMR reporting by packers of price and volume of negotiated trade by 0-14 and 15-30 day delivery periods; be it further

Resolved, in the event any one region does not reach regionally sufficient negotiated trade levels to achieve robust price discovery on a weekly basis, SDCA supports withholding weekly LMR price reports from that specific region; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports regionally sufficient levels of robust price discovery determined by NCBA funded and directed research in all major cattle feeding regions; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports revisions to improve LMR reports by providing more timely and greater data detail that includes:

1. An 11:00 a.m. daily LMR report providing average carcass weights of cattle harvested

the previous day.

2. Increased data accuracy by changing the definition of “cattle committed” in LMR to extend the delivery window from 7 days to 14 days.
3. Clearer reporting of “negotiated grid” transactions to ensure negotiated grid base prices include trades where an actual base price is offered by a buyer and where the seller can accept or reject the offer.
4. A category within LMR for formulas trades that do not have premiums and discounts associated with the trade after the base price is set, and to collect and report those types of trade separately from other formula trades that apply premiums and discounts after the base price is determined.
5. Reduction of the 125,000 head per year packing plant reporting threshold and a reporting requirement for all packers that exceed the threshold, including single plants.

A new report within LMR to require reporting of weekly negotiated trade volume, in arrears, by plant and by region.

LCM-2024-01

Amendment of the Packers and Stockyards Act

Whereas, there is need for continuous review of the P&SA to assure the agency is in step with the regulatory needs of a rapidly changing cattle industry; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA believes that if the P&SA is opened, the following points should be implemented:

1. Provide for a statutory “Dealer Trust” like the existing “Packer Trust.”
2. Deny registration to any applicant for registration under the P&S Act with a prior conviction of fraud, theft, or embezzlement.
3. Seek alternative ways to enhance the P&SA authority to expeditiously obtain injunctions.
4. Eliminate reparation authority from the P&SA.
5. Strike the Secretary’s authority over rate reasonableness.
6. Enable the agency to file suit to enforce the Statutory Trust provisions of USC 196; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA supports NCBA’s efforts to protect prompt payment and packer trust provisions if the P&SA is amended.

LCM-2024-02

Trading Hours—Report Release

Whereas, USDA Agricultural Statistics Service reports can have an impact on the trading prices of commodities of the CME Group; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes any USDA Agricultural Statistics reports released during trading hours; be it further

Resolved, SDCA strongly supports continued release of USDA cattle on feed and cattle inventory reports on Fridays.

LCM-2024-03

Mandatory Price Reporting During Government Shutdowns

Whereas, Mandatory Price Reporting (MPR) is important for cattle and beef markets to function properly; and

Whereas, government shutdowns can detrimentally impact the USDA personnel responsible for collecting and disseminating MPR data and, thus, the availability of market data cattlemen and women depend on; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA calls on USDA to designate the employees who deliver the Mandatory Price Reporting service as essential personnel, so the program doesn't lapse during federal government shutdowns; be it further

Resolved, if MPR personnel are not deemed essential, SDCA supports requiring mandatory price reporting data be provided to the public for the period encompassing the shut down once the federal government resumes normal operations.

LCM-2024-04

Negotiated Trade

Resolved, SDCA supports and encourages more negotiated trade in live cattle marketing.

LCM-2023-00

Redi-Fund for Value Added

Whereas, agriculture is by far the number one industry in South Dakota; and

Whereas, any additional stimulus to our ag economy will have a greater effect upon the state economy as a whole; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the use of South Dakota Redi Funds or additional funding as an incentive to value added ag processing facilities.

LCM-2023-01

HACCP Support

Whereas, SDCA supports zero tolerance concepts as it results in increased consumer confidence in beef: and

Whereas, the producer should not be expected to bear the economic burden of contamination because of workmanship, facilities, and handling; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) method of inspection of wholesale and retail beef processors.

