

Indiana Beef Cattle Association-IBCA

2023 Policy - Developed November 22, 2022

2023 AG POLICY

Commodity Checkoff Programs

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

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

Animal Welfare and Use Guidelines

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

Food Safety

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

Expanded Beef Promotion and Marketing

IBCA supports the development of a strong and visible beef promotion and marketing effort among the Indiana Beef Council, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana's commodity groups and other State Beef Councils, in

partnership with retailers, foodservice operators, health groups, media, social media influencers and other organizations.

Animal ID and Traceability

IBCA strongly supports a national traceability system in the U.S. that:

- A. is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed by the USDA
- B. Is consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) guidelines,
- C. Produces equivalent outcomes to the live animal tracking systems that importing countries have in place, and
- D. BOAH will consistently interpret and implement the current animal ID policy.
- E. Provides both financial compensation to the marketing system and ensures marketing system confidentiality and privacy.

Exports/Imports

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

Government Regulations

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

Right to Farm Law

- A. IBCA supports the Indiana right to farm and trespass laws in their current form.
- B. IBCA opposes buffer zone laws that adversely affect animal agriculture.

- C. IBCA supports reciprocating setbacks for residential homes in agricultural zones unless a deeded covenant is signed recognizing the right to farm provisions.
- D. We support a Right to Farm Constitutional Amendment if the current Right to Farm Law is changed by the General Assembly.

Fence Law

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

Indiana State Fairgrounds Campus

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

Government Funded Food Programs

- A. IBCA supports government funded food programs that includes U.S. red meat as the primary source of protein.

- B. IBCA supports USDA’s guidelines for including beef in all nutritional programs including “My Plate, My Health” and dietary guidelines for Americans.
- C. IBCA supports the continued relationship between the Nutritional Assistance Program and the ag portions of the US Farm Bill.
- D. IBCA opposes any government program that supports a “meatless” day.
- E. IBCA opposes government grants to businesses or organizations that promote false or misleading information about U.S. agriculture production methods
- F. IBCA supports U.S. nutritional guidelines based on the science-based nutritional profile of various foods and not extraneous ideologies.

Industry Partnerships

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

Technology

- A. IBCA supports the development and accessibility to high-speed internet in rural America.

Biotechnology

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

Bioterrorism Defense

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

1 **Structure of Agriculture in State Government**

- 2 A. IBCA supports the promotion of Indiana agriculture in general and beef
3 production specifically as they are of significant economic importance to the
4 state of Indiana.
5 B. IBCA supports and encourages the continued open communications and
6 cooperation with the Governor’s office, Lt. Governor’s office, Purdue
7 University, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Board of Animal
8 Health, Office of the State Chemist, IDEM, Animal Disease Diagnostic
9 Laboratory, Agricultural Leadership Institute, and other agencies that influence
10 agriculture.
11 C. Support and encourage rural development through the office of the Lieutenant
12 Governor to recognize and promote production agriculture in its broadest sense
13 and not just the niche markets.
14 D. Utilize the state ag advisory board to assist in making decisions for the Indiana
15 State Department of Agriculture.
16 E. Encourage agriculture to be effectively and fairly represented in other
17 economic development entities and initiatives within state government.
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20 **Energy Legislation**

- 21 A. IBCA supports renewable energy resources and the development of their use as
22 alternative fuels in order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel. With ethanol
23 and bio-fuel production, the beef industry has access to co-product feedstuffs.
24 Research is necessary that is fact-based and science-driven that allows the co-
25 products to be used as animal feeds, that is cost effective for the producer.
26 B. IBCA supports efforts and policies that promote and increase the usage of all
27 Indiana grown commodities, such as the ethanol blend levels used in the
28 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2).
29 C. IBCA supports other energy sources such as but not limited to bio-digesters,
30 solar and wind that do not take away productive farm ground.
31

32 **Animal Fraud, Deception and Ethics**

- 33 A. IBCA recognizes the importance of animal well-being, good husbandry practices,
34 product safety, honesty, integrity and consumer confidence. We therefore
35 oppose all forms of fraud and deception in production as well as at livestock
36 shows, exhibitions and sales in Indiana. Some of these include tampering,
37 altering or misrepresenting an animal's identification, parentage, breed purity,
38 age or ownership. All laws pertaining to animal well-being, fraud, ethics and
39 deception should be enforced to their maximum extent.
40 B. IBCA supports the breed organizations’ efforts to maintain breed purity and
41 integrity.
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44 **Immigration**

- 45 A. IBCA supports legal immigration and the use of only documented immigrants in
46 the workforce.
47 B. IBCA supports the improved methods of legalizing foreign workers.
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2 **Grading and Certification of Meat Product**

- 3 A. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary
4 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.
5 B. IBCA supports the training of state inspectors to grade according to USDA
6 requirements.
7 C. IBCA supports the federal cooperative interstate shipping program.
8

9 **Ballot Initiatives**

10 IBCA supports Indiana’s continuation as a non-ballot initiative state.
11

12 **Eminent Domain**

- 13 A. Property taken by eminent domain should be valued at the fair market value or
14 post project development value, whichever is greater. With the exception of
15 public utility rights-of-way,
16 B. IBCA is opposed to using eminent domain to secure property for private
17 interests with the exception of public utility rights-of-way.
18 C. IBCA supports that proceeds from the sale of property obtained through the
19 process of eminent domain or threat of eminent domain should be exempt from
20 taxes at the local, state and federal level or increase the time allowance for
21 1031 exchange.
22

23 **Trespassing Laws**

24 IBCA opposes any change to the current legislation that would weaken the existing
25 law.
26

27 **Food Labeling**

- 28 A. IBCA wants to be involved in any discussion of defining natural, organic and
29 other commodity niche marketing programs that label foods.
30 B. IBCA supports both USDA and FDA jointly overseeing the production of cell-
31 cultured food products derived from either animal or plant cells.
32 C. IBCA supports the definition of “meat” to be only products derived from
33 traditionally raised livestock.
34

ANIMAL HEALTH AND INSPECTION

Board of Animal Health (BOAH) Protocols and Standards

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

- A. Outbreak of infectious diseases
- B. Meat Inspection Services
- C. Animal Welfare
- D. Traceability and animal identification

Tuberculosis Free

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

Brucellosis Free

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

Brucellosis Indemnity Payment

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

Brucellosis Testing

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

Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) or Other Regional Laboratories

- A. Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) Funding-Due to the increased surveillance for animal diseases, IBCA encourages funding that will support the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in order to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of the food supply. User Fees should not be levied in instances

1 where they fund programs that are mandated for area and national disease
2 control.

