

1 **Indiana Beef Cattle Association**  
2 **2024 Policy**

3 Developed November 21, 2023  
4

5 **2024 AG POLICY**

6 **Commodity Checkoff Programs**

7 IBCA supports the development of, and the continuation of National and State  
8 Commodity Checkoff Programs:

- 9 A. The National Beef Promotion and Research Program (National Beef Check-off)  
10 program must efficiently utilize producer investments, by assuring that the  
11 project grant process is driven solely by the quality of the science evidenced or  
12 the market pursued in the grant proposals, and not be determined by political  
13 or geographical concerns.  
14 B. The use of a state checkoff mechanism to raise funds necessary to meet  
15 recognized industry needs and supports initiating the creation of a state  
16 checkoff program.

17 **Animal Welfare and Use Guidelines**

18 IBCA supports Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) as the statewide authority to  
19 implement and oversee the regulations and guidelines concerning Farm Animal  
20 care and welfare.

21 **Food Safety**

- 22 A. IBCA supports food safety legislation, which requires the Food and Drug  
23 Administration and/or USDA to maintain a risk assessment procedure, and  
24 tolerance levels, which reasonably guide regulatory policy. Risk assessment  
25 and tolerance standards should continue to be based upon peer-reviewed and  
26 current scientific findings.  
27 B. IBCA encourages its local affiliates to participate in educational training  
28 programs to maintain food safety and cooperate with local health department  
29 officials.  
30 C. IBCA encourages increased communication between local health departments,  
31 the Indiana State Department of Health, and the State Fire Marshall's Office  
32 concerning non-for-profit food operations.

33 **Expanded Beef Promotion and Marketing**

34 IBCA supports the development of a strong and visible beef promotion and  
35 marketing effort among the Indiana Beef Council, the Indiana State Department of  
36 Agriculture, Indiana's commodity groups and other State Beef Councils, in  
37 partnership with retailers, foodservice operators, health groups, media, social  
38 media influencers and other organizations.

39 **Animal ID and Traceability**

- 40 IBCA strongly supports a national traceability system in the U.S. that:
- 41 A. is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed
  - 42 by the USDA
  - 43 B. Is consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) guidelines,
  - 44 C. Produces equivalent outcomes to the live animal tracking systems that
  - 45 importing countries have in place, and
  - 46 D. BOAH will consistently interpret and implement the current animal ID policy.
  - 47 E. Provides both financial compensation to the marketing system and ensures
  - 48 marketing system confidentiality and privacy.

49 **Exports/Imports**

- 50 A. IBCA supports Global Trade Partnerships that expand our U.S. beef markets.
- 51 B. Recognizes existing USDA programs for beef exports through the Market Access
- 52 Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) and other Programs.
- 53 C. Strongly supports funding levels of FMD and MAP to USMEF for the purposes of
- 54 beef export promotion at current or greater levels.
- 55 D. IBCA stands firmly opposed to importation of meat products from countries who
- 56 do not have approved animal health status. This is not on the basis of trade
- 57 but on the scientific basis of animal health concerns.
- 58 E. IBCA supports global trade initiatives for U.S. beef and cattle industries based
- 59 on sound science. IBCA supports trade agreements that benefit the U.S.
- 60 economy without undermining agriculture in general and red meat in
- 61 particular.

62 **Government Regulations**

- 63 A. IBCA favors minimizing local, state and federal government involvement in
- 64 agriculture, and other agriculture-related industries. The free enterprise
- 65 system should be allowed to operate with the least possible interference.
- 66 Whenever government programs are developed, the economic impact on the
- 67 beef cattle industry as well as other agricultural industries should be
- 68 considered.
- 69 B. IBCA understands the importance for research concerning land, air and water
- 70 quality and encourages all decisions to be based on environmentally sound,
- 71 science-based evidence.
- 72 C. IBCA supports the permanent exemption for livestock haulers from the ELD
- 73 requirements.
- 74 D. IBCA supports efforts by NCBA and other groups to disclose facts concerning the
- 75 specific policy changes, costs and benefits of the “Green New Deal” and other
- 76 environmental legislation and policy

77 **Right to Farm Law**

- 78 A. IBCA supports the Indiana right to farm and trespass laws in their current form.
- 79 B. IBCA opposes buffer zone laws that adversely affect animal agriculture.
- 80 C. IBCA supports reciprocating setbacks for residential homes in agricultural zones
- 81 unless a deeded covenant is signed recognizing the right to farm provisions.
- 82 D. IBCA supports a Right to Farm Constitutional Amendment if the current Right to
- 83 Farm Law is changed by the General Assembly.

84 **Fence Law**

- 85 A. IBCA supports the current Indiana fence law (as of July 1, 2018), except where  
86 forced access is imposed. The imposing party is responsible for fence  
87 establishment and upkeep. State and Federal agencies shall not be exempt  
88 from this law.  
89 B. IBCA supports legislation that requires property owned by the state, a political  
90 subdivision of the state, a city, or a town is not exempt from partition fence  
91 construction and maintenance claims.

92 **Indiana State Fairgrounds Campus**

- 93 A. IBCA supports the Indiana Farm Bureau resolution that the Indiana State Fair  
94 has been and should continue to be a showcase of Indiana agriculture.  
95 1. We encourage any changes in the law governing the state fair which  
96 would improve its ability to function.  
97 2. We support full funding of maintenance and improvements needed to  
98 use the fairgrounds year-round as a viable showcase for Indiana  
99 agriculture.  
100 3. We support and favor the complete retention of the current system of  
101 vesting the responsibility for overseeing the year-round operations of  
102 the Indiana State Fairgrounds to the state fair commission.  
103 4. We support the state fair board having the responsibility for planning,  
104 overseeing and conducting the annual state fair.  
105 5. The state fair board should consist of individuals who represent the  
106 state’s agricultural community and should have specific knowledge of  
107 various commodities and activities showcased at the state fair.  
108 6. The administration of electing and appointing State Fair board members  
109 should follow state law guidance.  
110 7. IBCA encourages the Indiana State Fair and its partners to promote  
111 agriculture education and enhance the positive image of modern Indiana  
112 agriculture. Production agriculture leaders should be directly involved  
113 in all state fair policy making activities and exhibits.  
114 8. IBCA supports and encourages the continued renovations that enhance  
115 the promotion of Indiana Agriculture at the Indiana State Fairgrounds  
116 through funding support of the Indiana General Assembly.  
117 9. IBCA supports the Indiana State Fair Commission’s continued  
118 development of the “State’s Largest Classroom®”.  
119 B. IBCA supports and encourages the improvement to infrastructure allowing for  
120 improved ingress and egress to the facility.  
121 C. IBCA supports the continued emphasis to showcase 4-H and all livestock at the  
122 Indiana State Fair.

- 123 **Government Funded Food Programs**  
124 A. IBCA supports government funded food programs that includes U.S. red meat as  
125 the primary source of protein.  
126 B. IBCA supports USDA’s guidelines for including beef in all nutritional programs  
127 including “My Plate, My Health” and dietary guidelines for Americans.  
128 C. IBCA supports the continued relationship between the Nutritional Assistance  
129 Program and the ag portions of the US Farm Bill.  
130 D. IBCA opposes any government program that supports a “meatless” day.  
131 E. IBCA opposes government grants to businesses or organizations that promote  
132 false or misleading information about U.S. agriculture production methods  
133 F. IBCA supports U.S. nutritional guidelines based on the science-based nutritional  
134 profile of various foods and not extraneous ideologies.

- 135 **Industry Partnerships**  
136 A. The IBCA encourages the creation of and participation in partnerships with  
137 other organizations, by both IBCA and NCBA, when they advance organizational  
138 policies and program objectives.  
139 B. IBCA supports efforts to promote the maintenance and expansion of Indiana’s  
140 livestock sector while improving relations between farm and non-farm  
141 communities.