LCM-2023-02

Interstate Commerce

Whereas, there is a growing trend for states to impose food production requirements which are more restrictive than federal requirements; and

Whereas, the resulting patchwork of regulations is a hindrance to interstate commerce; therefore be it

Resolved, SDCA supports continued federal oversight of food production and opposes state-mandated restrictions or requirements that inhibit interstate commerce.

LCM-2023-03

Freedom of Marketing

Whereas, cattle producers and cattle feeders utilize various methods of marketing their cattle, including livestock auction markets, video auction markets, internet auctions,

private treaty sales, forward contract pricing, CME futures and options pricing, and various methods of grid pricing; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports and protects all marketing alternatives used by producers.

LCM-2023-04

Bonding of Livestock Dealers

Whereas, the livestock industry involves the handling of millions of dollars annually; and

Whereas, certain individuals have lost large amounts of money because they have done business with people whom they felt to be of good character at the time of the transaction, only to find that the payment wasn't solvent or bankable; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports dealer bonding laws that are commensurate with livestock prices.

LCM-2021-00

Price Discovery

(See also LCM-2024-04 – Negotiated Trade)

Whereas, market transparency is critical to better establish true and accurate price discovery of live fed cattle; and

Whereas, the uniqueness of each cattle feeding region must be considered in any solution intended to generate more negotiated trade; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports USDA generating reports of contracted live cattle and creating a Contract Library to enhance transparency; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports producer led efforts to bring cattle producers, cattle feeders, and beef packers together to develop a voluntary price discovery methodology that is fair to all entities involved in producing, feeding, marketing, harvesting, and retailing beef products; be it further

Resolved, that in the absence of any voluntary price discovery agreed upon by the entities involved, SDCA will support efforts to modify or amend current government rules and regulations to address price discovery that accounts for unique cattle regions and generates more negotiated trade.

LCM-2021-01

State Meat Inspection/ Interstate Shipment

Whereas, South Dakota inspected meat equals or exceeds federal inspection standards; and

Whereas, present laws restrict sales of interstate beef products; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA recommends those laws be amended and/or changed to allow for free movement of state inspected beef products across state lines; be it further

Resolved, SDCA continues to favor an arrangement whereby the federal government would pay greater than 50 percent of the cost of a state meat inspection program, provided there is no loss of administrative authority by the state agency.

LCM-2021-02

Market Report Funding

Whereas, SDCA and cattle producers across the U.S. need and use weighted average feeder cattle reports from USDA, federal, and state market news programs for South Dakota; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the funding for collecting feeder cattle market reports come from USDA or the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Property Rights and Environmental Management

The Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee develops policy to ensure property rights and environmental issues are identified and managed effectively and efficiently, thereby avoiding an adverse effect on beef purchases. The industry's policy should involve consideration of methods for interacting with Congress, the executive branch, and the media.

PREM-2025-00

Mountain Lion Control

Whereas, the mountain lion population has increased significantly in recent years; and

Whereas, mountain lions can pose a risk to livestock and humans; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports management of the mountain lion population.

PREM-2025-01

Coyote Control

Whereas, the coyote population has increased significantly in recent years; and

Whereas, coyotes can pose a risk to livestock and humans; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports management of the coyote population.

PREM-2025-02

Invasive Species Control

Resolved, SDCA request the identification and management of undesirable species be determined on a local, state, or regional basis by those closest to the situation, with federal assistance on request.

PREM-2025-03

Funding for Waste Containment Facilities

Whereas, funding and technical services to bring animal feeding operations into compliance with Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency regulations are limited for operations smaller than 1000 animal units and nonexistent for operations over 1000 animal units; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA works to establish state and/or federal funding sources and technical services to assist all animal feeding operations to comply with state and federal regulations.

PREM-2025-04

Vegetative Treatment Areas

Resolved, that South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources develop policy to accept vegetative treatment areas and other alternative technologies as options for nutrient management in the general animal feeding operation permitting process.