- 3
4 B. National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) IBCA supports the
5 development of additional national/regional laboratories that are qualified and
6 certified to run tests for foreign animal diseases.
7

8 **Inspection of Foreign Beef**

- 9 A. IBCA strongly supports uniform enforcement of meat inspection standards equal
10 to U.S. standards for any country selling beef to the United States. Imported
11 beef should be subjected to the same drug and chemical restrictions as
12 domestically produced beef and labeled as imported.
13 B. IBCA strongly opposes the importation of fresh or frozen beef from countries or
14 areas that have recent history of communicable foreign animal diseases, such
15 as Foot and Mouth disease (FMD).
16

17 **Animal Identification**

- 18 A. IBCA encourages mandatory identification of cattle of all ages, with
19 standardized electronic identification (i.e. RFID 840 tags), for trace-back.
20 B. IBCA will actively support the Indiana component of the U.S. Animal
21 Identification Program, including premise identification, which maximizes
22 disease trace-back, food safety, and end product information flow while
23 optimizing total benefit to producers. The information collected through this
24 system shall be protected by privacy rights.
25 C. IBCA would encourage compensation for federally mandated requirements of
26 individual electronic animal identification including reading equipment and
27 software for livestock markets.
28 D. IBCA supports the Indiana Livestock Theft Alert program and encourages
29 Indiana cattlemen to permanently identify their animals.
30 E. IBCA strongly encourages permanent identification of cattle of all ages,
31 originating from domestic or foreign sources. Cattle from other countries must
32 retain their country of origin tags.
33 F. IBCA supports the brand registry program in Indiana.
34

35 **Indiana State Board of Animal Health**

- 36 A. IBCA strongly supports a continued increase of funding and adequate staffing of
37 the Board of Animal Health to adequately carry out its responsibilities to the
38 producers, industry and consumers.
39 B. IBCA supports the use of electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI's
40 or Health Papers) by BOAH to enhance speed of commerce and animal
41 traceability.
42

43 **Importation of Mexican Cattle**

44 Be it resolved that IBCA urges stricter enforcement of tuberculosis (TB)
45 requirements for the entry of cattle from Mexico. This includes support of United
46 States Animal Health Association recommendations on branding animals entering
47 the U.S. by establishing criteria for Mexican cattle to qualify under current U.S. TB
48 import requirements. Criteria would be based on incentives to encourage adoption
49 and implementation of TB eradication programs in other Mexican states using the

1 program. TB programs in Mexico should be conducted under the same standard
2 regulations as in the United States.

4 **Animal Welfare Standards**

- 5 A. IBCA encourages Indiana cattle producers to continue the high standards of
6 animal welfare currently practiced in our industry. IBCA will cooperate with
7 other Indiana agricultural organizations to develop programs that assure these
8 welfare standards remain at the highest possible levels throughout animal
9 agriculture.
- 10 B. IBCA supports Indiana BOAH as the statewide authority to implement and
11 oversee the regulations and guidelines concerning farm animal care and
12 welfare.
- 13 C. In addition, IBCA endorses the following criteria for handling non-ambulatory
14 livestock:
 - 15 1. Producers shall not transport non-ambulatory or severely ocular
16 neoplastic (cancer eye) livestock to market facilities and IBCA
17 encourages livestock markets to refuse to accept these animals.
 - 18 2. Animals that are disabled during transportation shall be humanely
19 euthanized, according to AVMA standards or the Humane Slaughter Act.
 - 20 3. Employees of livestock operations, markets and processing facilities
21 shall be instructed in the humane handling of all livestock in a
22 collaborative effort between Purdue Extension, BOAH, IBCA, and the
23 Livestock Marketing Association (LMA).
 - 24 4. Livestock that are sick or injured and unresponsive to medical
25 treatment for a reasonable period of convalescence shall be humanely
26 euthanized on the farm and disposed of in accordance with federal,
27 state and local regulations or the Humane Slaughter Act.
- 28 D. IBCA supports the rearing of animals housed in confinement utilizing the
29 industry's best recognized management practices and scientific research.

31 **State Meat Inspection Services**

32 Indiana consumers and the Indiana cattle industry have long benefited from the
33 public food safety assurance resulting from the dedicated, ongoing daily
34 supervision of the Indiana State Meat and Poultry Inspection Division.

- 35 A. IBCA supports the continuation of this critical state food safety assurance
36 program.
- 37 B. IBCA supports the federal Cooperative Interstate Shipping (CIS) agreement
38 which allows interstate shipment of state inspected meat and meat products
39 from select Indiana packing plants.
- 40 C. Since state inspected packing plants are required to meet federal HACCP
41 regulations, meat inspected under state programs should be accorded the same
42 freedom of movement in interstate commerce as is accorded meat imported
43 into the United States from foreign countries.
- 44 D. IBCA endorses legal actions against USDA and/or FDA to ensure inspection
45 equity between red meats, poultry, and seafood.
- 46 E. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary
47 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.
- 48 F. IBCA supports the expanded training of state meat inspectors to include USDA
49 grading requirements.