- 142 **Technology**  
143 IBCA supports the development and accessibility to high-speed internet in rural  
144 America.

- 145 **Biotechnology**  
146 A. IBCA supports the use of approved biotechnology, and such technology use  
147 should be allowed and not prohibited by legislation, regulation or industry  
148 partner positions unless it cannot or does not withstand scientific review of  
149 producing meat that is safe and wholesome.  
150 B. IBCA encourages the continued development and use of biotechnology that can  
151 improve safety, enhance efficiency, and increase productivity.  
152 C. IBCA strongly encourages any new biotechnology product be tested and receive  
153 key international approvals before it enters the global marketplace. Once a  
154 product is approved by appropriate agencies, any problem that arises after its  
155 introduction that causes a reduction in value should be shared and is not the  
156 sole risk of the producer using that technology in good faith.

- 157 **Bioterrorism Defense**  
158 A. IBCA encourages the state and federal governments to take all reasonable  
159 measures necessary to prevent acts of bio-terrorism from occurring in the  
160 United States and/or in North America and the global marketplace.  
161 B. IBCA encourages the establishment of a federal indemnity fund that would  
162 reimburse agricultural and allied industry losses incurred from acts of bio-  
163 terrorism.  
164 C. IBCA supports the establishment of a state-funded livestock indemnity program  
165 administered by the Board of Animal Health for animal agriculture in the event  
166 of a bio-terrorism attack on the industry.

167 **Structure of Agriculture in State Government**

- 168 A. IBCA supports the promotion of Indiana agriculture in general and beef  
169 production specifically as they are of significant economic importance to the  
170 state of Indiana.
- 171 B. IBCA supports and encourages the continued open communications and  
172 cooperation with the Governor’s office, Lt. Governor’s office, Purdue  
173 University, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Board of Animal  
174 Health, Office of the State Chemist, IDEM, Animal Disease Diagnostic  
175 Laboratory, Agricultural Leadership Institute, and other agencies that influence  
176 agriculture.
- 177 C. Support and encourage rural development through the office of the Lieutenant  
178 Governor to recognize and promote production agriculture in its broadest sense  
179 and not just the niche markets.
- 180 D. Utilize the state ag advisory board to assist in making decisions for the Indiana  
181 State Department of Agriculture.
- 182 E. Encourage agriculture to be effectively and fairly represented in other  
183 economic development entities and initiatives within state government.

184 **Energy Legislation**

- 185 A. IBCA supports renewable energy resources and the development of their use as  
186 alternative fuels in order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel. With ethanol  
187 and bio-fuel production, the beef industry has access to co-product feedstuffs.  
188 Research is necessary that is fact-based and science-driven that allows the co-  
189 products to be used as animal feeds, that is cost effective for the producer.
- 190 B. IBCA supports efforts and policies that promote and increase the usage of all  
191 Indiana grown commodities, such as the ethanol blend levels used in the  
192 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2).
- 193 C. IBCA supports other energy sources such as but not limited to bio-digesters,  
194 solar and wind that do not take away productive farm ground.

195 **Animal Fraud, Deception and Ethics**

- 196 A. IBCA recognizes the importance of animal well-being, good husbandry  
197 practices, product safety, honesty, integrity and consumer confidence. We  
198 therefore oppose all forms of fraud and deception in production as well as at  
199 livestock shows, exhibitions and sales in Indiana. Some of these include  
200 tampering, altering or misrepresenting an animal's identification, parentage,  
201 breed purity, age or ownership. All laws pertaining to animal well-being,  
202 fraud, ethics and deception should be enforced to their maximum extent.
- 203 B. IBCA supports the breed organizations’ efforts to maintain breed purity and  
204 integrity.

205 **Immigration**

- 206 A. IBCA supports legal immigration and the use of only documented immigrants in  
207 the workforce.
- 208 B. IBCA supports the improved methods of legalizing foreign workers.

- 209 **Grading and Certification of Meat Product**  
210 A. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary  
211 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.  
212 B. IBCA supports the training of state inspectors to grade according to USDA  
213 requirements.  
214 C. IBCA supports the federal cooperative interstate shipping program.
- 215 **Ballot Initiatives**  
216 IBCA supports Indiana’s continuation as a non-ballot initiative state.
- 217 **Eminent Domain**  
218 A. Property taken by eminent domain should be valued at the fair market value or  
219 post project development value, whichever is greater. With the exception of  
220 public utility rights-of-way,  
221 B. IBCA is opposed to using eminent domain to secure property for private  
222 interests with the exception of public utility rights-of-way.  
223 C. IBCA supports that proceeds from the sale of property obtained through the  
224 process of eminent domain or threat of eminent domain should be exempt from  
225 taxes at the local, state and federal level or increase the time allowance for  
226 1031 exchange.
- 227 **Agricultural Land Ownership**  
228 IBCA supports legislation that restricts ownership of Indiana ag land by foreign  
229 countries or persons with ties to foreign countries that are adversaries of the US.
- 230 **Trespassing Laws**  
231 IBCA opposes any change to the current legislation that would weaken the existing  
232 law.
- 233 **Food Labeling**  
234 A. IBCA wants to be involved in any discussion of defining natural, organic and  
235 other commodity niche marketing programs that label foods.  
236 B. IBCA supports both USDA and FDA jointly overseeing the production of cell-  
237 cultured food products derived from either animal or plant cells.  
238 C. IBCA supports the definition of “meat” to be only products derived from  
239 traditionally raised livestock.

240

## **ANIMAL HEALTH AND INSPECTION**

### **241 Board of Animal Health (BOAH) Protocols and Standards**

242 IBCA strongly supports the written protocols for all programs under the  
243 jurisdiction of BOAH including but not limited to;

- 244 A. Outbreak of Infectious Diseases
- 245 B. Meat Inspection Services
- 246 C. Animal Welfare
- 247 D. Traceability and Animal Identification

### **248 Tuberculosis Free**

- 249 A. IBCA supports the state free status and depopulation of infected herds.  
250 Tuberculosis free status was established November 1, 1984 according to USDA,  
251 APHIS, uniform methods and rules. The Indiana code 15-2.1-3-13 approves the  
252 maintenance of a tuberculosis free state. Therefore, whenever the  
253 tuberculosis organism, Mycobacterium bovis, is identified in a herd of any  
254 species, including wildlife, every effort to prevent the spread of the organism  
255 would be made in conjunction with other appropriate agencies.
- 256 B. IBCA supports the 50/50 cost sharing between local and state government to  
257 pay for required TB testing in areas where TB has been diagnosed.
- 258 C. IBCA supports the monitoring of wildlife species for mycobacterium bovis with  
259 cooperation between DNR and BOAH.

### **260 Brucellosis Free**

261 The IBCA supports the present use of approved brucellosis calftooth vaccines and  
262 the testing of beef breeding stock over 24 months of age and dairy type females  
263 over 20 months. The IBCA supports continued research towards improved  
264 brucellosis vaccines.

### **265 Brucellosis Indemnity Payment**

266 The IBCA supports indemnity payments with emphasis on commercial cattle with  
267 the funds available for such. Priority consideration should be given to Class A and  
268 free states.

### **269 Brucellosis Testing**

270 IBCA supports the general requirements and testing procedures for brucellosis in all  
271 other ruminant species as those in cattle. Therefore, licensed and accredited  
272 veterinarians or veterinarians employed by the state or federal government shall  
273 do all brucellosis testing. In addition, whenever brucellosis is present, the animals  
274 shall be depopulated, or other options should be implemented to control the  
275 spread of brucellosis.