PREM-2025-05

Waste Management Regulations

Whereas, soil and water quality requirements are becoming increasingly stringent and have the potential to severely impact livestock producers; therefore, be it

Resolved, after an ag waste management system has been designed, approved, and constructed, the operator be protected from future changes or interpretations of regulations until a sufficient time has elapsed for amortization of construction costs; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the construction and operation of any size cattle feedlots that meet state environmental standards while still protecting private property rights.

PREM-2025-06

Equity for ESA and Wetlands Compliance

Whereas, SDCA supports reasonable and sound efforts to protect the environment; and

Whereas, everyone should be equally responsible for protecting the environment; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes allowing broad-based special exceptions to wetlands and endangered species regulations for special groups such as urban developers and industrial parks.

PREM-2025-07

Research for Alternative Energy Sources

Whereas, energy costs continue to increase and fuel costs affect the production costs of all farm commodities; therefore, be it

Resolved, that alternate sources of energy be a priority for research projects at SDSU and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology so that if these projects are perfected and are economically feasible, they are ready for this state's producers to incorporate into their operations; be it further

Resolved, that energy sources are the responsibility of all people, and SDCA recommends that federal grants be sought for funding these research projects.

PREM-2025-08

Use of Eminent Domain

Resolved, SDCA supports legislation and/or action to further prevent the taking of private property solely for a higher return by any unit of government.

PREM-2025-09

Fencing Waterways

Whereas, fencing for the purpose of confining livestock is a necessary component of livestock production; and

Whereas, fencing is acceptable within the reasonable parameters of property rights protected by the state and federal constitutions; and

Whereas, fencing sometimes requires the livestock owner to build fence across waters of the state such as rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, potholes, etc.; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the landowner/operators' rights to construct fence as needed and where needed for the purposes of containing livestock as well as other property rights protection purposes.

PREM-2025-10

Rights of Way

Whereas, trespassing and environmental problems are caused by public agencies using abandoned utility rights of way, such as but not limited to, railroad easements for public recreation areas; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes such use and supports the right of first refusal to the adjacent landowner.

PREM-2025-11
Wolf Management

Whereas, wolves have historically presented a threat to livestock; and

Whereas, the federal government has removed the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species list; and

Whereas, state governments now have an opportunity to create state wolf management plans; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA requests the SD GF&P to create a wolf management plan that controls the wolf population and protects livestock interests.

PREM-2024-00
Climate Change

Whereas, efforts are underway by the federal government to develop a climate change policy to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, properly managed agricultural practices result in sequestered greenhouse gasses that improve air and water quality and enhance wildlife habitat; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the development of accurate greenhouse gas emissions data for domestic cattle production systems based on sound science; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports efforts to develop an agricultural offset program ensuring that cattle producers can voluntarily participate in an equitable market-based system for greenhouse gas offsets including practices implemented by early adopters; be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes any action that may decrease consumer demand for animal protein based on an unsubstantiated amount of greenhouse gas emissions data from the domestic livestock industry; be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes reporting or regulation of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

PREM-2024-01
Wetlands Delineations

Whereas, the South Dakota Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) wetlands delineation rules have been challenged by “green agenda” organizations; and

Whereas, the rules bring South Dakota NRCS into compliance with federal regulations and onto a level playing field with the other states; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports NRCS wetlands delineation rules to allow South Dakota producers to compete on a level playing field.

PREM-2024-02
Natural Disasters

Whereas, natural disasters are severe and cause extreme damage to farms and grasslands; and

Whereas, livestock producers and landowners have been the victims of tremendous losses including blizzard, drought, flooding, fire, and other natural disasters; therefore be it

Resolved, SDCA works to ensure that the interests and concerns of the affected

landowners and livestock producers are considered and addressed if “repairs” or mitigations efforts and actions are taken pertaining to the damages resulting from natural disasters; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA take steps necessary to assure that livestock producers are included in every federal disaster relief program and that the criteria for disaster declarations for livestock producers be formulated based upon standards applicable to regional situations; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA support livestock producers in their efforts to receive timely and effective federal disaster assistance.

