



Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

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ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

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mRNA Vaccine Usage in Bovine

WHEREAS, US beef is considered the safest and most desirable beef,

WHEREAS, US beef producers practice the safest protocols to ensure the safety of their beef,

WHEREAS, these protocols encompass best practices in handling, feeding, vaccinating (both preventative and curative), etc.

WHEREAS, pharmaceutical entities are experimenting with mRNA vaccines for meat producing animals,

WHEREAS the mRNA vaccines produce spike protein in great volume in the vaccinated animals,

WHEREAS, there are no available impact studies on the animal health after vaccination short or long term,

WHEREAS, there are no available impact studies on the consumer health from ingesting the resulting meat products, and

WHEREAS, there are no reports available on imported meats that may contain these vaccines,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas opposes the use of mRNA vaccines in our meat producing animals, until health and safety studies are included for our animals and consumers, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ICA Texas expects all mRNA produced medications be prominently labeled as an mRNA product, so the administrator clearly is aware, prior to administration.

**Presented
07.08.23**

**Passed
07.08.23**

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy
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Definition of U.S. Beef

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supported Country of Origin Labeling and the definition of U.S. Beef defined in the 2008 Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports U.S. cattle producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports directing Federal Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) to clearly define U.S. Beef as only beef born, raised, and harvested in the United States (U.S.).

**Proposed
9.16.16**

**Passed
9.16.16**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Chronic Wasting Disease in Texas

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting has been diagnosed in the Texas deer herd, primarily in captive deer breeding herds; and

WHEREAS, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Animal Health Commission have jointly set rules for the testing and transportation of captive deer; and

WHEREAS, there exists many different expert opinions on the modes of testing and the severity of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Texas deer breeders have very large monetary investments in the affected captive deer breeding herds and the remuneration for deer euthanized for testing purposes is minimal,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas recommends that the Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Animal Health Commission utilize the best available scientific information and only rely on state-of-the-art testing methods to effectively control Chronic Wasting Disease in the Texas deer herd.

**Proposed
9.16.16**

**Passed
9.16.16**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Animal Welfare

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas believes that all livestock should be treated humanely; and

WHEREAS, many animal activist groups have adopted animal rights agendas that are designed to destroy the livestock industry; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports existing state laws that address animal cruelty that are in concert with existing industry accepted practices of handling and caring for livestock and do not interfere with the normal handling and care of livestock,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas recognizes that livestock are part of the human food chain and that livestock do not have individual rights and are not subject to treatment equivalent to human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas urges state agencies to adopt policy that sets approved, rational, statewide animal care and handling policy based on the recommendations of existing livestock industry associations and not self-appointed animal rights activists.

**Passed
6.11.10**

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

National Animal Identification System

WHEREAS, the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a program mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to: identify livestock producers, their premises and the premises where the livestock may be handled, managed, housed, or processed; to tag livestock or livestock groups with an identifiable numbering system; and to provide for the recording and storage of animal movement data; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this program is to provide the necessary infrastructure to identify, monitor, control, and eradicate animal diseases, thus providing a framework for state and national animal health emergency response actions; and

WHEREAS, USDA has failed to follow the recommendations of the National Animal ID Working Group, a group which includes, among others, the heads of state and tribal animal health commissions, all of whom are officials charged with the health and safety of livestock in their respective jurisdictions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has therefore developed this formal position statement in order to serve the interest of our membership on this critical issue.

We strongly believe in maintaining the health of the U.S. cattle herd. To assist in this goal, we support a voluntary NAIS with the purpose of developing a workable system that will satisfy animal health needs and not place undue burden on our producer members. To that end the system must be reliable, confidential, cost efficient, and meet the required health and safety requirements of NAIS.

1. We believe the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) should solely be in charge of administering the voluntary NAIS program with the responsibilities of collecting, storing, and managing the data for the State of Texas. We believe each state or tribal entity should maintain their individual data collection and storage systems.
2. We believe access to the data should be restricted to authorized TAHC and USDA personnel and limited specifically to bio-security and disease issues and animal health assurance. Furthermore, we believe NAIS should not be used to determine producer civil liability. ICA supports passing legislation that exempts all information in NAIS from the Freedom of Information Act.
3. Under no circumstances should any portion of the NAIS program be made mandatory before Congress has appropriated the necessary funds to assure that no undue burden is placed on any segment of the livestock industry to include producers, livestock marketing agents, or related entities.

