

Indiana Beef Cattle Association-IBCA

2018 Policy - Developed November 1, 2017

2018 AG POLICY

Commodity Checkoff Programs

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

National Beef Checkoff Program IBCA supports 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.

Indiana Beef Checkoff IBCA supports 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 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

1 partnership with retailers, foodservice operators, health groups, and other
2 organizations.

3 4 **Animal ID and Traceability**

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

- 6 A. is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed
7 by the USDA,
- 8 B. Fully meets the expectations of foreign governments and our customers
9 overseas,
- 10 C. Is consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines,
- 11 D. Produces equivalent outcomes to the live animal tracking systems that
12 importing countries have in place, and
- 13 E. BOAH will consistently interpret and implement the current animal ID policy.

14 15 **Exports/Imports**

- 16 A. IBCA supports Global Trade Partnerships that expand our U.S. beef markets.
- 17 B. Recognizes existing USDA programs for beef exports through the Market Access
18 Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Programs.
- 19 C. Strongly supports current funding levels of FMD and MAP to USMEF for the
20 purposes of beef export promotion.
- 21 D. IBCA stands firmly opposed to importation of meat products from countries who
22 do not have approved animal health status. This is not on the basis of trade
23 but on the scientific basis of animal health concerns.
- 24 E. IBCA supports global trade initiatives for U.S. beef and cattle industries based
25 on sound science.

26 27 **Government Regulations**

- 28 A. IBCA favors minimizing local, state and federal government involvement in
29 agriculture, and other agriculture-related industries. The free enterprise
30 system should be allowed to operate with the least possible interference.
31 Whenever government programs are developed, the economic impact on the
32 beef cattle industry as well as other agricultural industries should be
33 considered.
- 34 B. IBCA understands the importance for research concerning air and water quality
35 and encourages all decisions to be based on environmentally sound, science-
36 based evidence.
- 37 C. IBCA opposes the current expansion of the Clean Water Act under the Waters of
38 the United States proposal of the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers. If re-
39 written, ag stakeholders should be involved from the beginning.

40 41 **Right to Farm Law**

- 42 A. IBCA supports the Indiana right to farm and trespass laws in their current
43 form.
- 44 B. IBCA opposes buffer zone laws that adversely affect animal agriculture.
- 45 C. IBCA supports reciprocating setbacks for residential homes in agricultural
46 zones unless a deeded covenant is signed recognizing the right to farm
47 provisions.
- 48 D. We support a Right to Farm Constitutional Amendment if the current Right to
49 Farm Law is changed by the General Assembly.

1
2 **Indiana State Fairgrounds Campus**

- 3 A. IBCA supports the Indiana Farm Bureau resolution that the Indiana State Fair
4 has been and should continue to be a showcase of Indiana agriculture.
5 1. We encourage any changes in the law governing the state fair which would
6 improve its ability to function.
7 2. We support full funding of maintenance and improvements needed to use
8 the fairgrounds year-round as a viable showcase for Indiana agriculture.
9 3. We support and favor the complete retention of the current system of
10 vesting the responsibility for overseeing the year-round operations of the
11 Indiana State Fairgrounds to the state fair commission.
12 4. We support the state fair board having the responsibility for planning,
13 overseeing and conducting the annual state fair.
14 5. The state fair board should consist of individuals who represent the state's
15 agricultural community and should have specific knowledge of various
16 commodities and activities showcased at the state fair.
17 6. The administration of electing and appointing State Fair board members
18 should follow state law guidance.
19 7. IBCA encourages the Indiana State Fair and its partners to promote
20 agriculture education and enhance the positive image of modern Indiana
21 agriculture. Production agriculture leaders should be directly involved in
22 all state fair policy making activities and exhibits.
23 8. IBCA supports and encourages the continued renovations that enhance the
24 promotion of Indiana Agriculture at the Indiana State Fairgrounds through
25 funding support of the Indiana General Assembly.
26 9. IBCA supports the Indiana State Fair Commission's continued development
27 of the "State's Largest Classroom®".
28

29 **Government Funded Food Programs**

- 30 A. IBCA supports government funded food programs that includes U.S. red meat as
31 the primary source of protein.
32 B. IBCA supports USDA's guidelines for including beef in "My Plate, My Health."
33 C. IBCA supports the continued relationship between the Nutritional Assistance
34 Program and the ag portions of the US Farm Bill.
35 D. IBCA opposes any government program that supports a "meatless" day.
36 E. IBCA opposes government grants to businesses or organizations that promote
37 false or misleading information about U.S. agriculture production methods.
38

39 **Industry Partnerships**

- 40 A. The IBCA encourages the creation of and participation in industry partnerships,
41 by both IBCA and NCBA, when they advance organizational policies and
42 program objectives.
43 B. IBCA supports efforts to promote the maintenance and expansion of Indiana's
44 livestock sector while improving relations between farm and non-farm
45 communities.
46

47 **Biotechnology**

- 48 A. IBCA supports the use of approved biotechnology and such technology use
49 should be allowed and not prohibited by legislation, regulation or industry

- 1 partner positions unless proven by scientific evidence to be harmful to the
2 animal or end consumer.
- 3 B. IBCA encourages the continued development and use of biotechnology that can
4 improve safety, enhance efficiency, and increase productivity.
- 5 C. IBCA strongly encourages that any new biotechnology product be tested and
6 receive key international approvals before it enters the global marketplace.
7 Once a product is approved by appropriate agencies, any problem that arises
8 after its introduction that causes a reduction in value should be shared and is
9 not the sole risk of the producer using that technology in good faith.