PREM-2024-03

Private Property Rights

Whereas, private property rights are increasingly being restricted and threatened by federal, state, and local regulations; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA works to ensure the protection of private property rights at all levels of government as provided for in the Bill of Rights.

PREM-2024-04

Game, Fish and Parks

Whereas, the relationship between the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGF&P) and South Dakota landowners is sometimes adversarial; and

Whereas, upper-level decisions at SDGF&P often fail to address landowner concerns; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports actions that require the SDGF&P Commission and the South Dakota Legislature to ensure that private landowners have more input in rule making authority which would give them more control over hunts on their private property; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports changing the law to require the South Dakota Legislature to approve the SDGF&P budget within the department as opposed to its present off-budget status; be it further

Resolved, SDCA encourages SDGF&P to create public outreach campaigns promoting private property rights; be it further

Resolved, that SDCA invites the SDGF&P to communicate with landowners through producer organizations regarding private property issues such as, but not limited to:

1. Open Fields Doctrine
2. Search and Seizure Issues
3. Aerial Hunting (including paraplanes)
4. Limited transferable licenses
5. Land purchases
6. Predator control programs

PREM-2024-05
Wildlife Depredation

Whereas, damage by wildlife to private property can cause private landowners' economic hardships; and

Whereas the existing South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Damage Management programs are not always adequate to address the forage and crop utilization by wildlife; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the Department of Game, Fish & Parks Wildlife Damage Management programs to assist private landowners in protecting his or her private property from losses due to wildlife depredation; be it further

Resolved, SDCA encourages the Department to develop additional measures of protecting crops and rangeland from wildlife depredation in a timely fashion.

PREM-2024-06
Frivolous Permit Lawsuits

Whereas, applicants for Conditional Use Permits are often faced with frivolous lawsuits after receiving a conditional use permit; and

Whereas, the granted conditional use permit is often valid for two years with the possibility of a one-year extension for construction work to begin starting the day the permit is approved; and

Whereas, the lawsuit(s) sometimes drag on for more than the two-year time frame allowance of the permit to begin construction thus negating the permit and forcing the applicant to reapply and start the application process again; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports beginning the two-year time frame for construction to start only after the lawsuits are settled rather than after the permit is approved.

PREM-2024-07
Noise and Air Quality

Whereas, air quality, noise, dust, and odor are issues of concern to the public; therefore, be it

Resolved, any move on the part of state or federal government to regulate odors, noise, gaseous emissions, and/or dust from livestock facilities must be based on sound science and the best available technology; be it further

Resolved, owners' rights of pre-existing facilities should be given due and fair consideration when surrounding land is developed for use other than agricultural production; be it further

Resolved, SDCA shall oppose any new regulations that pertain to agricultural odors, noise, or air that will unreasonably hinder the production, preparation, and harvesting of crops and the production of livestock; be it further

Resolved, SDCA shall oppose any new regulations that pertain to changing the class and quality of air on pastures, grasslands, and desert ranges that inhibit current practices of beef production on these lands.

Resolved, SDCA strongly encourages the exploration and application of new and alternative technology that will mitigate the causes and effects of environmental quality concerns.

PREM-2023-00

Endangered Species/Uncompensated Takings

Whereas, actions by federal agencies in establishing endangered species habitat involve commitment of land resources to certain restrictions; and

Whereas, state and federal lands in SD are subject to the multiple use principle; and

Whereas, the impacts and implications of protection for threatened and endangered plants and animals are far-reaching and long-lasting; and

Whereas, the endangered species act could be detrimental to wildlife and wildlife habitat by creating a disincentive for their protection; and

Whereas, uncompensated takings of property rights are of major concern; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA requests the Governor of South Dakota require, as a condition of any agreement to accept reintroduction of an endangered species into this state, a signed document representing the commitment of all involved agencies, both federal and state, to refrain totally from uncompensated takings; be it further

Resolved, in the event of a claim by a citizen of uncompensated taking, the state ensures the citizen's property rights and/or fair compensation be realized at no cost to the citizen; be it further

Resolved, designated habitat shall be managed in a manner to maintain adequate vegetative cover to protect the watershed it is contained in and provide adequate forage for the species living in the confines of the ecosystem; be it further

Resolved, remove species from the endangered or threatened list when original population goals are met, without raising the population objective as populations increase.