- 276 **Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) or Other Regional Laboratories**  
277 A. Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) Funding-Due to the increased  
278 surveillance for animal diseases, IBCA encourages funding that will support the  
279 Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in order to ensure the safety and  
280 wholesomeness of the food supply. User Fees should not be levied in instances  
281 where they fund programs that are mandated for area and national disease  
282 control.  
283 B. National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) - IBCA supports the  
284 development of additional national/regional laboratories that are qualified and  
285 certified to run tests for foreign animal diseases.

286 **Inspection of Foreign Beef**

- 287 A. IBCA strongly supports uniform enforcement of meat inspection standards equal  
288 to U.S. standards for any country selling beef to the United States. Imported  
289 beef should be subjected to the same drug and chemical restrictions as  
290 domestically produced beef and labeled as imported.  
291 B. IBCA strongly opposes the importation of fresh or frozen beef from countries or  
292 areas that have recent history of communicable foreign animal diseases, such  
293 as Foot and Mouth disease (FMD).

294 **Animal Identification**

- 295 A. IBCA encourages mandatory identification of cattle of all ages, with  
296 standardized electronic identification (i.e. RFID 840 tags), for trace-back.  
297 B. IBCA will actively support the Indiana component of the U.S. Animal  
298 Identification Program, including premise identification, which maximizes  
299 disease trace-back, food safety, and end product information flow while  
300 optimizing total benefit to producers. The information collected through this  
301 system shall be protected by privacy rights.  
302 C. IBCA supports compensation for federally mandated requirements of individual  
303 electronic animal identification including reading equipment and software for  
304 livestock markets.  
305 D. IBCA supports the Indiana Livestock Theft Alert program and encourages  
306 Indiana cattlemen to permanently identify their animals.  
307 E. IBCA supports permanent identification of cattle of all ages, originating from  
308 domestic or foreign sources. Cattle from other countries must retain their  
309 country of origin tags.  
310 F. IBCA supports the brand registry program in Indiana.

311 **Indiana State Board of Animal Health**

- 312 A. IBCA strongly supports a continued increase of funding and adequate staffing of  
313 the Board of Animal Health to adequately carry out its responsibilities to the  
314 producers, industry and consumers.  
315 B. IBCA supports the use of electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI's  
316 or Health Papers) by BOAH to enhance speed of commerce and animal  
317 traceability.  
318 C. IBCA supports the Center for Animal Policy.  
319



320 **Importation of Mexican Cattle**

- 321 A. IBCA urges stricter enforcement of tuberculosis (TB) requirements for the entry  
322 of cattle from Mexico. This includes support of United States Animal Health  
323 Association recommendations on branding animals entering the U.S. by  
324 establishing criteria for Mexican cattle to qualify under current U.S. TB import  
325 requirements. Criteria would be based on incentives to encourage adoption  
326 and implementation of TB eradication programs in other Mexican states using  
327 the program. TB programs in Mexico should be conducted under the same  
328 standard regulations as in the United States.  
329 B. IBCA supports the monitoring of other infectious and contagious diseases.

330 **Animal Welfare Standards**

- 331 A. IBCA encourages Indiana cattle producers to continue the high standards of  
332 animal welfare currently practiced in our industry. IBCA will cooperate with  
333 other Indiana agricultural organizations to develop programs that assure these  
334 welfare standards remain at the highest possible levels throughout animal  
335 agriculture.  
336 B. IBCA supports Indiana BOAH as the statewide authority to implement and  
337 oversee the regulations and guidelines concerning farm animal care and  
338 welfare.  
339 C. In addition, IBCA endorses the following criteria for handling non-ambulatory  
340 livestock:  
341 1. Producers shall not transport non-ambulatory or severely ocular  
342 neoplastic (cancer eye) livestock to market facilities and IBCA  
343 encourages livestock markets to refuse to accept these animals.  
344 2. Animals that are disabled during transportation shall be humanely  
345 euthanized, according to AVMA standards or the Humane Slaughter Act.  
346 3. Employees of livestock operations, markets and processing facilities  
347 shall be instructed in the humane handling of all livestock in a  
348 collaborative effort between Purdue Extension, BOAH, IBCA, and the  
349 Livestock Marketing Association (LMA).  
350 4. Livestock that are sick or injured and unresponsive to medical  
351 treatment for a reasonable period of convalescence should be humanely  
352 euthanized on the farm and disposed of in accordance with federal,  
353 state and local regulations or the Humane Slaughter Act.  
354 D. IBCA supports the rearing of animals housed in confinement utilizing the  
355 industry's best recognized management practices and scientific research.

356 **State Meat Inspection Services**

- 357 Indiana consumers and the Indiana cattle industry have long benefited from the  
358 public food safety assurance resulting from the dedicated, ongoing daily  
359 supervision of the Indiana State Meat and Poultry Inspection Division.
- 360 A. IBCA supports the continuation of this critical state food safety assurance  
361 program.
  - 362 B. IBCA supports the federal Cooperative Interstate Shipping (CIS) agreement  
363 which allows interstate shipment of state inspected meat and meat products  
364 from participating Indiana packing plants.
  - 365 C. Since state inspected packing plants are required to meet federal HACCP  
366 regulations, meat inspected under state programs should be accorded the same  
367 freedom of movement in interstate commerce as is accorded meat imported  
368 into the United States from foreign countries.
  - 369 D. IBCA endorses legal actions against USDA and/or FDA to ensure inspection  
370 equity between red meats, poultry, and seafood.
  - 371 E. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary  
372 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.
  - 373 F. IBCA supports the expanded training of state meat inspectors to include USDA  
374 grading requirements.
  - 375 G. IBCA opposes the sale of non-inspected meat products.

376 **Judicious Use of Antibiotics in Livestock Production**

377 IBCA supports the NCBA policy on the judicious and scientific use of antibiotics in  
378 livestock production and strongly encourages a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient  
379 Relationship (VCPR) between producers and their veterinarian.

380 **Animal Seizure**

381 IBCA supports the current policy by BOAH (as of July 1, 2015) in assessing the  
382 neglect of an animal or animals. Neglect cases will be reviewed by a BOAH  
383 veterinarian for the species under question before animals can be seized by proper  
384 authorities.  
385

386 **Animal Disease Monitoring and Eradication**

- 387 A. IBCA supports the pseudorabies eradication program in Indiana and the  
388 continued monitoring of the free status.
- 389 B. IBCA supports the continued monitoring of diseases of feral swine.
- 390 C. IBCA supports the continued monitoring of foreign animal diseases of swine,  
391 such as African Swine Fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and Foot and  
392 Mouth Disease (FMD).
- 393 D. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in their process of  
394 identifying the location of cervid herds, and supports the individual, approved  
395 identification of all cervid animals, and the controlled movement of these  
396 animals in order to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of TB,  
397 Brucellosis, Chronic Wasting Disease, and any other regulated cattle disease, to  
398 Indiana's cattle industry.
- 399 E. IBCA supports the involvement of the Indiana State Board of Animal Health,  
400 Purdue University Animal Sciences Department and the Purdue University  
401 College of Veterinary Medicine and related organizations in the study and  
402 regulation of Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis) in livestock. IBCA encourages:  
403 1. A testing program for adult cattle prior to change of ownership and  
404 testing of dams of animals less than two years of age;  
405 2. A continued educational program to create awareness of the disease;  
406 3. IBCA supports funding for the Johne's Disease Testing Program, as well  
407 as funding for a risk assessment management plan. In lieu of a decrease  
408 in federal funding, the IBCA encourages state funding to meet the  
409 balance of BOAH's budget for Indiana's Voluntary Johne's Disease  
410 Program not met by the federal cooperative agreement. IBCA supports  
411 adequate funding of the Johne's Program.  
412 4. Animals testing positive on a fecal culture or PCR test need to be  
413 officially identified and shipped directly to slaughter according to BOAH  
414 guidelines.
- 415 F. IBCA supports surveillance, identification, and verification of ticks known to  
416 spread diseases of importance to livestock and humans, especially the Asian  
417 Longhorned Tick (ALT). A tick known to be a carrier of *Theileria orientalis*.
- 418 G. IBCA supports the continued research on an effective vaccine for the control of  
419 both Anaplasmosis and Theileria.