10
11 **Bioterrorism Defense**

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

21
22 **Structure of Agriculture in State Government**

- 23 A. IBCA supports the promotion of Indiana agriculture in general and beef
24 production specifically as they are of significant economic importance to the
25 state of Indiana.
- 26 B. IBCA supports and encourages the continued open communications and
27 cooperation with the Governor's office, Lt. Governor's office, Purdue
28 University, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Board of Animal
29 Health, Office of the State Chemist, IDEM, Animal Disease Diagnostic
30 Laboratory, Agricultural Leadership Institute, and other agencies that influence
31 agriculture.
- 32 C. Support and encourage rural development through the office of the Lieutenant
33 Governor to recognize and promote production agriculture in its broadest sense
34 and not just the niche markets.
- 35 D. Utilize the state ag advisory board to assist in making decisions for the Indiana
36 State Department of Agriculture.
- 37 E. Encourage agriculture to be effectively and fairly represented in other
38 economic development entities and initiatives within state government.
- 39
40

41 **Energy Legislation**

- 42 A. IBCA supports renewable energy resources and the development of their use as
43 alternative fuels in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. With
44 ethanol and bio-fuel production, the beef industry has access to co-product
45 feedstuffs. Research is necessary that is fact-based and science-driven that
46 allows the co-products to be used as animal feeds, that is cost effective for the
47 producer.

- 1 B. IBCA supports efforts and policies that promote and increase the usage of all
- 2 Indiana grown commodities, such as the ethanol blend levels used in the
- 3 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2).
- 4 C. IBCA supports other energy sources such as but not limited to bio-digesters,
- 5 solar and wind.
- 6

7 **Animal Fraud, Deception and Ethics**

- 8 A. IBCA recognizes the importance of animal well-being, good husbandry practices,
- 9 product safety, honesty, integrity and consumer confidence. We therefore oppose
- 10 all forms of fraud and deception in production as well as at livestock shows,
- 11 exhibitions and sales in Indiana. Some of these include tampering, altering or
- 12 misrepresenting an animal's identification, parentage, breed purity, age or
- 13 ownership. All laws pertaining to animal well-being, fraud, ethics and deception
- 14 should be enforced to their maximum extent.
- 15 B. IBCA supports the breed organizations' efforts to maintain breed purity and
- 16 integrity.
- 17

18 **Commodity Checkoff Programs**

19 IBCA supports the development of, and the continuation, of commodity checkoff

20 programs in the state of Indiana.

21

22 **Immigration**

23 IBCA supports legal immigration and the use of only documented immigrants in the

24 workforce.

25

26 **Grading and Certification of Meat Product**

- 27 A. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary
- 28 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.
- 29 B. IBCA supports the training of state inspectors to grade according to USDA
- 30 requirements.
- 31

32 **Ballot Initiatives**

33 IBCA supports Indiana's continuation as a non-ballot initiative state.

34

35 **Eminent Domain**

36 Property taken by eminent domain should be valued at the fair market value or

37 post project development value, whichever is greater. With the exception of

38 public utility right-of-ways, IBCA is opposed to using eminent domain to secure

39 property for private interests. Proceeds from the sale of property obtained

40 through the process of eminent domain or threat of eminent domain should be

41 exempt from taxes at the local, state and federal level.

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43 **Trespassing Laws**

44 IBCA opposes any change to the current legislation that would weaken the existing

45 law.

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Food Labeling

IBCA wants to be involved in any discussion of defining natural, organic and other commodity niche marketing programs that label foods.

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

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 vaccinated 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 insure 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 B. Biosecurity Level 3 Laboratory-IBCA supports the establishment and funding of a
4 biosecurity level 3 (BSL3) laboratory at Purdue University.
- 5 C. Certified National/Regional Disease Laboratories-IBCA supports the development
6 of additional national/regional laboratories that are qualified and certified to
7 run tests for foreign animal diseases.