PREM-2023-01

Local Control

Whereas, the organizations that favor and are working to implement environmental control regulations at the highest levels of government; and

Whereas, climate, vegetation, and geography vary widely across South Dakota and the U.S. in general; and

Whereas, government agencies far removed from local problems are often inefficient and counter-productive; therefore, be it

Resolved, if involvement of government agencies and regulations is deemed necessary to address a problem or concern, SDCA works to keep the involved level of government and the decision-making process as close to the problem as is reasonably feasible; be it further

Resolved, SDCA also believes the best stewards of natural resources are those with a vested interest in the continued productivity of those resources.

PREM-2023-02

Ecoterrorism

Whereas, ecoterrorism is increasing; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports state and federal action to recognize, prohibit and penalize ecoterrorists, giving due consideration to the impact on personal property rights.

PREM-2023-03

Court Fees

Whereas, South Dakota cattlemen and livestock producers are subject to lawsuits based on perceived detrimental practices; and

Whereas, it is necessary for producers to hire legal counsel to defend our operations and livelihood; and

Whereas, these lawsuits can be repetitive and/or nuisance in nature and be postponed and continued for an indefinite length of time; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports SD codified law to require judges to award the defendants' attorney fees and costs if the defendant prevails.

PREM-2023-04

Regulation of Green House Gasses

Whereas, efforts are underway by the federal government to develop a climate change policy to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes legislation or regulation that regulates or requires reporting of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions; be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes efforts to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

PREM-2023-05

Rights of Way

Whereas, section lines are designated as rights of way; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports all animal waste disposal systems that utilize section line rights of way and are scientifically sound and environmentally friendly.

PREM-2023-06

Endangered Species Act

Whereas, SDCA supports the continued existence of viable populations of plants and animals but finds the current Endangered Species Act (ESA) to be ineffective at achieving this goal; and

Whereas, the ESA has more potential authority to restrict or eliminate cattle production than any other federal environmental law; and

Whereas, the federal agencies responsible for implementing the ESA are unable to perform ESA-mandated tasks due to the overwhelming demands brought by constant ESA-related litigation, Freedom of Information Act requests, court rulings, increasing demands for regulatory oversight, and other pressures; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports revisions to the Endangered Species Act that provide balance, recognizing the need for economic benefit and the importance of private property rights, and to provide a mechanism to ensure these balanced considerations are maintained; be it further

Resolved, SDCA seeks changes to the current ESA that incorporate the following principles.

- Require preparation of an economic impact analysis and an environmental impact statement that considers impacts from the time the species was listed before land uses are regulated due to the presence, movement, or relocation of a threatened or

endangered species. Such analysis should include an assessment of the impacts these regulations or relocations will have on local, county, state, and national economies, customs, and cultures.

- Eliminate the current inequity that imposes more burdensome standards and procedures on private landowners than on government agencies.
- Require that any ESA regulation affecting water resources protect and recognize both the states' right to allocate quantities of water and individuals' rights acquired under state law.
- Strengthen the scientific requirement for listing species and designating critical habitat in compliance with, but not limited to, the Federal Data Quality Act, including blind peer review of proposed decisions and field testing whereby mechanisms are created to avoid unfounded listings.
- Strengthen the recovery planning process to provide specific guidance for species conservation, economic impacts, likelihood of recovery, biological significance, options for recovery goals, and clear delisting criteria.
- Increase incentives and streamline procedures for federal, state, local, and private efforts to conserve species, and provide for cooperative efforts as an alternative to listing.
- Ensure that releases or introductions of experimental populations lead to the conservation of the species and do not result in adverse impacts on established land uses and public welfare.
- Remove the Citizen Suit Provision reflecting the requirements of the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), thereby removing the incentive for frivolous suits, and amend the EAJA to be consistent with the Citizen Suit Provision in the Endangered Species Act.
- Require federal agencies to work as partners with the states in developing measurable recovery goals for every listed species to ensure a higher likelihood of program success; be it further

Resolved that SDCA opposes changes that would allow threatened species to have the same mitigation practices as endangered species.