420 **Beef Quality Assurance**

- 421 A. IBCA encourages the cooperation between the Indiana Board of Animal Health,  
422 Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University Animal Sciences  
423 Department, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, veterinarians,  
424 IBCA, local beef associations, livestock and feed dealers and those who market  
425 animal health products to disseminate Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)  
426 information and ongoing training and recertification.
- 427 B. IBCA recommends those involved in beef production use animal health products  
428 according to manufacturer’s recommended dosage and route of administration,  
429 and that those involved with beef production *must* follow manufacturer’s  
430 approved slaughter withdrawal times.
- 431 C. Specifically, IBCA recommends the following actions including but not limited  
432 to:
- 433 1. Encourages all Indiana cattle producers (beef and dairy) to become BQA  
434 certified at least every three years, and practice certification  
435 guidelines.
  - 436 2. Adoption of permanent identification systems which are essential for  
437 evaluation of health, marketing, and carcass quality.
  - 438 3. IBCA supports the development of value-added market opportunities for  
439 the Indiana beef producers.
  - 440 4. IBCA supports the National Beef Quality Assurance program and  
441 recommends that it be continued at no cost to the producer.
  - 442 5. IBCA encourages producers to enroll in the Certified Indiana Livestock  
443 Producer Program.

444 **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**

- 445 A. IBCA recognizes and applauds the protective measures taken by our State and  
446 Federal governments to protect our livestock and human population from  
447 Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) caused by altered prions.  
448 IBCA supports continued funding to provide surveillance and research of and for  
449 these diseases, especially Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.
- 450 B. All imported cattle need to be held to U.S.-equivalent standards for feedstuffs  
451 in order to build a firewall of protection from Bovine Spongiform  
452 Encephalopathy. Therefore, we oppose the importation of any ruminant  
453 animals that have been fed ruminant-derived proteins.
- 454 C. IBCA emphasizes that all decision-making processes concerning BSE be based on  
455 scientific evidence.
- 456 D. IBCA supports a national study of the impact of BSE monitoring and surveillance  
457 on the rendering industry and the potential value, use and consequence of  
458 handling by-products.

459 **BVD Testing**

460 IBCA supports the development of a state/national bovine viral diarrhea (BVD)  
461 testing program. IBCA also encourages the commonly accepted testing and removal  
462 of persistently Infected (PI) BVD animals and the continued education of the beef  
463 cattle industry in proposed management practices. IBCA also encourages research  
464 and testing for BVD.

465 **Trichomoniasis Testing**

466 IBCA encourages BOAH to implement a Trichomoniasis test requirement in non-  
467 virgin bulls imported into Indiana. Testing can be done by ADDL at Purdue  
468 University.

469 **Humane Horse Slaughter**

470 IBCA supports legislation and funding to allow for the USDA inspected slaughter of  
471 horses in the United States. IBCA supports legislation to allow the movement of  
472 horses for slaughter in the United States.

473 **Mortality Management**

- 474 A. IBCA supports BOAH's current rules and regulations concerning carcass disposal  
475 and supports BOAH as the sole governing authority over carcass disposal.  
476 B. IBCA supports producer management of run-off potential from carcass disposal  
477 sites.

## MARKETING

### 479 **Value-Based Marketing**

480 IBCA recommends that NCBA take or maintain the following action:

- 481 A. Support value-based marketing and the uniform application and administration
- 482 of classification standards for any system used by the industry. The system
- 483 should maximize objectivity, as well as accurately identify and compensate
- 484 producers based on true carcass value.
- 485 B. Support the collection of information to develop and implement a system that
- 486 will allow all segments of the industry to share information on age & source
- 487 verification from birth, production practices, carcass data and product quality;
- 488 and provide feedback to the producer.
- 489 C. Encourage advertising and promotion of beef's safety and wholesomeness to
- 490 regulatory bodies, consumers, producers and opinion leaders at all levels.

### 491 **Fair Trade and Foreign Marketing**

492 IBCA supports cooperation between state and federal agencies to expand foreign

493 markets. This should include:

- 494 A. Fair and equitable multilateral trade agreements that are reciprocal in nature
- 495 with foreign nations.
- 496 B. Increasing and expanding meat and meat product marketing opportunities
- 497 through USMCA, CAFTA, WTO and other similar trade agreements and meeting
- 498 the same high standards for meat quality, purity and safety as those required
- 499 for U.S. consumers.
- 500 C. Maintaining Trade Promotion Authority.
- 501 D. Developing a system to assure prompt compliance to World Trade Organization
- 502 rulings.
- 503 E. Imported beef shall meet the same high standards for meat quality, purity, and
- 504 safety as U.S. beef. All safeguard measures should be imposed on foreign live
- 505 animals and avians, carcasses, meat products, and their by-products to ensure
- 506 that foreign animal diseases do not enter our domestic meat supply.
- 507 F. Use of science-based justification for decisions affecting foreign trade policy
- 508 within the global marketplace.
- 509 G. Standing firmly against trade barriers on U.S. beef.
- 510 H. An aggressive national effort to reestablish and pursue new international trade
- 511 markets and free trade agreements.

### 512 **Export Promotion and Marketing**

- 513 A. IBCA supports increased financial investment by NCBA, the Beef Checkoff, and
- 514 USMEF to strengthen and expand export marketing programs.
- 515 B. IBCA supports cooperative efforts with state governmental agencies to foster
- 516 sales of Indiana goods and services.
- 517

518 **Indiana Beef Industry Development**

- 519 A. IBCA supports Indiana beef industry development efforts that would improve  
520 the region's competitive industry position by more effectively organizing and  
521 utilizing the region's resources.
- 522 B. IBCA supports working with any local, state and federal economic development  
523 group to explore the possibility of strengthening and expanding the  
524 infrastructure of the beef industry. This includes, but is not limited to:
- 525 1. Exploring the possibility to enhance the viability of all packing and  
526 processing plants within the state to enhance producer profitability.
  - 527 2. Identify sources of capital that support cattle profit partnerships.
  - 528 3. Supporting the enhancement and development of new methods to  
529 communicate the reputation, needs and availability of feeder and fed  
530 cattle.
  - 531 4. IBCA supports the coordination of efforts that will more efficiently bring  
532 buyers and sellers together. We support the expansion of livestock  
533 market reporting within the state.
  - 534 5. Support development of value-added, sorted, graded, and pre-  
535 conditioned special sales.
  - 536 6. Continue support of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)  
537 INDIANA GROWN agri-based program promoting Indiana agriculture  
538 products.
  - 539 7. Identifying and supporting alliances and partnerships that will enhance  
540 producer profitability. These alliances and partnerships will include,  
541 but not be limited to, checkoff funds for corn and soybeans and the  
542 Indiana State Fair.
  - 543 8. IBCA supports the continuation and expansion of direct marketed  
544 Indiana beef.
- 545 C. IBCA supports the development of an infrastructure that will allow small to  
546 mid-size Indiana beef producers to effectively and efficiently use by-products
- 547 D. IBCA supports funding for legislation such as the Basic Act, Ramp Up Act, and  
548 Direct Act that helps small to mid-size packers improve their plants and ease of  
549 commerce. .
- 550 E. IBCA supports the availability and expansion of the meat inspection program to  
551 include freezer beef, farmer's markets and making the infrastructure equitable  
552 between livestock and deer product requirements available to food pantries.
- 553 F. IBCA supports participation in the National BQA Program to enhance the  
554 consumer's perception of the industry.