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 **Animal Identification**

- 17 A. IBCA encourages mandatory identification of cattle of all ages, preferably with
18 standardized electronic identification (i.e. RFID 840 tags), so as to carry all
19 pertinent information for trace-back and capturing value-added opportunities.
- 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 protect privacy rights.
- 25 C. IBCA would encourage compensation for federally mandated requirements of
26 individual electronic animal identification including reading equipment for
27 livestock markets.
- 28 D. IBCA supports the Indiana Livestock Theft Alert program, and encourages
29 Indiana cattlemen to permanently (i.e. tattoos and brands) identify their
30 animals.
- 31 E. IBCA strongly encourages permanent identification of cattle of all ages,
32 originating from domestic or foreign sources. Cattle from other countries must
33 retain their country of origin tags.
- 34 F. IBCA supports the brand registry program in Indiana.

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 **Importation of Mexican Cattle**

43 Be it resolved that the IBCA urges stricter enforcement of tuberculosis (TB)
44 requirements for the entry of cattle from Mexico. This includes support of United
45 States Animal Health Association recommendations on branding animals entering

1 the U.S. by establishing criteria for Mexican cattle to qualify under current U.S. TB
2 import requirements. Criteria would be based on incentives to encourage adoption
3 and implementation of TB eradication programs in other Mexican states using the
4 program. TB programs in Mexico should be conducted under the same standard
5 regulations as in the United States.
6

7 **Animal Welfare Standards**

- 8 A. IBCA encourages Indiana cattle producers to continue the high standards of
9 animal welfare currently practiced in our industry. IBCA will cooperate with
10 other Indiana agricultural organizations to develop programs that assure that
11 these welfare standards remain at the highest possible levels throughout
12 animal agriculture.
- 13 B. IBCA supports Indiana BOAH as the statewide authority to implement and
14 oversee the regulations and guidelines concerning Farm Animal care and
15 welfare.
- 16 C. In addition, IBCA endorses the following criteria for handling non-ambulatory
17 livestock:
- 18 1. Producers shall not transport non-ambulatory or severely ocular
19 neoplastic (cancer eye) livestock to market facilities and IBCA
20 encourages livestock markets to refuse to accept these animals.
 - 21 2. Animals that are disabled during transportation shall be humanely
22 euthanized, according to AVMA standards or the Humane Slaughter Act.
 - 23 3. Employees of livestock operations, markets and processing facilities
24 shall be instructed in the humane handling of all livestock in a
25 collaborative effort between Purdue Extension, BOAH & IBCA.
 - 26 4. Livestock that are sick or injured and unresponsive to medical
27 treatment for a reasonable period of convalescence shall be humanely
28 euthanized on the farm and disposed of in accordance with federal,
29 state and local regulations or the Humane Slaughter Act.
- 30 D. IBCA encourages the scientific rearing of any animals housed in confinement
31 operations while utilizing the industry's best recognized management
32 practices.
33

34 **State Meat Inspection Services**

35 Indiana consumers and the Indiana cattle industry have long benefited from the
36 public food safety assurance resulting from the dedicated, ongoing daily
37 supervision of the Indiana State Meat Inspection Service.

- 38 A. IBCA supports the continuation of this critical state food safety assurance program.
39 Meat Inspection funding should be re-instated at the level prior to budget cuts
40 incurred in 2010. At a minimum, the program budget must be maintained at 2010
41 levels through the state budget with the possibility of additional funding shortfalls
42 being supplemented by user fees on non-custom exempt carcasses.
- 43 B. IBCA supports the federal rule which allows interstate shipment of state inspected
44 meat and meat products. Since state inspected packing plants are required to
45 meet federal HACCP regulations, meat inspected under state programs should be
46 accorded the same freedom of movement in interstate commerce as is accorded
47 meat imported into the United States from foreign countries.
- 48 C. IBCA endorses legal actions against USDA and/or FDA to ensure inspection equity
49 between red meats, poultry, and seafood.

1 D. IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in providing voluntary
2 grading and certification relating to meat and meat products.

3 E. IBCA supports the training of state inspectors for the USDA requirements
4

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

6 IBCA supports the NCBA policy on the judicious and scientific use of antibiotics in
7 livestock production and encourages a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship
8 (VCPR) between producers and their veterinarian.
9

10 **Animal Seizure**

11 IBCA supports the current policy by BOAH (as of July 1, 2015) in assessing the
12 negligence of an animal or animals. Negligence cases will be reviewed by a BOAH
13 veterinarian for the species under question before animals can be seized by proper
14 authorities.
15

16 **Pseudorabies Eradication**

17 IBCA supports the pseudorabies eradication program in Indiana and the continued
18 monitoring of the free status. IBCA supports the continued monitoring of diseases
19 of feral swine.
20

21 **Identification of Cervid Animals**

22 IBCA supports the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in their process of
23 identifying the location of cervid herds, and supports the individual, approved
24 identification of all cervid animals, and the controlled movement of these animals
25 in order to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of TB, Brucellosis,
26 Chronic Wasting Disease, and any other regulated cattle disease, to Indiana's cattle
27 industry.
28

29 **Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis)**

30 IBCA encourages the involvement of the Indiana Board of Animal Health, Purdue
31 University Animal Sciences Department and the Purdue University College of
32 Veterinary Medicine and related organizations in the study and regulation of
33 paratuberculosis in livestock. IBCA encourages:

- 34 A. A testing program for adult cattle prior to change of ownership and testing
35 of Dams of animals less than two years of age;
- 36 B. A continued educational program to create awareness of the disease;
- 37 C. IBCA supports funding for the Johne's Disease Testing Program, as well as
38 funding for a risk assessment management plan. In lieu of a decrease in
39 federal funding, the IBCA encourages state funding to meet the balance of
40 BOAH's budget for Indiana's Voluntary Johne's Disease Program not met by
41 the federal cooperative agreement. IBCA supports adequate funding of the
42 Johne's Program.
- 43 D. Animals testing positive on a fecal culture or PCR test need to be officially
44 identified and shipped directly to slaughter according to BOAH guidelines.
45

46 **Beef Quality Assurance**

47 A. IBCA encourages the involvement of the Indiana Board of Animal Health,
48 Purdue University Animal Sciences Department, Purdue University College of
49 Veterinary Medicine, veterinarians, local beef associations, livestock and feed

- 1 dealers and those who market animal health products to disseminate Beef
2 Quality Assurance (BQA) information.
- 3 B. IBCA recommends those involved in beef production use animal health products
4 according to manufacturers recommended dosage and route of administration,
5 and that those involved with beef production *must* follow manufacturers
6 approved slaughter withdrawal times.
- 7 C. Specifically, IBCA recommends the following actions:
8 1. Continue producer education efforts concerning injection sites;
9 2. Adoption of permanent identification systems which are essential for
10 evaluation of health, marketing, and carcass quality.
11 3. IBCA supports the development of value added market opportunities for
12 the Indiana beef producers.
13 4. IBCA supports the National Beef Quality Assurance program.

14 **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**

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

30 **BVD Testing**

31 IBCA supports the development of a state/national bovine viral diarrhea (BVD)
32 testing program. IBCA also encourages the commonly accepted removal of
33 persistently Infected (PI) BVD animals and the continued education of the beef
34 cattle industry in proposed management practices. IBCA also encourages research
35 and testing for BVD.
36

37 **Trichomoniasis Testing**

38 IBCA encourages BOAH to implement a Trichomoniasis test requirement in non-
39 virgin bulls imported into Indiana. Testing can be done by ADDL at Purdue
40 University.
41

42 **Humane Horse Slaughter**

43 IBCA supports legislation and funding to allow for the USDA Inspected slaughter of
44 horses in the United States. IBCA supports the proposed legislation to allow the
45 movement of horses for slaughter in the United States.
46
47

1 **Mortality Management**

2 A. IBCA supports BOAH's current rules and regulations concerning carcass disposal
3 and supports BOAH as the sole governing authority over carcass disposal.

4 B. IBCA supports producer management of run-off potential from carcass disposal
5 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. IBCA Supports 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. IBCA Supports 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 that can be created within and through NAFTA, 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.

1 **Indiana Beef Industry Development**

- 2 A. IBCA supports Indiana beef industry development efforts that would improve
3 the region's competitive industry position by more effectively organizing and
4 utilizing the region's resources.
- 5 B. IBCA is also interested in working with any local, state and federal economic
6 development group to explore the possibility of strengthening and expanding
7 the infrastructure of the beef industry. This includes, but is not limited to:
8 1. Exploring the possibility to enhance the viability of all packing and
9 processing plants within the state to enhance producer profitability.
10 2. Identify sources of capital that support cattle profit partnerships.
11 3. Supporting the enhancement and development of new methods to
12 communicate the reputation, needs and availability of feeder and fed
13 cattle.
14 4. IBCA supports the coordination of efforts that will more efficiently bring
15 buyers and sellers together. We support the expansion of livestock
16 market reporting within the state.
17 5. Support development of USDA feeder calf grading system and
18 encouraging weekly and special sales.
19 6. Continue support of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
20 INDIANA GROWN agri-based program promoting Indiana agriculture
21 products.
22 7. Identifying and supporting alliances and partnerships that will enhance
23 producer profitability. These alliances and partnerships will include,
24 but not be limited to, checkoff funds for corn and soybeans and the
25 Indiana State Fair.
26 8. IBCA supports the continuation and expansion of direct marketed
27 Indiana beef.
- 28 C. IBCA supports the development of an infrastructure that will allow a small to
29 mid-size Indiana beef producer to effectively and efficiently use the by-
30 products from by-product plants.
- 31 D. IBCA supports the re-instatement of meat inspection funding at the level prior
32 to budget cuts incurred in 2010.
33 1. IBCA supports the availability and expansion of the meat inspection
34 program to include freezer beef, farmer's markets and making the
35 infrastructure equitable between livestock and deer product
36 requirements available to food pantries.
- 37 E. IBCA supports participation in the National BQA Program to enhance the
38 consumer's perception of the industry.