PREM-2022-00

Topeka Shiner Minnow

Whereas, the listing of the Topeka Shiner minnow is unjustified and has serious economic consequences for South Dakota agriculture; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA:

- Favors the delisting of the Topeka Shiner Minnow from the endangered species list,
- Opposes listing South Dakota as critical habitat for the Topeka Shiner, and
- Supports a management plan only if it includes the above two points and protects the private property rights of individual landowners.

PREM-2022-01

Chemical Management

Whereas, both scientific data and many years of widespread use document safety and effectiveness of many chemicals; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes the removal and/or restriction of any ag chemical that has been proven safe and beneficial to the industry in the production of food, fiber, and livestock without scientifically documented justification.

PREM-2022-02

Water Transfer from Upper Missouri Basin

Whereas, considerable interest is being shown in transferring large quantities of Missouri River water to areas outside the upper Missouri basin states; and

Whereas, the upper Missouri basin states of Wyoming, Montana, and North and South Dakota contribute about 95% of the water to the Missouri River; and

Whereas, these states have contributed all the land for storage facilities of the water stored in the Missouri River; and

Whereas, the enhancement of the economics of these states in the future will be largely dependent upon large quantities of good quality water; therefore, be it

Resolved, the United States Congress and the South Dakota Legislature to promote and financially assist people of the upper Missouri basin region in the development of the Missouri River; be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes any attempts by the United States Congress to fund projects that would transfer large quantities of water out of the upper Missouri basin region.

PREM-2022-03

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog

Resolved, any changes to the State Prairie Dog Management Plan shall be based on valid scientific data.

PREM-2022-04

Government Land Acquisition

Whereas, South Dakota is a commodity producing state; and

Whereas, agriculture is the leading industry in South Dakota; and

Whereas, removal of land from ag production can have a detrimental effect on the local tax revenue and economy; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports a socioeconomic assessment before any private land is sold to Game, Fish, & Parks, and United States Fish & Wildlife or other government agencies; be it further

Resolved, SDCA believes the GFP funds should be used for leasing of hunting rights from private property owners, not for the actual purchase of property.

PREM-2022-05

Public Access to Private Land

Resolved, SDCA opposes including free public access to private property as a condition of, or in the prioritization for receipt of, federal cost share funds for conservation.

PREM-2022-06

Flooded Property

Resolved, SDCA supports the rights of private property owners to control hunting, fishing, and trespassing on their inundated and flooded property.

PREM-2022-07

Fence Law

Whereas, the containment of livestock requires good fencing; and

Whereas, not all landowners/operators run livestock; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports the existing laws requiring legal fences; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports the mutual responsibility of adjoining landowners to build and maintain their respective half of the fence between their property boundaries, including section lines.

PREM-2022-08

Property Protection (Dogs)

Whereas, dogs move individually and often in packs across private land unrestrained or unsupervised; and

Whereas, dogs can be a carrier of diseases infectious to other animals; and

Whereas, it is a known fact that these animals will attack and cause damage to domestic animals, as well as protected species of wild animals; therefore, be it

Resolved, the landowner or his or her representative be allowed to take appropriate measures to safeguard their property against these animals without fear of court action.

PREM-2022-09

Organic Nutrients

Whereas, livestock production produces a renewable and environmentally friendly organic fertilizer; and

Whereas, this organic product is naturally occurring in the wild as well as being produced by domestic animals; and

Whereas, nature has been utilizing this natural fertilizer to enhance plant growth for thousands of years; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes all efforts to regulate this natural organic fertilizer as a toxic or hazardous waste.