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

3 IBCA supports the NCBA policy on the judicious and scientific use of antibiotics in
4 livestock production and strongly encourages a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient
5 Relationship (VCPR) between producers and their veterinarian.
6

7 **Animal Seizure**

8 IBCA supports the current policy by BOAH (as of July 1, 2015) in assessing the
9 neglect of an animal or animals. Neglect cases will be reviewed by a BOAH
10 veterinarian for the species under question before animals can be seized by proper
11 authorities.
12

13 **Animal Disease Monitoring and Eradication**

- 14 A. IBCA supports the pseudorabies eradication program in Indiana and the
15 continued monitoring of the free status.
16 B. IBCA supports the continued monitoring of diseases of feral swine.
17 C. IBCA supports the continued monitoring of foreign animal diseases of swine,
18 such as African Swine Fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and Foot and
19 Mouth Disease (FMD).
20 D. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in their process of
21 identifying the location of cervid herds, and supports the individual, approved
22 identification of all cervid animals, and the controlled movement of these
23 animals in order to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of TB,
24 Brucellosis, Chronic Wasting Disease, and any other regulated cattle disease, to
25 Indiana's cattle industry.
26 E. IBCA encourages the involvement of the Indiana State Board of Animal Health,
27 Purdue University Animal Sciences Department and the Purdue University
28 College of Veterinary Medicine and related organizations in the study and
29 regulation of Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis) in livestock. IBCA encourages:
30 1. A testing program for adult cattle prior to change of ownership and
31 testing of Dams of animals less than two years of age;
32 2. A continued educational program to create awareness of the disease;
33 3. IBCA supports funding for the Johne's Disease Testing Program, as well
34 as funding for a risk assessment management plan. In lieu of a decrease
35 in federal funding, the IBCA encourages state funding to meet the
36 balance of BOAH's budget for Indiana's Voluntary Johne's Disease
37 Program not met by the federal cooperative agreement. IBCA supports
38 adequate funding of the Johne's Program.
39 4. Animals testing positive on a fecal culture or PCR test need to be
40 officially identified and shipped directly to slaughter according to BOAH
41 guidelines.
42 F. IBCA supports surveillance, identification, and verification of ticks known to
43 spread diseases of importance to livestock and humans, especially the Asian
44 Longhorned Tick (ALT). A tick known to be a carrier of *Theileria orientalis*.
45 G. IBCA supports the continued research on an effective vaccine for the control of
46 both Anaplasmosis and Theileria.
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2 **Beef Quality Assurance**

- 3 A. IBCA encourages the cooperation between the Indiana Board of Animal Health,
4 Purdue University Animal Sciences Department, Purdue University College of
5 Veterinary Medicine, veterinarians, IBCA, local beef associations, livestock and
6 feed dealers and those who market animal health products to disseminate Beef
7 Quality Assurance (BQA) information and ongoing training and recertification.
8 B. IBCA recommends those involved in beef production use animal health products
9 according to manufacturer's recommended dosage and route of administration,
10 and that those involved with beef production *must* follow manufacturer's
11 approved slaughter withdrawal times.
12 C. Specifically, IBCA recommends the following actions including but not limited
13 to:
14 1. Encourages all Indiana cattle producers (beef and dairy) to become BQA
15 certified and practice certification guidelines.
16 2. Adoption of permanent identification systems which are essential for
17 evaluation of health, marketing, and carcass quality.
18 3. IBCA supports the development of value-added market opportunities for
19 the Indiana beef producers.
20 4. IBCA supports the National Beef Quality Assurance program and
21 recommends that it be continued at no cost to the producer.
22 5. IBCA encourages producers to enroll in the Certified Indiana Livestock
23 Producer Program.
24

25 **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**

- 26 A. IBCA recognizes and applauds the protective measures taken by our State and
27 Federal governments to protect our livestock and human population from
28 Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) caused by altered prions.
29 IBCA supports continued funding to provide surveillance and research of and for
30 these diseases, especially Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.
31 B. All imported cattle need to be held to U.S.-equivalent standards for feedstuffs
32 in order to build a firewall of protection from Bovine Spongiform
33 Encephalopathy. Therefore, we oppose the importation of any ruminant
34 animals that have been fed ruminant-derived proteins.
35 C. IBCA emphasizes that all decision-making processes concerning BSE be based on
36 scientific evidence.
37 D. IBCA supports a national study of the impact of BSE monitoring and surveillance
38 on the rendering industry and the potential value, use and consequence of
39 handling by-products.
40

41 **BVD Testing**

42 IBCA supports the development of a state/national bovine viral diarrhea (BVD)
43 testing program. IBCA also encourages the commonly accepted removal of
44 persistently Infected (PI) BVD animals and the continued education of the beef
45 cattle industry in proposed management practices. IBCA also encourages research
46 and testing for BVD.
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1 **Trichomoniasis Testing**

2 IBCA encourages BOAH to implement a Trichomoniasis test requirement in non-
3 virgin bulls imported into Indiana. Testing can be done by ADDL at Purdue
4 University.
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6 **Humane Horse Slaughter**

7 IBCA supports legislation and funding to allow for the USDA inspected slaughter of
8 horses in the United States. IBCA supports the proposed legislation to allow the
9 movement of horses for slaughter in the United States.
10

11 **Mortality Management**

- 12 A. IBCA supports BOAH’s current rules and regulations concerning carcass disposal
13 and supports BOAH as the sole governing authority over carcass disposal.
14 B. IBCA supports producer management of run-off potential from carcass disposal
15 sites.
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MARKETING

Value-Based Marketing

IBCA recommends that NCBA take or maintain the following action:

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

Fair Trade and Foreign Marketing

IBCA supports cooperation between state and federal agencies to expand foreign markets. This should include:

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

Export Promotion and Marketing

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

Indiana Beef Industry Development

- A. IBCA supports Indiana beef industry development efforts that would improve the region's competitive industry position by more effectively organizing and utilizing the region's resources.