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41 **Beef Ventures Group, LLC**

42 IBCA continues the support of, and partnership with the Beef Ventures Group, LLC
43 in evaluating the feasibility of economic development projects that benefit
44 Indiana's beef industry and working to privatize viable projects.
45
46

1 **Product Development and Labeling**

2 IBCA supports and encourages the continued development of:

- 3 A. New consumer-friendly, convenience products that will lead to greater beef
4 demand.
- 5 B. Uniform labeling of beef products to enhance consumer knowledge of nutritional
6 value and convenience.
- 7 C. Public policy that supports voluntary, industry driven Country of Origin Labeling
8 (COOL) that allows maximum benefits and minimal market disruption. We do
9 not support mandatory COOL. Additionally, IBCA supports COOL laws that are
10 in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.

11

12 **Antitrust Law Enforcement**

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

- 15 A. To facilitate these actions, it must be recognized that the Grain Inspection,
16 Packers and Stockyards Agency (GIPSA) functions as a regulatory agency.
17 IBCA further requests that GIPSA's powers be consistent with free-market
18 principles.
- 19 B. IBCA supports the continuation of the free market agreements and
20 alliances between producers and packers.
- 21 C. IBCA urges NCBA to position itself to protect the cattle industry from
22 being monopolized.
- 23 D. IBCA urges NCBA to pursue efforts to prevent manipulation of price
24 and encourage value discovery.

25

26 **Marketing of Cattle**

27 IBCA is opposed to political solutions (including, but not limited to controls on packer
28 ownership) that would restrict the free-flow of cattle into the beef processing market.
29 IBCA supports free and open markets with minimal government interventions.

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.

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.
 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.
- E. IBCA encourages ISDA, USDA and Congress to provide necessary financial support for base funding and competitive grants that provide for systems-based research and education programs.
- F. Research priorities include but are not limited to:

- 1 1. Increasing efficiency of quality beef production, through relevant basic and
2 applied research, that will enhance the understanding of mechanisms that
3 control and regulate:
 - 4 a. Product quality and consumer acceptance of beef products
 - 5 b. Nutrient utilization while conserving natural resources
 - 6 c. Reproductive efficiency
 - 7 d. Muscle and adipose growth
 - 8 e. Disease control and resistance, immunity and genetic markers
 - 9 f. Enhancing both pre-harvest and post-harvest food safety, nutritional
10 quality and acceptability of animal products by:
 - 11 1. Evaluating the quality and wholesomeness of beef products;
 - 12 2. Understanding the importance of beef's nutritional role in a
13 healthy human diet;
 - 14 3. Developing and utilizing new technologies to improve animal
15 products;
 - 16 4. Providing communication to consumers, media and foodservice
17 groups about the importance of proper food safety, cooking and
18 handling techniques as well as the nutritional value of beef
19 products.
 - 20 5. Developing and utilizing new technologies that will continually
21 enhance the safety of our beef products such as irradiation of
22 ground product or other potential intervention strategies.
- 23 2. Development of nutrient management systems that are economically viable
24 and environmentally sound. Encourage Purdue University to enhance
25 research and extension programs that evaluate alternative production
26 systems.
- 27 3. Development of systems to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of
28 Indiana beef production. Such as:
 - 29 a. Support the use of unique animal identification, including, RFID 840
30 electronic animal identification for trace-back and information
31 sharing.
 - 32 b. Pursue development of profit partnerships within the beef industry
33 and consumer groups.
- 34 4. IBCA supports research and education in animal handling, housing and well-
35 being of all livestock species.
- 36 5. IBCA supports funding for research and education efforts dealing with co-
37 products from industry.
- 38 G. Support the coordination and consistency between Ivy Tech Community
39 College, Vincennes University, Huntington University, Grace College, NewU (Purdue),
40 and Purdue University agricultural educational programs.

41
42 **Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine**

- 43 A. IBCA recommends adequate staffing to ensure the continuation of broad-based
44 curriculum including zoonotic diseases being offered by the College of
45 Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. The goal should be to adequately
46 prepare practitioners of food animal medicine to provide for the health and
47 well-being of food animals in Indiana, especially cattle.
- 48 B. IBCA supports the increase in acceptance of Indiana resident students into the
49 College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University to support the increase in
50 talent pool serving the Indiana Livestock Industries.

- 1 C. IBCA supports the work of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)
2 Large Animal Task Force and encourages actions to be taken to increase the
3 number of food animal veterinarians serving animal agriculture and fund
4 financial incentives to entice those veterinarians interested in large animal
5 practices to stay within the state.
6 D. IBCA supports the funding for a new large animal veterinary clinic facility.
7 E. IBCA Supports an Extension Veterinary emphasis to serve the beef industry in
8 Indiana.
9

10 Youth Development

11 A. Indiana Young Cattlemen (IYC)

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

14 B. Indiana Junior Beef Cattle Association (IJBCA)

15 IBCA supports and applauds the IJBCA and recognizes its members as the future
16 leaders of the beef industry.
17
18

19 B. Youth Development and Competition

20 IBCA supports

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

37 Beef Improvement Programs

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

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

45 B. *Integrated Resource Management (IRM)/Standardized Performance Analysis*
46 *(SPA)* - IBCA supports the IRM/SPA program and encourages producer
47 participation.