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

National Animal Identification System continued...

4. The cost of all NAIS tags should be funded by the USDA and supplied at no cost to the producers and livestock marketing agents under the guidance of the TAHC in the state of Texas. In addition, livestock marketing agents should not be required to apply NAIS tags to livestock without fair remuneration. Neither Congress nor USDA should impose unfunded NAIS mandates on producers.
5. All stakeholders and interested parties may participate directly in the design, but should be restrained from participating directly in the administration or implementation of the NAIS program so as to avoid a conflict or perceived conflict of interest.
6. We do not support federally mandated, third party, private database programs. Animal health and safety data is of utmost importance and must be administered by the TAHC.
7. We oppose any provision of NAIS rules that would require tracking of animals within a premise or would require tagging of animals before leaving a premise.
8. We believe all livestock and livestock products that are in compliance with the NAIS rules should be readily identified by country of origin.

Passed
6.16.06

Amended
6.19.09

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Regionalization

WHEREAS, the health of the U.S. cattle herd is vital to the profitability of independent cattle producers; and

WHEREAS, the US agricultural health and safety programs were established to protect the domestic agricultural industry and present a line of defense for foreign animal and plant diseases,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas opposes efforts by the government of the United States to allow regionalization of foreign countries with animal disease problems if such regionalization weakens animal health or food safety standards concerning importation of cattle or beef into the United States.

Proposed	Passed
3.08	06.27.08

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Trichomoniasis Testing

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas recognizes the need for increased health standards for livestock; and

WHEREAS, Trichomoniasis has become an increasingly prevalent disease in Texas and other western states; and

WHEREAS, many breeding age bulls imported into Texas originate from states experiencing outbreaks of Trichomoniasis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the Texas Animal Health Commission adopting regulations requiring all breeding age bulls to be tested for Trichomoniasis prior to importation into Texas.

Presented
6.27.08

Passed
6.27.08

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Black Headed Mexican Buzzards

WHEREAS, the well-being of many bird flocks in the State of Texas are protected by both state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, a species among these, commonly referred to as the Black Headed Mexican Buzzard; and

WHEREAS, these carrion consuming carnivores do provide in some ways a public service by consuming carcasses of dead animals, however, the overly aggressive nature of the Mexican Buzzard often directs them to weak, newborn, or defenseless animals prior to death. This attack causes distress among the animal’s mother and many times causes the defenseless animals death; and

WHEREAS, this attack on defenseless animals impacts the economic well-being of animal owners across the state,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the adopting of policy by state and federal officials who will allow animal owners to deal with this pest.

Presented	Passed
06.21.2003	06.21.2003

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Control of Black Flies

WHEREAS, the rivers and streams of the State of Texas are subject to many state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, there is reemerging in Northeast Texas and other parts of the state an insect species commonly referred to as “black flies” (i.e. Turkey Gnats, Buffalo Gnats), which cause considerable economic impact on cattle herds, horses, mules, poultry flocks, wildlife as well as people. These pests also impact industrial plants and cause general discomfort among the populations with which they come in contact; and

WHEREAS, one individual or group of individuals alone would have little or no opportunity to significantly curtail the activities of this pest as they appear across the state,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the adopting of policy and the conducting of research by federal and state governments to better understand and bring about the control of these unwanted pests.

Presented	Passed
06.21.2003	06.21.2003

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Tuberculosis Eradication Effort

WHEREAS, the state of Texas has been downgraded from its tuberculosis accredited-free status to one of modified accredited advanced; and

WHEREAS, such action will require more stringent oversight and/or regulation of the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the majority of cow/calf operations in the United States,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) supports an eradication effort that is based on sound science that would have the least adverse effect on the Texas cattle industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA favors zoning or regionalization eradication efforts and stronger surveillance at our ports of entry. ICA also supports identifying cattle leaving the state by way of a specific brand or unique ear tag, rather than implementation of a statewide tuberculosis-testing program.