- 1 B. IBCA supports working with any local, state and federal economic development
2 group to explore the possibility of strengthening and expanding the
3 infrastructure of the beef industry. This includes, but is not limited to:
4 a. Exploring the possibility to enhance the viability of all packing and
5 processing plants within the state to enhance producer profitability.
6 b. Identify sources of capital that support cattle profit partnerships.
7 c. Supporting the enhancement and development of new methods to
8 communicate the reputation, needs and availability of feeder and fed
9 cattle.
10 d. IBCA supports the coordination of efforts that will more efficiently bring
11 buyers and sellers together. We support the expansion of livestock
12 market reporting within the state.
13 e. Support development of value-added, sorted, graded, and pre-
14 conditioned special sales.
15 f. Continue support of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
16 INDIANA GROWN agri-based program promoting Indiana agriculture
17 products.
18 g. Identifying and supporting alliances and partnerships that will enhance
19 producer profitability. These alliances and partnerships will include,
20 but not be limited to, checkoff funds for corn and soybeans and the
21 Indiana State Fair.
22 h. IBCA supports the continuation and expansion of direct marketed
23 Indiana beef.
24 C. IBCA supports the development of an infrastructure that will allow small to
25 mid-size Indiana beef producers to effectively and efficiently use by-products
26 D. IBCA supports funding for legislation such as the Basic Act, Ramp Up Act, and
27 Direct Act that helps small to mid-size packers improve their plants and ease of
28 commerce. .
29 E. IBCA supports the availability and expansion of the meat inspection
30 program to include freezer beef, farmer's markets and making the
31 infrastructure equitable between livestock and deer product
32 requirements available to food pantries.
33 F. IBCA supports participation in the National BQA Program to enhance the
34 consumer's perception of the industry.
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37 **Product Development and Labeling**

38 IBCA supports and encourages the continued development of:

- 39 A. New consumer-friendly, convenience products that will lead to greater beef
40 demand.
41 B. Uniform labeling of beef products to enhance consumer knowledge of nutritional
42 value and convenience.
43 C. Public policy that supports voluntary, industry driven Country of Origin Labeling
44 (COOL) that allows maximum benefits and minimal market disruption. IBCA
45 does not support mandatory COOL. Additionally, IBCA supports COOL laws that
46 are in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.
47 D. IBCA supports codifying the term beef for labeling purposes and NCBA efforts to
48 insure plant based and tissue derived proteins are labeled honestly and
49 accurately.

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2 **Antitrust Law Enforcement**

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

- 5 A. To facilitate these actions, it must be recognized that the Grain Inspection,
6 Packers and Stockyards Agency (GIPSA) functions as a regulatory agency. IBCA
7 further requests that GIPSA's powers be consistent with free-market principles.
8 B. IBCA supports the continuation of the free market agreements and
9 alliances between producers and packers.
10 C. IBCA urges NCBA to position itself to protect the cattle industry from
11 being monopolized.
12 D. IBCA urges NCBA to pursue efforts to prevent manipulation of price and
13 encourage value discovery.
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16 **Marketing of Cattle**

17 IBCA supports;

- 18 A. Free and open industry driven solutions to price discovery over government
19 mandates.
20 B. Protein food chain employees at production, marketing, and processing levels
21 to be deemed essential in the event of a national crisis.
22 C. A Cattle Contract Library.
23

24 IBCA Opposes;

25 Legislation such as California Prop 12 that could restrict livestock production practices
26 and products that could hinder/prevent ease of commerce across state lines.
27
28

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Extension

- A. IBCA recognizes that the economic well-being of Indiana Agriculture is positively influenced by the applied research and educational efforts of Purdue Cooperative Extension.
- B. IBCA supports funding that will improve those essential services that impact Indiana beef producers at the state and local level. We continue to encourage producers and Extension personnel to engage in economic development and technology transfer to the beef cattle industry.
- C. IBCA continues to encourage cooperation and communication between Purdue Cooperative Extension and the beef industry to develop consistent policies, regulations and programs for both adults and youth.
- D. IBCA continues to encourage cooperation between Purdue Cooperative Extension, producers, local beef affiliates, NCBA, and other allied industries to conduct applied research projects.
- E. IBCA supports Purdue Cooperative Extension's efforts in assisting product marketing, pursuing value-added opportunities, managing costs of production and enhancing resource utilization.
- F. IBCA supports the increased awareness of animal health, biosecurity and foreign animal diseases.
- G. IBCA encourages the continued development of new outreach and educational programs and other workshops and educational events, breed association field days, and other beef industry related events.
- H. IBCA encourages Purdue Cooperative Extension to support livestock expansion as part of their role in economic development.
- I. IBCA supports cooperation and collaboration between colleges of veterinary medicine and agriculture, specifically animal science and veterinary clinical science to support livestock extension activities across the state of Indiana.

Research and Education Priorities

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

- 1 E. IBCA encourages ISDA, USDA and Congress to provide necessary financial
2 support for base funding and competitive grants that provide for systems-based
3 research and education programs.
- 4 F. Research priorities include but are not limited to:
5 1. Increasing efficiency of quality beef production, through relevant basic and
6 applied research, that will enhance the understanding of mechanisms that
7 control and regulate:
8 a. Product quality and consumer acceptance of beef products
9 b. Nutrient utilization while conserving natural resources
10 c. Reproductive efficiency
11 d. Muscle and adipose growth
12 e. Disease control and resistance, immunity and genetic markers
13 f. Enhancing both pre-harvest and post-harvest food safety, nutritional
14 quality and acceptability of animal products by:
15 1. Evaluating the quality and wholesomeness of beef products;
16 2. Understanding the importance of beef's nutritional role in a
17 healthy human diet;
18 3. Developing and utilizing new technologies that add value and
19 improve animal products.
20 4. Providing communication to consumers, media and foodservice
21 groups about the importance of proper food safety, cooking and
22 handling techniques as well as the nutritional value of beef
23 products.
24 5. Developing and utilizing new technologies that will continually
25 enhance the safety of our beef products such as irradiation of
26 ground product or other potential intervention strategies.
- 27 2. Development of nutrient management systems that are economically viable
28 and environmentally sound. Encourage Purdue University to enhance
29 research and extension programs that evaluate alternative production
30 systems.
- 31 3. Development of systems to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of
32 Indiana beef production. Such as:
33 a. Support the use of unique animal identification, including, but not
34 limited to, RFID 840 electronic animal identification for trace-back
35 and information sharing.
36 b. Pursue development of profit partnerships within the beef industry
37 and consumer groups.
- 38 4. IBCA supports research and education in animal handling, housing and well-
39 being of all livestock species.
- 40 5. IBCA supports funding for research and education efforts dealing with co-
41 products from industry.
- 42 G. Support the coordination and consistency between Ivy Tech Community
43 College, Vincennes University, Huntington University, Grace College, Purdue
44 Global (Purdue), and Purdue University agricultural educational programs.