48 C. *Indiana Beef Evaluation and Economics Feeding (IBEEF) Program.* IBCA
49 strongly encourages producers to participate in this feedout program to

- 1 improve carcass quality, manage economic returns, identify marketing
2 opportunities and enhance the reputation of Indiana beef cattle.
3 D. IBCA encourages the continued development and adoption of the national
4 Beef Quality Assurance program and producer participation to enhance the
5 reputation and marketability of their cattle.
6

7 **Funding for Purdue Extension and Research**

8 IBCA supports an increase in federal, state and local funding for Purdue Extension
9 and Research programs and the staff necessary to carry out the programs.
10

11 **Assessment of Beef Industry Needs**

- 12
13
14 A. IBCA should work with Purdue Animal Sciences Department, Purdue Extension,
15 College of Veterinary Medicine, allied industry, ISDA, BOAH, and other livestock
16 organizations to conduct a Needs Assessment to identify opportunities and
17 threats, programs and staff, to support the future of Indiana's beef industry.
18 B. IBCA recognizes the need to recruit Indiana youth to Purdue and other Indiana
19 schools and then retain them in the livestock and allied industries.
20 C. IBCA will take a proactive role in the development of strategic plans for Purdue
21 University, the College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and
22 other colleges and departments pertinent to agriculture and the beef industry.
23

24 **Education Funding**

25 IBCA strongly supports continued state and local funding for agriculture and food
26 science education in all school curriculums including, but not limited to, vocational
27 agriculture and Family and Consumer Science programs.
28

29 **Animal Welfare**

30 IBCA encourages its members to take a proactive role in educating producers,
31 allied industry, local consumers and public officials as to the legal obligations,
32 jurisdictions and expectations afforded under current regulations affecting animal
33 treatment and possible seizure of neglected animals. IBCA supports continued
34 research into animal management and well-being. IBCA also supports BOAH's
35 Animal Care and Use Guidelines.
36

37 **State Grant Funding**

38 IBCA strongly encourages increased state funding for promotion, market
39 development, and value-added projects through opportunities such as, but not
40 limited to, the Indiana Livestock Development Grants, Value-Added Grant Fund and
41 Indiana Livestock Promotion Fund to enable Indiana's beef industry to pursue
42 innovative opportunities.
43
44

45 **Public Event Demonstrators**

46 IBCA supports the efforts of commodity groups, Purdue Extension, and allied
47 industry groups in creating a standard operating procedure that addresses how
48 protestors and demonstrators will be handled at shows and sales and include

1 designated areas for protests to take place at public events. IBCA also supports
2 providing these guidelines to state and all counties and IBCA affiliates.
3
4
5

TAX AND FINANCE

Property Taxes

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

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

- A. IBCA supports removal of the debt service and county welfare from property tax revenues.
- B. IBCA believes that revenues lost through this reform can best be replaced by sales tax and/or state personal income tax.
- C. The IBCA supports sales tax as the first option while maintaining the present agricultural exemptions.
- D. Additionally, 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.
- E. IBCA does not support tiered taxation.

Property Tax Reassessment

IBCA encourages the General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive re-evaluation of Indiana's property tax system. Such a re-evaluation should consider:

- A. A fair and realistic formula for determining the base value of farmland
- B. A 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 believes 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. IBCA supports property tax assessment provisions that allow parcels of farmland to be:

- A. Classified as a farmland preservation parcel upon application to the county assessor;
- B. 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;
- C. 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.
- D. IBCA opposes the formula for determining farmland's base value that considers a number of factors including yield per acre, commodity prices and cash rents.
- E. IBCA opposes re-classification of agriculture land for tax reasons to the detriment of land owner.

Local Tax Revenue

1 IBCA supports the Soil Productivity Factor method of assessment provided that the
2 use value scenario is used.

3
4
5 **Tangible Personal Property Tax**

6 IBCA supports the continued elimination of tangible personal property tax.

7
8 **Beef Production Credit Needs**

9 A. IBCA should develop programs to facilitate dialogue and understanding between
10 beef producers and Ag lenders concerning beef enterprise viability and cattle
11 industry capital formation in Indiana.

12 B. IBCA should provide technical resources to help producers improve their
13 recordkeeping systems.

14 C. IBCA should investigate and promote the use of financial and management
15 programs to assist producers with planning on their operation.

16
17 **Sales Tax Laws**

18 A. IBCA supports sales tax exemptions for any items related to production
19 agriculture.

20 B. IBCA supports clarification of existing sales tax exemption laws and rules,
21 including but not limited to fencing and drain tiles.