PREM-2022-10

Conservation Easements

Resolved, SDCA supports landowners' right to choose a conservation easement of any time limit, up to and including perpetual.

PREM-2022-11

Animal Feeding Operations & County Zoning

Whereas, modern, environmentally sound livestock facilities being proposed by family farmers across South Dakota are being attacked, falsely accused, misjudged, and chased away; and

Whereas, attempts to modernize zoning regulations at the county level that comply with modern agricultural practices are being challenged and have become almost impossible to achieve; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports state legislation that would set minimum standards that would require livestock facilities be defined as a permitted use.

PREM-2021-00

Carbon Sequestering on Grasslands

Resolved, that SDCA encourages NRCS to investigate current research and models used to calculate carbon sequestering on rangeland and pastureland and, if no acceptable model can be found, then pursue the development or modification of an existing model to provide a factual and reliable estimation of carbon sequestration on range and pastureland at various management levels; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports voluntary carbon sequestration programs, including recognition and inclusion of practices implemented by early adopters.

PREM-2021-01

Revision of South Dakota Drainage Laws

Resolved, SDCA supports a revision of South Dakota drainage laws to address soil erosion, flooding, monetary losses, and other private property concerns.

PREM-2021-02

River Livestock Losses

Whereas, the Army Corps of Engineers currently compensates tribal livestock producers for livestock lost because of rising and falling Missouri River water levels; and

Whereas, tribal members and non-members not residing on tribal reservation are not compensated for similar livestock losses; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA believes all livestock losses resulting from water level changes on the Missouri River be fairly compensated to all producers regardless of location and cultural affiliations.

PREM-2021-03

Wildlife Water Law Changes

Whereas, SDGF&P, USF&WS, and SDDENR propose changes to General Rules 74-02-01 concerning the realigning of wildlife water priorities equal to domestic use to be considered by the Water Management Board and/or Water Rights Commission; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA opposes any such changes and support present prior appropriation legislation.

PREM-2021-04

CRP-CREP

Whereas, support for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is mixed within the SDCA; and

Whereas, the SDCA believes in being involved in the development and administration of all federal programs; therefore, be it

Resolved, the following points should be considered and included in the CRP and CREP program policy and regulations:

1. Any program for South Dakota should support the producer on the land, and a specific natural resource or habitat program. The program should be designed to keep and encourage young producers to be involved in agricultural operations.
2. Applicants must be an active producer/operator of the unit that includes the land enrolled in the program.

3. Control of noxious weeds must be mandatory for participation in the program. One agency should be identified to enforce a “no noxious weeds” policy.
4. Legal transactions and commitments to foundations and organizations that transfers land to benefactors should not be allowed if any part of the land is included in the contract.
5. All seeding of cropland must be native species of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are considered native to the ecological site included in the contract.
6. Prescribed haying/grazing plans that benefit the objectives of the producer will be part of the management plan. Herbivores were part of the prairie ecosystem and must be included in the management plans to sustain the prairie ecosystem. Fire should not be a primary option.
7. Ensure that the program is a tool to provide a transition to perennial vegetation. Once the land is established in perennial vegetation, the program should ensure sustainability.
8. To avoid speculator involvement, limit program eligibility to land that has been under the same family ownership for a set period i.e., 3 to 5 years.

PREM-2021-05

Buffer Strips

Resolved, SDCA is opposed to mandatory buffer strips along waterways.

Tax & Credit

The Tax & Credit Committee develops policy on issues related to taxes, banking, and credit.

T&C-2025-00

Education Funding

Whereas, increased funding for education is an ongoing topic of interest for the South Dakota Legislature; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA prefers increased funding be achieved through an increase in the sales tax, up to one cent; be it further

Resolved, SDCA prefers excess monies raised be used for property tax relief.