555 **Product Development and Labeling**

556 IBCA supports and encourages the continued development of:

- 557 A. New consumer-friendly, convenience products that will lead to greater beef  
558 demand.
- 559 B. Uniform labeling of beef products to enhance consumer knowledge of  
560 nutritional value and convenience.
- 561 C. Public policy that supports voluntary, industry driven Country of Origin Labeling  
562 (COOL) that allows maximum benefits and minimal market disruption. IBCA  
563 does not support mandatory COOL. Additionally, IBCA supports COOL laws that  
564 are in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.
- 565 D. IBCA supports codifying the term beef for labeling purposes and NCBA efforts to  
566 insure plant based and tissue derived proteins are labeled honestly and  
567 accurately.

568 **Antitrust Law Enforcement**

569 IBCA requests the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and USDA enforce current  
570 antitrust laws as prescribed in the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921.

- 571 A. To facilitate these actions, it must be recognized that the Grain Inspection,  
572 Packers and Stockyards Agency (GIPSA) functions as a regulatory agency. IBCA  
573 further requests that GIPSA's powers be consistent with free-market principles.
- 574 B. IBCA supports the continuation of the free market agreements and alliances  
575 between producers and packers.
- 576 C. IBCA urges NCBA to position itself to protect the cattle industry from being  
577 monopolized.
- 578 D. IBCA urges NCBA to pursue efforts to prevent manipulation of price and  
579 encourage value discovery.

580 **Marketing of Cattle**

581 IBCA supports;

- 582 A. Free and open industry driven solutions to price discovery over government  
583 mandates.
- 584 B. Protein food chain employees at production, marketing, and processing levels  
585 to be deemed essential in the event of a national crisis.
- 586 C. A Cattle Contract Library.
- 587 IBCA opposes legislation such as California Prop 12 that could restrict livestock  
588 production practices and products that could hinder/prevent ease of commerce  
589 across state lines.



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## **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

### **591 Extension**

- 592 IBCA recognizes that the economic well-being of Indiana Agriculture is positively  
593 influenced by the applied research and educational efforts of Purdue Cooperative  
594 Extension.
- 595 A. IBCA supports funding that will improve those essential services that impact  
596 Indiana beef producers at the state and local level. We continue to encourage  
597 producers and Extension personnel to engage in economic development and  
598 technology transfer to the beef cattle industry.
- 599 B. IBCA continues to encourage cooperation and communication between Purdue  
600 Cooperative Extension and the beef industry to develop consistent policies,  
601 regulations and programs for both adults and youth.
- 602 C. IBCA continues to encourage cooperation between Purdue Cooperative  
603 Extension, producers, local beef affiliates, NCBA, and other allied industries to  
604 conduct applied research projects.
- 605 D. IBCA supports Purdue Cooperative Extension's efforts in assisting product  
606 marketing, pursuing value-added opportunities, managing costs of production  
607 and enhancing resource utilization.
- 608 E. IBCA supports the increased awareness of animal health, biosecurity and  
609 foreign animal diseases.
- 610 F. IBCA encourages the continued development of new outreach and educational  
611 programs and other workshops and educational events, breed association field  
612 days, and other beef industry related events.
- 613 G. IBCA encourages Purdue Cooperative Extension to support livestock expansion  
614 as part of their role in economic development.
- 615 H. IBCA supports cooperation and collaboration between colleges of veterinary  
616 medicine and agriculture, specifically animal science and veterinary clinical  
617 science to support livestock extension activities across the state of Indiana.
- 618 I. IBCA supports a livestock specialist in each area/region of the state to support  
619 producers and educational programming.

### **620 Research and Education Priorities**

- 621 A. IBCA supports a comprehensive research agenda and encourages funding  
622 initiatives from local, state and national levels. It is of paramount importance  
623 that adequate funding be provided and used to improve animal production  
624 efficiency, profitability, consumer demand and consumer education.
- 625 B. IBCA recognizes that it is imperative that all of the Purdue University research  
626 units be utilized at their optimal capacity with adequate staff and funding to  
627 serve the changing needs of the Indiana beef cattle and other agricultural  
628 industries.
- 629 C. IBCA will actively engage the Purdue Administration, producers, other  
630 commodity groups and allied industries, to support:
- 631 1. Faculty staffing to conduct research, teaching, and extension activities  
632 in all areas of beef production at all relevant Purdue facilities.
- 633 2. Appropriate renovation of research facilities at the Animal Science  
634 Research and Education Center.
- 635 D. Research updates should be provided to the beef industry utilizing IBCA  
636 communication vehicles, as well as other communication channels.

- 637 E. IBCA encourages ISDA, USDA and Congress to provide necessary financial  
638 support for base funding and competitive grants that provide for systems-based  
639 research and education programs.
- 640 F. Research priorities include but are not limited to:
- 641 1. Increasing efficiency of quality beef production, through relevant basic  
642 and applied research, that will enhance the understanding of  
643 mechanisms that control and regulate:
    - 644 i. Product quality and consumer acceptance of beef products
    - 645 ii. Nutrient utilization while conserving natural resources
    - 646 iii. Reproductive efficiency
    - 647 iv. Muscle and adipose growth
    - 648 v. Disease control and resistance, immunity and genetic markers
    - 649 vi. Enhancing both pre-harvest and post-harvest food safety,  
650 nutritional quality and acceptability of animal products by:
      - 651 1. Evaluating the quality and wholesomeness of beef  
652 products;
      - 653 2. Understanding the importance of beef's nutritional role  
654 in a healthy human diet;
      - 655 3. Developing and utilizing new technologies that add value  
656 and improve animal products.
      - 657 4. Providing communication to consumers, media and  
658 foodservice groups about the importance of proper food  
659 safety, cooking and handling techniques as well as the  
660 nutritional value of beef products.
      - 661 5. Developing and utilizing new technologies that will  
662 continually enhance the safety of our beef products such  
663 as irradiation of ground product or other potential  
664 intervention strategies.
  - 665 2. Development of nutrient management systems that are economically  
666 viable and environmentally sound. Encourage Purdue University to  
667 enhance research and extension programs that evaluate alternative  
668 production systems.
  - 669 3. Development of systems to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness  
670 of Indiana beef production. Such as:
    - 671 i. Support the use of unique animal identification, including, but  
672 not limited to, RFID 840 electronic animal identification for  
673 trace-back and information sharing.
    - 674 ii. Pursue development of profit partnerships within the beef  
675 industry and consumer groups.
  - 676 4. IBCA supports research and education in animal handling, housing and  
677 well-being of all livestock species.
  - 678 5. IBCA supports funding for research and education efforts dealing with  
679 co-products from industry.
- 680 G. Support the coordination and consistency between Ivy Tech Community  
681 College, Vincennes University, Huntington University, Grace College, Purdue  
682 Global (Purdue), and Purdue University agricultural educational programs.  
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684 **Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine**

- 685 A. IBCA recommends adequate staffing to ensure the continuation of broad-based  
686 curriculum including zoonotic diseases being offered by the College of  
687 Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. The goal should be to adequately  
688 prepare practitioners of food animal medicine to provide for the health and  
689 well-being of food animals in Indiana, especially cattle.
- 690 B. IBCA supports the increase in acceptance of Indiana resident students into the  
691 College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University to support the increase in  
692 talent pool serving the Indiana Livestock Industries.
- 693 C. IBCA supports the work of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)  
694 Large Animal Task Force and encourages actions to be taken to increase the  
695 number of food animal veterinarians serving animal agriculture and fund  
696 financial incentives to entice those veterinarians interested in large animal  
697 practices to stay within the state.
- 698 D. IBCA supports continued funding for the large animal veterinary clinic  
699 facilities.
- 700 E. IBCA Supports an Extension Veterinary emphasis to serve the beef industry in  
701 Indiana.