22 C. Educating retailers to these laws.

23
24 **Death Taxes**

25 IBCA supports the elimination of all inheritance taxes, at both the State and
26 Federal level

27
28 **Unfunded Mandates**

29 Any local, state or federal mandate should only be allowed if it is fully funded by
30 the mandating body.

31
32 **U.S. Monetary Policy**

33 Recognizing that monetary policies of the Federal Reserve strongly impact the U.S.
34 economy and that the Federal Reserve uses interest rates to control inflation and
35 stimulate economic growth, IBCA recommends that the Federal Reserve be
36 required to evaluate the impact of monetary policy changes on economic
37 expansion and that these projections be made public.

38
39 **Federal Tax Policy**

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

42 A. A new system shall:

43 1. Lower the tax rates on America's families;

44 2. End biases against working, saving and investing

45 3. Allow full deductibility of the payroll tax for working men and women;

46 4. Any changes must require a two-thirds super majority vote in Congress
47 to raise taxes.

48 B. Any changes in tax policy shall promote the following six goals for a
49 (national) 21st century tax system:

- 1 1. Economic growth through incentives to work, save and invest;
 - 2 2. Fairness for all tax payers;
 - 3 3. Simplicity so that everyone can figure it out;
 - 4 4. Neutrality so that people and not government can make choices;
 - 5 5. Visibility so that people know the cost of government;
 - 6 6. Stability so that people can plan for their future.
- 7 C. IBCA supports eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- 8

9 **1031 Exchanges**

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

13

14 **Cash Accounting Methods**

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

16

17 **Tax Credits for Productivity Losses**

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

21

22 **Capital Gains Exclusion**

- 23 A. IBCA supports the exclusion of at least \$6,000,000 of capital gains on the sale
24 of a farm or any other agricultural capital asset; and if, at the time of death
25 the owner had not exercised the exclusion, the \$6,000,000 is added to the
26 estate tax exemption.
 - 27 B. IBCA supports an annual increase of capital gains exemption and/or elimination
28 of the capital gains tax.
 - 29 C. Exemption of capital gains tax due to Eminent Domain.
- 30

31 **Local Property Tax Abatement**

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

35

36 **Indiana's Tax Policy**

37 IBCA supports the state's efforts to reduce the reliance on property taxes for
38 funding and encourage economic development. As a summary, in regard to taxes:

- 39 A. IBCA supports the elimination of welfare related levies from property taxes.
- 40 B. IBCA supports the elimination of trial court levies from property taxes.
- 41 C. IBCA supports a Homestead Credit of 15% with a minimum of \$35,000.00.
- 42 D. IBCA supports the Investment Tax Credit.
- 43 E. IBCA supports preserving the Property Tax Relief Credit.
- 44 F. IBCA supports maintaining a County and Township Government structure.
- 45 G. IBCA supports land and property taken by eminent domain to be free from
46 capital gains taxes or income taxes.
- 47 H. IBCA supports no new education or welfare programs be implemented
48 without full funding of operational and capital expenses by means other
49 than property taxes.

- 1 I. IBCA support an increase in state sales tax and income tax if property taxes
2 are eliminated.
- 3 J. IBCA supports local option income tax.
- 4 K. IBCA supports Indiana tax policy that reflects federal depreciation
5 allowances.
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

10 **Transportation Formula**

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

13

14 **Incentives for Ag Ventures**

15 IBCA supports legislation that gives incentives for investment in agricultural
16 ventures.

17

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.

Fence Law

- A. IBCA supports the current Indiana fence law (as of July 1, 2016), 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.

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.
- 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.

- 1 F. Notification of adjacent property owners prior to the establishment of new
2 trails. A public hearing should be called for this purpose.
3

4 **Livestock Predator Control**

5 IBCA supports programs for effective wildlife management and predator control
6 and encourages members to use program assistance available from the Animal
7 Damage Control Program of USDA - Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service at
8 Purdue University and/or Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IN DNR).
9

10 **Wildlife Population Control**

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

- 14 A. IBCA encourages more dialogue with the IN DNR on all wildlife species
15 before reintroduction to the state, especially those species considered
16 cattle predators.
17 B. Issuance of more hunting permits and/or extended seasons.
18 C. Granting farmers the right to protect his/her property from wild animals in
19 any reasonable manner.
20 D. Granting direct payments to farmers for substantial crop losses and fence
21 damage.
22 E. Encourage USDA Fish and Wildlife to create policy allowing for a more
23 effective program to reduce all predatory animal species (including timber
24 rattlesnakes and black vultures).
25

26 **Air Protections**

- 27 A. IBCA opposes legislation to regulate farm dust.
28 B. IBCA opposes new greenhouse gas regulation for livestock production.
29

30 **Water Protection**

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

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

1 and creeks that coincide with best practices to protect water quality and
2 stream bank stabilization.