T&C-2024-00

FSA Lending Limits

Whereas, the financial barrier to entry in agriculture continues to increase; and

Whereas, many producers including young and beginning producers may not qualify for an adequate amount of conventional bank financing; and

Whereas, the current FSA lending limits have not increased at the pace of inflation and capital requirements for a sustainable operation; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports improved and increased FSA lending options and limits for, but not limited to young and beginning producers.

T&C-2024-01

Road Funding

Whereas, farm-to-market roads are important to South Dakota agriculture; and

Whereas, the distribution of funds needs to be equitable to maintain state, county, and

township roads; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports efforts to improve funding for roads through a combination of sources including, but not limited to, license fees, fuel taxes, and excise tax.

T&C-2024-02

Ag Land Tax Assessments

Whereas, the highest and best use method for ag land property tax valuation only considers soil ratings and may penalize livestock producers; therefore, be it

Resolved SDCA supports actual use as the basis for property tax valuation; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports improved and/or broadened methods for determining noncropland values; be it further

Resolved, SDCA supports continued study of assessment methodologies that incorporate relevant factors, including but not limited to topography and weather, to improve fairness in ag land assessments.

T&C-2022-00

Fair Tax Structure

Be it resolved, that SDCA opposes any change in the tax structure that may unfairly shift the tax burden to Ag producers.

T&C-2022-01

Ag Building Exemption

Whereas, agriculture is the backbone of the South Dakota economy; and

Whereas, rural South Dakota's population is declining; and

Whereas, building sites are necessary to keep a farm or ranch operation effective; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA go on record supporting an occupied building site exemption for each farm or ranch building site.

T&C-2022-02

Water Use Tax

Whereas, there is increasing pressure to raise tax revenues from many sources; and

Whereas, agriculture is a heavy user of water for livestock and irrigation; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA opposes any tax on water usage.

T&C-2022-03

Property Tax Relief

Whereas, SDCA believes the tax system in South Dakota is heavily dependent upon real property taxes; and

Whereas, real property taxes are the most onerous of taxes for agricultural landowners and operators; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports the temporary imposition of other taxes if the state experiences a revenue shortfall to prevent an automatic increase in property tax as required by the State Constitution.

T&C-2022-04
Federal Tax Reform

Resolved, SDCA supports federal tax reform efforts and will work to include the following priorities:

1. Repeal of the federal estate tax;
2. Continuation of the stepped-up basis;
3. Continuation of interest deductions without limits;
4. Continuation of cash accounting;
5. Continuation of 1031 tax exchanges for property, equipment, and livestock;
6. Continuation of immediate expensing;
7. Responsible federal spending;
8. Maintain Private Activity Bond for first time farmers;
9. Pass-through income be taxed at a rate no higher than the corporate tax rate;
10. Continuation of full bonus depreciation at 100%;
11. Accelerated depreciation under section 179;
12. Restore the ability for businesses to immediately deduct 100% of their domestic Research and Development expenses in the year they are incurred rather than amortizing these costs over five years.

T&C-2021-00
School Funding

Whereas, agricultural land pays a disproportionate share of taxes to support primary and secondary education; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA supports efforts to lessen the tax burden on agricultural land while supporting schools.

T&C-2021-01
Maintaining Real Estate Tax Base

Whereas, farming and ranching are land intensive, and the cost of ownership of land is very critical to the economic survival of farmers and ranchers in South Dakota; and

Whereas, land has been removed from the tax rolls via private agencies purchasing land and transferring it to governmental and quasi-governmental agencies; and

Whereas, removal of any agricultural land from taxation only increases the burden on the other property owners; therefore, be it

Resolved, that SDCA opposes the removal of tracts of agricultural land from real estate taxation unless there shall be a continuing payment made in lieu of taxes at a level commensurate with adjoining privately owned agricultural land.

T&C-2021-02
Sales Tax Exemption

Resolved, SDCA opposes the removal of sales tax exemptions on agricultural inputs.

South Dakota



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