46 **Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine**

- 47 A. IBCA recommends adequate staffing to ensure the continuation of broad-based
48 curriculum including zoonotic diseases being offered by the College of
49 Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. The goal should be to adequately

- 1 prepare practitioners of food animal medicine to provide for the health and
2 well-being of food animals in Indiana, especially cattle.
- 3 B. IBCA supports the increase in acceptance of Indiana resident students into the
4 College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University to support the increase in
5 talent pool serving the Indiana Livestock Industries.
- 6 C. IBCA supports the work of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)
7 Large Animal Task Force and encourages actions to be taken to increase the
8 number of food animal veterinarians serving animal agriculture and fund
9 financial incentives to entice those veterinarians interested in large animal
10 practices to stay within the state.
- 11 D. IBCA supports continued funding for the large animal veterinary clinic
12 facilities.
- 13 E. IBCA Supports an Extension Veterinary emphasis to serve the beef industry in
14 Indiana.
- 15

16 Leadership Development

17 A. Indiana Young Cattlemen (IYC)

18 IBCA supports and applauds the Indiana Young Cattlemen and recognizes its
19 members as leaders of the beef industry.

20 B. Indiana Junior Beef Cattle Association (IJBCA)

21 IBCA supports and applauds the IJBCA and recognizes its members as the future
22 leaders of the beef industry.

23

24 C. Youth Development and Competition

25 IBCA supports

- 26 1. Programs to develop life skills for all youth;
 - 27 2. The use of competition as part of the youth experience to teach them
28 how to deal with success and failure.;
 - 29 3. Adult and parental supervision and participation in the development and
30 understanding of these life skills among our youth;
 - 31 4. Ethical and legal practices within this competition to insure a safe and
32 wholesome product for the consumer and well-being of the animal;
 - 33 5. Opportunities for youth to promote beef and its by-products through the
34 use of facilities within Indiana.
 - 35 6. The continuation and expansion of IJBCA's Indiana's Finest.
 - 36 7. The continuation of and recruitment of National, State and Regional
37 beef shows in Indiana that are sponsored by the various breed
38 associations.
 - 39 8. Strong encouragement for all beef exhibitors to complete Beef Quality
40 Assurance training.
- 41

42 Beef Improvement Programs

43 IBCA encourages the continued partnership with Purdue Extension, the Purdue
44 Animal Science Department and College of Veterinary Medicine to participate in
45 Indiana beef improvement programs and the Beef Improvement Federation.

- 46 A. *Indiana Beef Evaluation Program (IBEP)* - IBCA encourages seedstock
47 producers to participate in the bull test program and encourages commercial
48 cattlemen to support this program. IBCA also encourages the use of
49 expanded marketing opportunities.

- 1 B. *Integrated Resource Management (IRM)/Standardized Performance Analysis*
2 (*SPA*) - IBCA supports the IRM/SPA program and encourages producer
3 participation.
4 C. *Indiana Beef Evaluation and Economics Feeding (IBEEF) Program*. IBCA
5 strongly encourages producers to participate in this feedout program to
6 improve carcass quality, manage economic returns, identify marketing
7 opportunities and enhance the reputation of Indiana beef cattle.
8 D. IBCA encourages the continued development and adoption of the national
9 Beef Quality Assurance program and producer participation to enhance the
10 reputation and marketability of their cattle.

11 **Funding for Extension and Research**

- 12 A. IBCA supports an increase in federal, state and local funding for Purdue
13 Extension and Research programs and the staff necessary to carry out the
14 programs.
15 B. IBCA supports development of a state beef checkoff to fund applied
16 research and extension programs that directly benefit beef and dairy
17 producers in the state.
18
19

20 **Assessment of Beef Industry Needs**

- 21 A. IBCA will work with Purdue Animal Sciences Department, Purdue Extension,
22 College of Veterinary Medicine, allied industry, ISDA, BOAH, and other livestock
23 organizations to conduct a Needs Assessment to identify opportunities and
24 threats, programs and staff, to support the future of Indiana's beef industry.
25 B. IBCA recognizes the need to recruit Indiana youth to Purdue and other Indiana
26 schools and then retain them in the livestock and allied industries.
27 C. IBCA will take a proactive role in the development of strategic plans for Purdue
28 University, the College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and
29 other colleges and departments pertinent to agriculture and the beef industry.
30

31 **Education Funding**

32 IBCA strongly supports:

- 33 a. Continued state and local funding for agriculture and food science
34 education in all school curriculums including, but not limited to,
35 vocational agriculture and Family and Consumer Science programs.
36 b. Training of meat cutters and state meat inspectors.
37 c. Funding to train graduate students in areas of beef production,
38 veterinary technology and DVM's to support the beef industry.
39

40 **Animal Welfare**

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

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State Grant Funding

IBCA strongly encourages increased 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

Property Taxes

IBCA supports the elimination of real estate and personal property taxes in lieu of more fair and equitable taxation.