- 3 D. IBCA supports additional funding for Clean Water Indiana in order to
4 leverage federal monies for water and conservation efforts.
- 5 E. IBCA opposes the current expansion of the Clean Water Act under the
6 Waters of the United States proposal of the EPA and the Army Corp of
7 Engineers. If re-written, ag stakeholders should be involved from the
8 beginning.

10 11 **Trespassing on Private Lands**

12 IBCA encourages stepped-up enforcement of state trespassing laws to prohibit
13 trespassing on private lands or access through private lands to gain access to public
14 lands and waters.

15 16 **Land Conservation Program Funding**

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

- 21 A. IBCA supports the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Grassland
22 Reserve Program, Farmland Protection Program, Conservation Reserve
23 Enhancement Program and similar programs to protect the environment and
24 species habitat while supporting agricultural production.
- 25 B. IBCA encourages more even distribution of program funds both
26 geographically and species-specific.
- 27 C. IBCA supports the efforts of and participation in the Grazing Lands
28 Conservation Initiative.
- 29 D. IBCA supports the development of a more user-friendly conservation
30 programs that will address timeliness, flexibility, and allow for inflationary
31 increases for producers.

32 33 **Animal Feeding Operations**

34 IBCA encourages all producers to handle animal manure in a manner that coincides
35 with regulations as of July 1, 2016. IBCA supports the state law requirement for
36 Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) to adhere to a zero-discharge performance
37 standard. Acknowledge that Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) that
38 discharge are subject to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant
39 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations. IBCA supports Indiana Livestock
40 Coalition efforts to promote livestock feeding operations.

- 41 A. Standards should:
 - 42 1. Maintain the integrity of Indiana's surface waters;
 - 43 2. Recognize the site specific and management specific nature of
44 individual operations;
 - 45 3. Cattle producers should not be required to conform with regulations
46 until or unless expansion occurs whereupon the new standards must be
47 met

- 1 4. Remain focused within the parameters of the confined feeding law
- 2 concerning water quality and not stray into jurisdiction of odor and dust
- 3 without legislative consent
- 4 5. Recognize that manure is an agronomic nutrient and is an organic by-
- 5 product of value added agriculture.
- 6 B. IBCA supports uniform standards with regard to water quality from runoff or
- 7 discharge regardless of origin.
- 8 C. IBCA values skilled and educated Indiana Department of Environmental
- 9 Management (IDEM) inspectors.
- 10 D. IBCA supports new technologies that allow producers options in manure
- 11 management systems such as but not limited to; digesters, constructed
- 12 wetlands, water purification systems; so that if waste water meets water
- 13 quality standards, it may be discharged.
- 14

15 **Hoosier Heritage Trust Fund (HHTF)**

16 IBCA believes that quasi-public money should not be spent for the removal of land
17 from private ownership. IBCA recommends the following changes to the Hoosier
18 Heritage Trust Fund and other public lands:

- 19 A. All lands purchased by the HHTF, other environmental trusts, or other
- 20 public lands should not be exempt from property tax, thus reducing the
- 21 local tax base.
- 22 B. IBCA recommends that the HHTF oversight body include representatives
- 23 from agriculture and other land owning sectors.
- 24 C. Funds may be used to purchase development rights (development
- 25 easements) to preserve farmland and protect natural habitats.
- 26 D. Management and operation of land acquired through the HHTF program
- 27 should not have a negative impact on nearby agricultural lands.
- 28

29 **Land Use Policy and Farmland Protection**

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

34 IBCA encourages state government to:

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

- I. Support legislation to increase market value offered and paid on agricultural land entered into a land use program that is to be taken by eminent domain for public use.
- J. Assure post construction land has been restored to its original state.
- K. Support the work of the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) to promote and coordinate wise land use positions. Encourage administration to re-establish ILRC.
- L. IBCA opposes the establishment of general moratoriums which prohibit expansion or development of agricultural operations.

IBCA also encourages local communities to:

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

IBCA also encourages producers to use science-based information when considering siting of livestock operations. IBCA also encourages good neighbor relations and ongoing communications with community members.

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.

1 **Global Climate Legislation**

2 IBCA is opposed to the Global Climate Legislation because:

- 3 A. A lack of scientific data has garnered widespread disagreement throughout
4 the scientific community.
5 B. The economic impact of proposed regulations has not been adequately
6 assessed.
7 C. Proposed solutions provide an unfair economic advantage to developing
8 nations at the expense of developed nations.
9 D. The proposed regulations have not been determined to be effective in
10 addressing the alleged problem of climate change.
11

12
13 **Natural and Scenic Rivers Designations**

14 IBCA opposes any efforts to designate Indiana streams as Natural, Scenic, or
15 Recreational Rivers.
16

17 **State Rulemaking Process**

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

24 **IDEM Ag Liaison**

25 IBCA supports the position of an Agricultural Liaison position within IDEM at the
26 senior staff level. The position should maintain its confidentiality protection to
27 encourage communication and technical assistance at the producer level.
28
29