702 **Leadership Development**

- 703 A. IBCA supports and encourages continuous leadership development of producer  
704 members, including the young cattlemen’s representative, board members,  
705 affiliate organizations, and other volunteers.
- 706 B. IBCA supports and applauds the Indiana Junior Beef Cattle Association (IJBCA)  
707 and recognizes its members as the future leaders of the beef industry.
- 708 1. IBCA supports;
- 709 i. Programs to develop life skills for all youth.
- 710 ii. The use of competition as part of the youth experience to teach  
711 them how to deal with success and failure.
- 712 iii. Adult and parental supervision and participation in the  
713 development and understanding of these life skills among our  
714 youth.
- 715 iv. Ethical and legal practices within this competition to insure a  
716 safe and wholesome product for the consumer and well-being of  
717 the animal.
- 718 v. Opportunities for youth to promote beef and its by-products  
719 through the use of facilities within Indiana.
- 720 vi. The continuation and expansion of IJBCA’s Indiana’s Finest.
- 721 vii. The continuation of and recruitment of National, State and  
722 Regional beef shows in Indiana that are sponsored by the various  
723 breed associations.
- 724 viii. Strong encouragement for all beef exhibitors to complete Beef  
725 Quality Assurance training.

726 **Beef Improvement Programs**

- 727 IBCA encourages the continued partnership with Purdue Extension, the Purdue  
728 Animal Science Department and College of Veterinary Medicine to participate in  
729 Indiana beef improvement programs and the Beef Improvement Federation.  
730 A. IBCA encourages seedstock producers to participate in the *Indiana Beef*  
731 *Evaluation Program (IBEP)* bull test program and encourages commercial  
732 cattlemen to support this program. IBCA also encourages the use of expanded  
733 marketing opportunities.  
734 B. IBCA strongly encourages producers to participate in the *Indiana Beef*  
735 *Evaluation and Economics Feeding (IBEEF)* feedout program to improve carcass  
736 quality, manage economic returns, identify marketing opportunities, and  
737 enhance the reputation of Indiana beef cattle.  
738 C. IBCA encourages the continued development and adoption of the national Beef  
739 Quality Assurance program and producer participation to enhance the  
740 reputation and marketability of their cattle.

741 **Funding for Extension and Research**

- 742 A. IBCA supports an increase in federal, state, and local funding for Purdue  
743 Extension and Research programs and the staff necessary to carry out the  
744 programs.  
745 B. IBCA supports development of a state beef checkoff to fund applied research  
746 and extension programs that directly benefit beef and dairy producers in the  
747 state.

748 **Assessment of Beef Industry Needs**

- 749 A. IBCA will work with Purdue Animal Sciences Department, Purdue Extension,  
750 College of Veterinary Medicine, allied industry, ISDA, BOAH, and other livestock  
751 organizations to conduct a Needs Assessment to identify opportunities, threats,  
752 programs, and staff needed to support the future of Indiana's beef industry.  
753 B. IBCA recognizes the need to recruit Indiana youth to Purdue and other Indiana  
754 schools and then retain them in the livestock and allied industries.  
755 C. IBCA will take a proactive role in the development of strategic plans for Purdue  
756 University, the College of Agriculture, Extension, the College of Veterinary  
757 Medicine, and other colleges and departments pertinent to agriculture and the  
758 beef industry.

759 **Education Funding**

- 760 A. IBCA supports continued state and local funding for agriculture and food  
761 science education in all school curriculums including, but not limited to,  
762 vocational agriculture and Family and Consumer Science programs.  
763 B. IBCA supports training of meat cutters and state meat inspectors.  
764 C. IBCA supports funding to train graduate students in areas of beef production,  
765 veterinary technology and DVM's to support the beef industry.

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**Animal Welfare**

IBCA encourages its members to take a proactive role in educating producers, allied industry, local consumers, and public officials as to the legal obligations, jurisdictions and expectations afforded under current regulations affecting animal treatment and possible seizure of neglected animals. IBCA supports continued research into animal management and well-being. IBCA also supports BOAH's Animal Care and Use Guidelines.

**State Grant Funding**

IBCA strongly encourages increased federal and state funding for promotion, market development, and value-added projects through opportunities such as, but not limited to, the Indiana Livestock Development Grants, Value-Added Grant Funding, Indiana Livestock Promotion Fund to enable Indiana's beef industry to pursue innovative opportunities.

**Public Event Demonstrators**

IBCA supports the efforts of commodity groups, Purdue Extension, and allied industry groups in creating a standard operating procedure that addresses how protestors and demonstrators will be handled at shows and sales and include designated areas for protests to take place at public events. IBCA also supports providing guidelines to state and all county and IBCA affiliates in the state.

## TAX AND FINANCE

### 789 **Property Taxes**

- 790 A. IBCA supports the elimination of real estate and personal property taxes in lieu  
791 of more fair and equitable taxation.
- 792 A. In lieu of elimination of real estate and person property taxes, IBCA  
793 supports the following:
- 794 1. Removal of the debt service and county welfare from property tax  
795 revenues
  - 796 2. Revenues lost through this reform can best be replaced by sales tax  
797 and/or state personal income tax.
  - 798 3. Sales tax as the first option while maintaining the present  
799 agricultural exemptions.
  - 800 4. Any modifications brought to property tax should emphasize  
801 fairness, predictability, administrative efficiency, enhance the  
802 economic competitiveness of Indiana, and be easy for the average  
803 taxpayer to understand.
- 804 B. IBCA opposes tiered taxation.

### 805 **Property Tax Reassessment**

- 806 IBCA supports the General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive re-evaluation of  
807 Indiana's property tax system, considering the following:
- 808 A. A fair and realistic formula for determining the base value of farmland.
  - 809 B. The cap on the annual growth or reduction of property tax on all parcels
  - 810 C. A minimum tax on all parcels and the elimination of the supplemental  
811 homeowner's property tax deduction.

### 812 **Assessment of Agricultural Property**

- 813 A. IBCA supports that the soil productivity factors used by assessors to adjust the  
814 base assessed value of farmland should continue to reflect, as they have since  
815 1980, the comparison of the productive potential of soil types associated with  
816 each soil's physical characteristics that promote plant growth.
- 817 B. IBCA supports assessment provisions that allow parcels of farmland to be:
  - 818 1. Classified as a farmland preservation parcel upon application to the county  
819 assessor.
  - 820 2. Assessed thereafter at a flat rate per acre if that parcel contains at least  
821 ten acres, does not contain a dwelling or other usable building, and is  
822 assessed as agricultural land.
  - 823 3. Subject to repayment to the county of the property tax benefit received  
824 over a period of up to ten years if the land is withdrawn from the classified  
825 farmland status.
  - 826 4. Fair assessment of property taken by eminent domain.
- 827 C. IBCA opposes:
  - 828 1. Re-classification of agriculture land for tax reasons to the detriment of  
829 landowner.
  - 830 2. The formula for determining farmland's base value that considers a  
831 number of factors including yield per acre, commodity prices and cash  
832 rents.

833 **Local Tax Revenue**  
834 IBCA supports the Soil Productivity Factor method of assessment provided that the  
835 use value scenario is used.

836 **Tangible Personal Property Tax**  
837 IBCA supports the elimination of tangible personal property tax.

838 **Beef Production Credit Needs**  
839 A. IBCA supports programs to facilitate dialogue and understanding between beef  
840 producers and Ag lenders concerning beef enterprise viability and cattle  
841 industry capital formation in Indiana.  
842 B. IBCA supports the use of financial and management programs to assist  
843 producers with planning on their operation.

844 **Sales Tax Laws**  
845 A. IBCA supports sales tax exemptions for any items related to production  
846 agriculture.  
847 B. IBCA supports clarification of existing sales tax exemption laws and rules,  
848 including but not limited to fencing and drain tiles.  
849 C. IBCA Supports educating retailers to these laws.  
850 D. IBCA opposes any special tax on consumable animal protein.

851 **Death Taxes**  
852 IBCA supports the elimination of all inheritance taxes, at both the State and  
853 Federal level.