A. In lieu of elimination of real estate and person property taxes, IBCA supports the following:

1. Removal of the debt service and county welfare from property tax revenues
2. Revenues lost through this reform can best be replaced by sales tax and/or state personal income tax.
3. Sales tax as the first option while maintaining the present agricultural exemptions.
4. Any modifications brought to property tax should emphasize fairness, predictability, administrative efficiency, enhance the economic competitiveness of Indiana, and be easy for the average taxpayer to understand.

B. IBCA opposes:

1. Tiered taxation.

Property Tax Reassessment

IBCA supports the General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive re-evaluation of Indiana's property tax system, considering the following:

- A. A fair and realistic formula for determining the base value of farmland
- B. The cap on the annual growth or reduction of property tax on all parcels
- C. A minimum tax on all parcels and the elimination of the supplemental homeowner's property tax deduction.

Assessment of Agricultural Property

IBCA supports that the soil productivity factors used by assessors to adjust the base assessed value of farmland should continue to reflect, as they have since 1980, the comparison of the productive potential of soil types associated with each soil's physical characteristics that promote plant growth.

- A. IBCA supports assessment provisions that allow parcels of farmland to be:
 1. Classified as a farmland preservation parcel upon application to the county assessor.
 2. Assessed thereafter at a flat rate per acre if that parcel contains at least ten acres, does not contain a dwelling or other usable building, and is assessed as agricultural land.
 3. Subject to repayment to the county of the property tax benefit received over a period of up to ten years if the land is withdrawn from the classified farmland status.
 4. Fair assessment of property taken by eminent domain.
- B. IBCA opposes:
 1. Re-classification of agriculture land for tax reasons to the detriment of land owner.

1 2. The formula for determining farmland’s base value that considers a
2 number of factors including yield per acre, commodity prices and cash
3 rents.
4

5 **Local Tax Revenue**

6 IBCA supports the Soil Productivity Factor method of assessment provided that the
7 use value scenario is used.
8

9 **Tangible Personal Property Tax**

10 IBCA supports the elimination of tangible personal property tax.
11

12 **Beef Production Credit Needs**

13 A. IBCA supports programs to facilitate dialogue and understanding between beef
14 producers and Ag lenders concerning beef enterprise viability and cattle industry
15 capital formation in Indiana.

16 B. IBCA supports the use of financial and management programs to assist producers
17 with planning on their operation.
18

19 **Sales Tax Laws**

20 A. IBCA supports:

- 21 1. Sales tax exemptions for any items related to production agriculture.
- 22 2. Clarification of existing sales tax exemption laws and rules, including but not
- 23 limited to fencing and drain tiles.
- 24 3. Educating retailers to these laws.
- 25 4. IBCA opposes any special tax on consumable animal protein.
26

27 **Death Taxes**

28 IBCA supports the elimination of all inheritance taxes, at both the State and
29 Federal level
30

31 **Step Up Basis**

32 IBCA supports Step Up Basis at the current level.
33
34

35 **Unfunded Mandates**

36 IBCA opposes any local, state or federal mandates unless it is fully funded by the
37 mandating body.
38

39 **U.S. Monetary Policy**

40 Recognizing that monetary policies of the Federal Reserve strongly impact the U.S.
41 economy and that the Federal Reserve uses interest rates to control inflation and
42 stimulate economic growth, IBCA recommends that the Federal Reserve be
43 required to evaluate the impact of monetary policy changes on economic
44 expansion and that these projections be made public.
45

46 **Federal Tax Policy**

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

- 1 A. A new system shall:
- 2 1. Lower the tax rates on America's families.
- 3 2. End biases against working, saving and investing.
- 4 3. Allow full deductibility of the payroll tax for working men and women.
- 5 4. Any changes must require a two-thirds super majority vote in Congress
- 6 to raise taxes.
- 7 5. Eliminate the alternative minimum tax.
- 8 B. Any changes in tax policy shall promote the following six goals for a
- 9 (national) 21st century tax system:
- 10 1. Economic growth through incentives to work, save and invest.
- 11 2. Fairness for all tax payers.
- 12 3. Simplicity so that everyone can figure it out.
- 13 4. Neutrality so that people and not government can make choices.
- 14 5. Visibility so that people know the cost of government.
- 15 6. Stability so that people can plan for their future.
- 16
- 17

18 **1031 Exchanges**

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

23 **Cash Accounting Methods**

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

26 **Tax Credits for Productivity Losses**

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

31 **Capital Gains Exclusion**

32 IBCA supports:

- 33 1. The exclusion of at least \$6,000,000 of capital gains on the sale of a farm or
- 34 any other agricultural capital asset; and if, at the time of death the owner had
- 35 not exercised the exclusion, the \$6,000,000 is added to the estate tax
- 36 exemption.
- 37 2. An annual increase of capital gains exemption and/or review of the capital
- 38 gains tax.
- 39 3. Exemption of capital gains tax due to Eminent Domain.
- 40

41 **Local Property Tax Abatement**

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

46 **Indiana's Tax Policy**

47 IBCA supports the state's efforts to reduce the reliance on property taxes for
48 funding and encourage economic development, by the following:

- 49 1. The elimination of welfare related levies from property taxes.

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- 2. The elimination of trial court levies from property taxes.
- 3. A Homestead Credit of 15% with a minimum of \$35,000.00.
- 4. The Investment Tax Credit.
- 5. Preserving the Property Tax Relief Credit.
- 6. Maintaining a County and Township Government structure.
- 7. Land and property taken by eminent domain to be free from capital gains taxes or income taxes.
- 8. No new education or welfare programs be implemented without full funding of operational and capital expenses by means other than property taxes.
- 9. An increase in state sales tax and income tax if property taxes are eliminated.
- 10. Local option income tax.
- 11. Indiana tax policy that reflects current federal depreciation allowances.

