



Resolution Committee Report November 28, 2023

Call to Order, Warren Symens, Vice President

NEW POLICY

New AGP-2023-00 Fake Meat

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.

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 cultured, should not be allowed to carry “meat” on their label.

New 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 population continues to expand into rural areas, often in close proximity to 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.

New CHW-2023-07 Vaccine Development

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the usefulness of vaccination and vaccines as an integral part

of cattle health and wellbeing, be it

Resolved that SDCA supports the development and thorough research of vaccines that benefit cattle health and ensure a wholesome product for consumers.

New 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.

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.

NEW 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.

AMENDED POLICY

Amended AGP-2021-03 Livestock Indemnity Program

Whereas, SD 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.

Amended CHW-2022-00 Mandatory Animal ID

Whereas, SDCA recognizes the health risks of Tuberculosis, Foot and Mouth Disease, and other highly contagious diseases and to help mitigate the damage to the livestock industry such an outbreak would cause; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports mandatory ID of all breeding ~~age livestock~~ cattle, supports and encourages voluntary

Amended CHW-2022-06 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

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 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.

Amended 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, SDCA encourages 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 ~~this resource of water~~. be it further

Resolved, SDCA opposes any attempts by the United States Congress ~~be discouraged from to funding or encouraging any projects~~ that would transfer large quantities of water out of the upper Missouri basin region; ~~be it further~~

Amended PREM-2020-07 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-2019-06 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~~—or three~~-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, South Dakota Cattlemen supports beginning the two~~—or three~~-year time frame for construction to start only after the lawsuits are settled rather than after the permit is approved.

RENEW AS AMENDED

AGP-2018-02 ~~GRP & 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 adequate funding to support demand for easement programs such as the ~~Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)~~ and the CRP Grasslands.

Amended AGP-2018-05 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.

CHW-2018-02 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 ~~and NCBA~~ will 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-2018-04 South Dakota Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) 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-2018-05 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 ~~establishment of a~~ 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.

PREM-2018-02 Local Control

Whereas, the ~~“extreme environmental”~~ 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-2018-04 Court Fees

Whereas, SD 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 ~~changes in~~ SD codified law to require judges to award the defendants' attorney fees and costs if the defendant prevails.

PREM-2018-07 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.

RENEWED

AGP-2018-00 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-2018-03 Pasture Range Forage (PRF) 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-2018-01 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 ranchers; 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.

CHW-2018-00 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-2018-01 Non-Vet Practices

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

CHW-2018-03 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; be it further Resolved, all cattlemen are discouraged from bringing sick or downer animals to

a public market

CHW-2018-06 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.

FED-2018-00 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.

LCM-2018-00 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-2018-01 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-2018-02 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 hinderance 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-2017-00 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-2017-01 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.

PREM-2018-00 Animal Feeding Operations

Whereas, SDCA should be proactive in addressing animal feeding operation issues; therefore, be it

Resolved, SDCA supports local administration of rules, regulations, research, and the development of local standards on a state basis and that SDCA encourages producers to be active in the development of state and national rules and strategies pertaining to animal feeding operations.

PREM-2018-01 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.

PREM-2018-03 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-2018-05 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.

SUNSET

AGP-2018-04 Fake Meat

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 production of livestock.

AGP-2018-05 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 and harvested for human consumption.

Amend CHW-2019-04 Animal Disease Traceability

Resolved, that to accomplish the many objectives of Animal Disease Traceability, SDCA supports and works to adopt the following principals and objectives:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The system must be able to evolve with changes in technology and information without major costs or renovation. To this end, SDCA calls for the rapid development of dual frequency electronic tag readers to accommodate the use of low frequency and high frequency EID tags.
4. All information must be electronically transferable.
5. The trace back goal should be 48 hours.
6. All breeding cattle should carry an individual and unique ID number upon change of ownership.
7. Brands and inspection systems are adequate for ownership verification but are not adequate for individual animal ID and trace-back.
8. Duly registered methods of identification also be considered legal proof of ownership.
9. Public and private databases and systems must be compatible with one another, and they must guarantee the security of the individuals' information for both marketing and regulatory programs.
10. Confidentiality of information is of utmost concern as well as cost efficiency and effectiveness.
- ~~11. All beef breed feeder cattle should be exempt for the purpose of this rule. If not exempted, the compliance threshold for Phase 1 should be at least 90% prior to the inclusion of feeder cattle.~~