854 **Step Up Basis**  
855 IBCA supports Step Up Basis at the current level.

856 **Unfunded Mandates**  
857 IBCA opposes any local, state or federal mandates unless it is fully funded by the  
858 mandating body.

859 **U.S. Monetary Policy**  
860 Recognizing that monetary policies of the Federal Reserve strongly impact the U.S.  
861 economy and that the Federal Reserve uses interest rates to control inflation and  
862 stimulate economic growth, IBCA recommends that the Federal Reserve be  
863 required to evaluate the impact of monetary policy changes on economic  
864 expansion and that these projections be made public.

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## **Federal Tax Policy**

IBCA supports the review of the current Internal Revenue Code in its entirety and supports replacing it with a new, simplified tax system:

- A. A new system shall:
  - 1. Lower the tax rates on America's families.
  - 2. End biases against working, saving and investing.
  - 3. Allow full deductibility of the payroll tax for working men and women.
  - 4. Any changes must require a two-thirds super majority vote in Congress to raise taxes.
  - 5. Eliminate the alternative minimum tax.
- B. Any changes in tax policy shall promote the following six goals for a (national) 21st century tax system:
  - 1. Economic growth through incentives to work, save and invest.
  - 2. Fairness for all tax payers.
  - 3. Simplicity so that everyone can figure it out.
  - 4. Neutrality so that people and not government can make choices.
  - 5. Visibility so that people know the cost of government.
  - 6. Stability so that people can plan for their future.

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## **1031 Exchanges**

IBCA supports extending the time limits for 1031 exchanges for the benefit and sustainability of American agriculture. This system should allow for the investment in value added and other agricultural ventures.

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## **Cash Accounting Methods**

IBCA supports retention of cash accounting methods for federal tax purposes.

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## **Tax Credits for Productivity Losses**

IBCA supports the creations of a tax deduction, tax credit, or other offset programs to producers who are forced to reduce the productive value of their property in order to comply with mandated governmental programs.

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## **Capital Gains Exclusion**

- A. IBCA supports the exclusion of at least \$6,000,000 of capital gains on the sale of a farm or any other agricultural capital asset; and if, at the time of death the owner had not exercised the exclusion, the \$6,000,000 is added to the estate tax exemption.
- B. IBCA supports an annual increase of capital gains exemption and/or review of the capital gains tax.
- C. IBCA supports exemption of capital gains tax due to Eminent Domain.

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## **Local Property Tax Abatement**

IBCA supports the elimination of property tax abatement, except to encourage the use of Brownfields Programs to utilize abandoned or existing facilities to preserve Indiana's farmland.



905 **Indiana’s Tax Policy**

906 IBCA supports the state’s efforts to reduce the reliance on property taxes for  
907 funding and encourage economic development, by the following:

- 908 A. The elimination of welfare related levies from property taxes.
- 909 B. The elimination of trial court levies from property taxes.
- 910 C. A Homestead Credit of 15% with a minimum of \$35,000.00.
- 911 D. The Investment Tax Credit.
- 912 E. Preserving the Property Tax Relief Credit.
- 913 F. Maintaining a County and Township Government structure.
- 914 G. Land and property taken by eminent domain to be free from capital gains  
915 taxes or income taxes.
- 916 H. No new education or welfare programs be implemented without full funding  
917 of operational and capital expenses by means other than property taxes.
- 918 I. An increase in state sales tax and income tax if property taxes are  
919 eliminated.
- 920 J. Local option income tax.
- 921 K. Indiana tax policy that reflects current federal depreciation allowances.

922 **Transportation Formula**

923 IBCA supports the development of a new transportation formula, that includes all  
924 trucks, for redistributing road tax among the counties.

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## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

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### **Sediment Control**

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A. Since good soil and water conservation practices are compatible with a productive cattle industry, IBCA actively supports; the best management practices to protect soil and water resources.

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B. IBCA supports voluntary conservation programs that encourage adoption of best conservation practices with state input.

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### **Limited Access Right of Way Fencing**

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IBCA supports federal or state funding for building and maintenance of fencing on limited access roadways.

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### **Railroad Right of Way Fencing**

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IBCA supports fencing of railroad right of way that requires the railroad company to pay all of the cost of building and maintaining such fence adjacent to private property.

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### **Railroad Abandonment**

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In the sale of abandoned railroad properties through agricultural land, the adjacent landowners should have the right of first refusal to purchase the property; and on property on which easements were granted, ownership should revert back to the current owner of the property on which the easement was granted.

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### **Rails to Trails**

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IBCA supports rails to trails programs as long as the following guidelines are followed:

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A. Adjacent farms shall have direct access to and/or across such right of ways.

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B. Weed Control laws shall pertain to all landowners, including state and governmental units.

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C. Rails to Trails associations should be responsible for upkeep of trails. No county tax dollars should be used for trails.

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D. Trail operators and/or owners should be held responsible for damage to adjacent property by trail users and should assume all liability.

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E. Owners and operators of railroad trails shall be responsible to construct and maintain livestock secure fence, next to adjacent property, but within trail property.

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F. Notification of adjacent property owners prior to the establishment of new trails. A public hearing should be called for this purpose.

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### **Livestock Predator Control**

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IBCA supports programs for effective wildlife management and predator control and encourages members to use program assistance available from the Animal Damage Control Program of USDA - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service at Purdue University and/or Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IN DNR).

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### **Wildlife Population Control**

- Cattlemen continue to experience extensive fence damage and large crop loss due to the unmanaged wildlife population.
- A. IBCA supports more effective measures be taken by IN DNR to manage wildlife population, including but not limited to:
    - 1. Increased dialogue on all wildlife species before introduction to the state, especially those species considered cattle predators.
    - 2. Issuance of more hunting permits and/or extended seasons.
    - 3. Granting farmers the right to protect his/her property from wild animals in any reasonable manner.
    - 4. Granting direct payments to farmers for substantial crop losses and fence damage.
  - B. IBCA encourages USDA Fish and Wildlife to create policies allowing for a more effective program to reduce all predatory animal species (including but not limited to timber rattlesnakes and black vultures), and increase regulatory flexibility under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

### **Air Protection**

- A. IBCA opposes legislation to regulate air particulates, noise and odor from farming operations.
- B. IBCA opposes new regulations for greenhouse gas restrictions for livestock production.

### **Water Protection**

- A. IBCA supports producer utilization of resources and trainings to make best assessments of their premise water to maintain and or improve water quality.
  - 1. Ground Water Protection: Ground water should be protected from contamination that would make the water unusable for its present and projected uses. IBCA shall counsel with appropriate state agencies in developing the strategy and implementation plan to protect Indiana’s ground water. There needs to be a clear distinction between naturally occurring and man-made water containment areas.
  - 2. Surface Water Protection: In the case of manmade drainage ditches; a similar distinction needs to be made for their use versus those of naturally occurring streams and waterways. When rules are written, they should be developed in consultation with affected land owning and/or farming parties and should reflect historical usage patterns.
  - 3. Access to Public Waters: IBCA supports state law as it defines public water sources uses for household purposes and drinking water for livestock as superior to all other uses. IBCA supports voluntary fencing of streams and creeks that coincide with best practices to protect water quality and stream bank stabilization.
- B. IBCA supports additional funding for Clean Water Indiana in order to leverage federal monies for water and conservation efforts.
- C. IBCA supports the 2020 Navigable Water Protection rule but opposes the 2015 Clean Water rule and proposed WOTUS update.

1011 **Trespassing on Private Lands**  
1012 IBCA supports stepped-up enforcement of state trespassing laws to prohibit  
1013 trespassing on private lands or access through private lands to gain access to public  
1014 lands and waters.