Transportation Formula

IBCA supports the development of a new transportation formula, including all trucks, for redistributing road tax among the counties.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Sediment Control

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

Limited Access Right of Way Fencing

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

Railroad Right of Way Fencing

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.

Railroad Abandonment

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.

Rails to Trails

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

- A. Adjacent farms shall have direct access to and/or across such right of ways.
- B. Weed Control laws shall pertain to all landowners, including state and governmental units.
- C. Rails to Trails associations should be responsible for upkeep of trails. No county tax dollars should be used for trails.
- D. Trail operators and/or owners should be held responsible for damage to adjacent property by trail users, and should assume all liability
- 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.
- F. Notification of adjacent property owners prior to the establishment of new trails. A public hearing should be called for this purpose.

Livestock Predator Control

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).

1 **Wildlife Population Control**

2 Cattlemen continue to experience extensive fence damage and large crop loss due
3 to the unmanaged wildlife population. We support more effective measures be
4 taken by IN DNR to manage wildlife population, including but not limited to:

- 5 A. IBCA encourages more dialogue with the IN DNR on all wildlife species
6 before introduction to the state, especially those species considered cattle
7 predators.
- 8 B. Issuance of more hunting permits and/or extended seasons.
- 9 C. Granting farmers the right to protect his/her property from wild animals in
10 any reasonable manner.
- 11 D. Granting direct payments to farmers for substantial crop losses and fence
12 damage.
- 13 E. IBCA encourages USDA Fish and Wildlife to create policies allowing for a
14 more effective program to reduce all predatory animal species (including
15 but not limited to timber rattlesnakes and black vultures), and increase
16 regulatory flexibility under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

17
18 **Air Protections**

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

23
24 **Water Protection**

25 IBCA encourages producers to utilize resources and trainings to make best
26 assessments of their premise water to maintain and or improve water quality and
27 quantity.

28 IBCA encourages cooperation between livestock groups, conservation groups and
29 agencies that provide technical assistance and regulatory oversight in Indiana. IBCA
30 develop strategies that address our common environmental responsibilities and
31 recognize agricultural cropland, pastureland and forestland as “working lands”.

- 32 A. Ground Water Protection: Ground water should be protected from
33 contamination that would make the water unusable for its present and
34 projected uses. IBCA shall counsel with appropriate state agencies in
35 developing the strategy and implementation plan to protect Indiana’s
36 ground water. There needs to be a clear distinction between naturally
37 occurring and man-made water containment areas.
- 38 B. Surface Water Protection: In the case of manmade drainage ditches; a
39 similar distinction needs to be made for their use versus those of naturally
40 occurring streams and waterways. When rules are written, they should be
41 developed in consultation with affected land owning and/or farming parties
42 and should reflect historical usage patterns.
- 43 C. Access to Public Waters: IBCA supports state law as it defines public water
44 sources uses for household purposes and drinking water for livestock as
45 superior to all other uses. IBCA is in favor of voluntary fencing of streams
46 and creeks that coincide with best practices to protect water quality and
47 stream bank stabilization.
- 48 D. IBCA supports additional funding for Clean Water Indiana in order to
49 leverage federal monies for water and conservation efforts.

- 1 E. IBCA is supportive of the 2020 Navigable Water Protection rule but opposes
2 the 2015 Clean Water rule and proposed WOTUS update.

3
4 **Trespassing on Private Lands**

5 IBCA encourages stepped-up enforcement of state trespassing laws to prohibit
6 trespassing on private lands or access through private lands to gain access to public
7 lands and waters.

8
9 **Land Conservation Program Funding**

10 IBCA encourages cooperation between livestock groups, conservation groups
11 and local, state and federal government agencies. Develop strategies that
12 address our common environmental responsibilities and recognize
13 agricultural cropland, pastureland and forestland as “working lands”.

- 14 A. IBCA supports the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Grassland
15 Reserve Program, Farmland Protection Program, Conservation Reserve
16 Enhancement Program and similar programs to protect the environment and
17 species habitat while supporting agricultural production.
18 B. IBCA encourages more even distribution of program funds both
19 geographically and species-specific.
20 C. IBCA supports the efforts of and participation in the Grazing Lands
21 Conservation Initiative.
22 D. IBCA supports the development of a more user-friendly conservation
23 programs that will address timeliness, flexibility, and allow for inflationary
24 increases for producers.
25 E. IBCA supports the Indiana Ag Nutrient Alliance with an annual contribution
26 to support their mission.

27
28 **Animal Feeding Operations**

29 IBCA supports the growth and maintenance of Indiana animal feeding operations
30 for the economic development and revitalization of rural Indiana.

31 IBCA encourages state and local zoning supportive of food animal production.

- 32 A. IBCA encourages collaboration with other commodity groups and entities on
33 local issues regarding natural resources and the environment.
34 B. IBCA encourages all producers to handle animal manure in a manner that
35 coincides with current regulations.
36 C. IBCA supports the state law requirement for Confined Feeding Operations
37 (CFOs) to adhere to a zero-discharge performance standard.
38 D. Standards should:
39 1. Maintain the integrity of Indiana's surface waters;
40 2. Recognize the site specific and management specific nature of
41 individual operations;
42 3. Cattle producers should not be required to conform with regulations
43 until or unless expansion occurs whereupon the new standards must be
44 met
45 4. Remain focused within the parameters of the confined feeding law
46 concerning water quality and not stray into jurisdiction of odor and dust
47 without legislative consent
48 5. Recognize manure is an agronomic nutrient and is an organic by-product
49 of value-added agriculture.

- 1 E. Acknowledge that Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) that
- 2 discharge are subject to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National
- 3 Pollutant Discharge
- 4 F. Elimination System (NPDES) regulations.
- 5 G. IBCA supports Indiana Livestock Commodity Group efforts to promote livestock
- 6 feeding operations.

7 IBCA supports uniform standards with regard to water quality from runoff or discharge
8 regardless of origin.

9 IBCA values skilled and educated Indiana Department of Environmental Management
10 (IDEM) inspectors.

11 IBCA supports the position within IDEM at the senior staff level. The position should
12 maintain its confidentiality protection to encourage communication and technical
13 assistance at the producer level.

14 IBCA supports new technologies that allow producers options in manure management
15 systems such as but not limited to; digesters, constructed wetlands, water purification
16 systems; so that if wastewater meets water quality standards, it may be discharged.

17 18 **Environmental and Conservation Trust Funds**

19 IBCA believes that quasi-public money should not be spent for the removal of land
20 from private ownership. IBCA recommends the following;

- 21 A. All lands purchased by environmental and conservation trusts, or other
- 22 public lands should not be exempt from property tax, thus reducing the
- 23 local tax base.
- 24 B. Funds may be used to purchase development rights (development
- 25 easements) to preserve farmland and protect natural habitats.
- 26 C. Management and operation of land acquired through environmental and
- 27 conservation trust fund programs should not have a negative impact on
- 28 nearby agricultural lands.

29 30 **Land Use Policy and Farmland Protection**

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

35
36 IBCA encourages state government to:

- 37 A. Support the Indiana Farmland Protection Program to leverage national
- 38 funding initiatives.
- 39 B. Develop a statewide farmland and open space protection policy model to
- 40 assist local government planning groups.
- 41 C. Develop and articulate a state policy on land use.
- 42 D. Explore enabling legislation for creative and innovative solutions to land use
- 43 conflicts.
- 44 E. Provide technical assistance and information to enable local communities to
- 45 engage in appropriate land use planning action.
- 46 F. Explore the implications to agriculture of tax policy especially on land use
- 47 issues.
- 48 G. Continue to support research on ways to increase the sustainability of
- 49 agriculture.

- 1 H. Create an intra-agency review process that serves to explore the impact of
- 2 regulatory actions on land use.
- 3 I. Support legislation to increase market value offered and paid on
- 4 agricultural land entered into a land use program that is to be taken by
- 5 eminent domain for public use.
- 6 J. Assure post construction land has been restored to its original state upon
- 7 completion of contract.
- 8 K. Support the work of the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) to promote
- 9 and coordinate wise land use positions.
- 10 L. IBCA opposes the establishment of general moratoriums which prohibit
- 11 expansion or development of agricultural operations.
- 12 M. Assure reclamation of land is properly completed to its original state upon
- 13 completion of contract.
- 14

15 IBCA also encourages local communities to:

- 16 A. Implement a local land use initiative.
- 17 B. Determine community goals and objectives in compliance with enacted
- 18 regulatory tools.
- 19 C. Educate local planning officials so decisions are made in an informed
- 20 manner.
- 21 D. Raise awareness among local citizens of the consequences of the various
- 22 options and choices the county and/or community choose to implement.
- 23 E. Promote the use of brownfield sites for development sites.
- 24 F. Support formation of local farmland preservation districts with property tax
- 25 reduction incentives.
- 26 G. Use science-based facts on siting decisions for the expansion of livestock at
- 27 the local level.
- 28

29 IBCA also encourages producers to use science-based information when considering

30 siting of livestock operations. IBCA also encourages good neighbor relations and

31 ongoing communications with community members.

32

33

34 **Species Protection**

- 35 A. The National Endangered Species Act should be amended to allow economical
- 36 agricultural and forest management practices in crop, livestock and timber
- 37 production on privately owned land. New legislation should include private
- 38 property rights protection.
- 39 B. IBCA opposes any kind of biological survey on privately owned land. Biological
- 40 surveys should require legislative authorization and funding prior to
- 41 implementation. However, if the pursuit of a survey is approved, we support
- 42 the protection of private property rights.
- 43 C. Any additions of new species to the Endangered Species list should be by
- 44 legislative process, including economic and scientific evaluation, rather than by
- 45 administrative action.
- 46 D. IBCA supports periodical review of the list of endangered species and removal
- 47 of those species that are no longer endangered.
- 48
- 49

1 **Climate Legislation**

2 IBCA is opposed to local, state, federal and global climate legislation that is single
3 topic focused. Including but not limited to taxes imposed on beef production for
4 environmental reasons.

- 5 A. A lack of scientific data has garnered widespread disagreement throughout the
- 6 scientific community. IBCA is supportive of research efforts concerning beef’s
- 7 benefits to the environment and net zero efforts. The economic impact of
- 8 proposed regulations has not been adequately assessed.
- 9 B. IBCA is supportive of studies that look at the production system as a whole.
- 10 C. Proposed solutions provide an unfair economic advantage to developing nations
- 11 at the expense of developed nations.
- 12 D. Prior to regulations being enforced, strong science-based evidence is needed to
- 13 suggest efforts would be effective in addressing the alleged problem of climate
- 14 change.
- 15 E. IBCA is supportive of efforts in which the entire beef supply chain is engaged.

16
17
18 **Natural and Scenic Rivers Designations**

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

21
22 **State Rulemaking Process**

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

28
29 **Carbon Offset Legislation**

30 IBCA supports unlimited offsets so long as the legislation recognizes practices
31 implemented by early adopters. Recognize producers who have implemented practices
32 before the program began.

- 33 A. IBCA supports offsets for carbon sequestered in a single calendar year.
- 34 B. IBCA supports USDA chief economist to review conservation practices and
- 35 develop guidelines to easily determine the amount of greenhouse gas
- 36 sequestered or prevented through on-farm practices.
- 37 C. IBCA proposes a joint collaboration between NCBA, USDA and NRCS and
- 38 industry to develop guidelines for approved farming practices and the
- 39 amount of greenhouse gasses sequestered or prevented through on-farm
- 40 practices.
- 41 D. IBCA opposes allowing carbon offsets to replace EQIP or any current
- 42 conservation program.