1015 **Land Conservation Program Funding**

- 1016 A. IBCA supports cooperation between livestock groups, conservation groups and  
1017 local, state and federal government agencies to develop strategies that address  
1018 our common environmental responsibilities and recognize agricultural cropland,  
1019 pastureland and forestland as “working lands”.
- 1020 B. IBCA supports the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Grassland Reserve  
1021 Program, Farmland Protection Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement  
1022 Program and similar programs to protect the environment and species habitat  
1023 while supporting agricultural production.
- 1024 C. IBCA supports more even distribution of program funds both geographically and  
1025 species-specific.
- 1026 D. IBCA supports the efforts of and participation in the Grazing Lands  
1027 Conservation Initiative.
- 1028 E. IBCA supports the development of more user-friendly conservation programs  
1029 that will address timeliness, flexibility, and allow for inflationary increases for  
1030 producers.
- 1031 F. IBCA supports the Indiana Ag Nutrient Alliance with an annual contribution to  
1032 support their mission.

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### **Animal Feeding Operations**

- A. IBCA supports the growth and maintenance of Indiana animal feeding operations for the economic development and revitalization of rural Indiana.
- B. IBCA supports state and local zoning that is supportive of food animal production.
- C. IBCA supports collaboration with other commodity groups and entities on local issues regarding natural resources and the environment.
- D. IBCA encourages all producers to handle animal manure in a manner that coincides with current regulations.
- E. IBCA supports the state law requirement for Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) to adhere to a zero-discharge performance standard.
- F. IBCA supports standards that:
  - 1. Maintain the integrity of Indiana's surface waters.
  - 2. Recognize the site specific and management specific nature of individual operations.
  - 3. Cattle producers should not be required to conform to new regulations unless expansion occurs whereupon the new standards must be met.
  - 4. Remain focused within the parameters of the confined feeding law concerning water quality and not stray into jurisdiction of odor and dust without legislative consent.
  - 5. Recognize manure is an agronomic nutrient and is an organic by-product of value-added agriculture.
- G. IBCA acknowledge that Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) that discharge are subject to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations.
- H. IBCA supports Indiana Livestock Commodity Group efforts to promote livestock feeding operations.
- I. IBCA supports uniform standards with regard to water quality from runoff or discharge regardless of origin.
- J. IBCA values skilled and educated Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) inspectors and supports the position within IDEM at the senior staff level. The position should maintain its confidentiality protection to encourage communication and technical assistance at the producer level.
- K. IBCA supports new technologies that allow producers options in manure management systems such as but not limited to; digesters, constructed wetlands, water purification systems; so that if wastewater meets water quality standards, it may be discharged.

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### **Environmental and Conservation Trust Funds**

- IBCA believes that quasi-public money should not be spent for the removal of land from private ownership. IBCA recommends the following;
- A. All lands purchased by environmental and conservation trusts, or other public lands should not be exempt from property tax, thus reducing the local tax base.
  - B. Funds may be used to purchase development rights (development easements) to preserve farmland and protect natural habitats.
  - C. Management and operation of land acquired through environmental and conservation trust fund programs should not have a negative impact on nearby agricultural lands.

1081 **Land Use Policy and Farmland Protection**

1082 IBCA supports policies that are locally determined, market based and incentive  
1083 laden. IBCA recognizes agriculture as an important economic contributor to Indiana  
1084 and therefore should be recognized and included in economic and rural  
1085 development policies and programs.

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1087 IBCA encourages state government to:

- 1088 A. Support the Indiana Farmland Protection Program to leverage national
- 1089 funding initiatives.
- 1090 B. Develop a statewide farmland and open space protection policy model to
- 1091 assist local government planning groups.
- 1092 C. Develop and articulate a state policy on land use.
- 1093 D. Explore enabling legislation for creative and innovative solutions to land use
- 1094 conflicts.
- 1095 E. Provide technical assistance and information to enable local communities to
- 1096 engage in appropriate land use planning action.
- 1097 F. Explore the implications to agriculture of tax policy especially on land use
- 1098 issues.
- 1099 G. Continue to support research on ways to increase the sustainability of
- 1100 agriculture.
- 1101 H. Create an intra-agency review process that serves to explore the impact of
- 1102 regulatory actions on land use.
- 1103 I. Support legislation to increase market value offered and paid on
- 1104 agricultural land entered into a land use program that is to be taken by
- 1105 eminent domain for public use.
- 1106 J. Assure post construction land has been restored to its original state upon
- 1107 completion of contract.
- 1108 K. Support the work of the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) to promote
- 1109 and coordinate wise land use positions.
- 1110 L. IBCA opposes the establishment of general moratoriums which prohibit
- 1111 expansion or development of agricultural operations.
- 1112 M. Assure reclamation of land is properly completed to its original state upon
- 1113 completion of contract.

1114 IBCA encourages local communities to:

- 1115 A. Implement a local land use initiative.
- 1116 B. Determine community goals and objectives in compliance with enacted
- 1117 regulatory tools.
- 1118 C. Educate local planning officials so decisions are made in an informed
- 1119 manner.
- 1120 D. Raise awareness among local citizens of the consequences of the various
- 1121 options and choices the county and/or community choose to implement.
- 1122 E. Promote the use of brownfield sites for development sites.
- 1123 F. Support formation of local farmland preservation districts with property tax
- 1124 reduction incentives.
- 1125 G. Use science-based facts on siting decisions for the expansion of livestock at
- 1126 the local level.

1127 IBCA encourages producers to use science-based information when considering  
1128 siting of livestock operations and to practice good neighbor relations and maintain  
1129 communications with community members.

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### **Species Protection**

- A. The National Endangered Species Act should be amended to allow economical agricultural and forest management practices in crop, livestock and timber production on privately owned land. New legislation should include private property rights protection.
- B. IBCA opposes any kind of biological survey on privately owned land. Biological surveys should require legislative authorization and funding prior to implementation. However, if the pursuit of a survey is approved, we support the protection of private property rights.
- C. Any additions of new species to the Endangered Species list should be by legislative process, including economic and scientific evaluation, rather than by administrative action.
- D. IBCA supports periodical review of the list of endangered species and removal of those species that are no longer endangered.

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### **Climate Legislation**

- IBCA is opposed to local, state, federal and global climate legislation that is single topic focused. Including but not limited to taxes imposed on beef production for environmental reasons.
- A. A lack of scientific data has garnered widespread disagreement throughout the scientific community. IBCA is supportive of research efforts concerning beef's benefits to the environment and net zero efforts. The economic impact of proposed regulations has not been adequately assessed.
  - B. IBCA is supportive of studies that look at the production system as a whole.
  - C. Proposed solutions provide an unfair economic advantage to developing nations at the expense of developed nations.
  - D. Prior to regulations being enforced, strong science-based evidence is needed to suggest efforts would be effective in addressing the alleged problem of climate change.
  - E. IBCA is supportive of efforts in which the entire beef supply chain is engaged.

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### **Natural and Scenic Rivers Designations**

IBCA opposes any efforts to designate Indiana streams as natural, scenic, or recreational rivers.

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### **State Rulemaking Process**

IBCA supports coordinated efforts by the Indiana Secretary of Agriculture and government agencies that influence or regulate agriculture. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other regulatory agencies should mandate and follow their written guidelines when enforcing state regulations.

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**Carbon Offset Legislation**

- A. IBCA supports unlimited offsets so long as the legislation recognizes practices implemented by early adopters that have implemented practices before the program began.
- B. IBCA supports offsets for carbon sequestered in a single calendar year.
- C. IBCA supports USDA chief economist to review conservation practices and develop guidelines to easily determine the amount of greenhouse gas sequestered or prevented through on-farm practices.
- D. IBCA supports a joint collaboration between NCBA, USDA and NRCS and industry to develop guidelines for approved farming practices and the amount of greenhouse gasses sequestered or prevented through on-farm practices.
- E. IBCA opposes allowing carbon offsets to replace EQIP or any current conservation program.