**Passed
6.22.2002**

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Global Foot and Mouth Disease Situation

WHEREAS, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is currently plaguing many parts of the world, especially Europe and the economic and emotional toll of the disease is devastating to animals, individuals and governments; and

WHEREAS, FMD is a highly contagious disease that can spread very rapidly among a wide variety of cloven hoof animals; and

WHEREAS, the Texas cattle handling and processing system is complex and sophisticated which cares for, markets, transports and processes hundreds of thousands of cattle on a daily basis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) calls on the State of Texas, the Federal government and all livestock producers in Texas to take all precautions within their respective powers to prevent this disastrous disease from entering the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA urges both the State of Texas and the Federal government to work closely to develop the most effective emergency contingency plan possible in the event an outbreak of FMD occurs and that critical elements of such plan needing special attention include timely payment of livestock depopulated, strict enforcement of quarantines and the most effective public awareness program possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas urges state and federal governments working on such plans to establish priority lines of communication with Texas livestock producers in the event of an outbreak of FMD.

**Passed
05.08.2001**

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Animal Law Specialty

WHEREAS, the civil and criminal court system in the United States is backlogged with a heavy caseload; and

WHEREAS, many of the cases are trivial in nature and serve to slow the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, animal rights activists have long used the Federal and State court system to promote their agenda; and

WHEREAS, several of the nation's law schools have been encouraged to include animal law as a legal specialty; and

WHEREAS, the State Bar of Texas has formed the State Bar Animal Law Section; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) is concerned that challenges from this section could negatively impact research, medical research, veterinary medicine practices as well as livestock handling practices,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas strongly believes that animals need to be treated humanely, however providing them equivalent legal rights as humans is stretching legal boundaries too far.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA advocates the use of common sense and reality and asks the State Bar of Texas to monitor animal rights activities closely.

**Passed
08.11.1998**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Treatment and Disposition of Animals

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports amending Title 10 Health and Safety of Animals, Chapter 821 Treatment and Disposition of Animals, Subchapter A Treatment of Animals of the Texas Agriculture Code; and

WHEREAS, the current rules are unfair to livestock owners who may be the target of animal rights groups attempting to gain publicity and create a dismal depiction of normal livestock practices; and

THEREFORE, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports adding the following rule changes to the Texas Agriculture Code, Sec. 821.022 a. the investigating officer will ascertain all owners of the animal(s) and determine any and all lien holders, prior to presenting an application for warrant to the magistrate. Each owner and/or lien holder must be notified in writing by return receipt mail prior to issuance of warrant. Upon receipt of a complaint the magistrate shall cause an unbiased veterinarian, not associated with any parties to the action, and appropriate with the animal practice, to inspect all affected animals and provide a written diagnosis report to the magistrate, prior to warrant issuance. And,

THEREFORE, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association also supports the following changes to Sec. 023 a.1 that prima facia evidence be limited to only the proven mistreated animals; not all animals in possession at the time of magistrates ruling.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas urges the Texas Legislation to immediately create and pass legislation to adequately protect livestock owners from the rules which unfairly treat livestock owners facing animal cruelty proceedings.

**Presented
9.30.2021**

**Passed
9.30.2021**



Checkoff

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

State Beef Council Fund Allocation

WHEREAS, Qualified State Beef Councils may direct that a portion of their funds be forwarded for use in national Checkoff programs; and

WHEREAS, the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB) is presently authorized to receive such funds from State Beef Councils; and

WHEREAS, the CBB provides oversight and recommendations for distribution of all national Checkoff funds and is the mandated funding conduit for national Checkoff dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Checkoff Operating Committee, which is composed of both CBB and Federation of State Beef Council members, is charged with considering budget recommendations proposed by the CBB and with the awarding of national Checkoff contracts funded by national Checkoff dollars,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas urges that all State Beef Council funds forwarded for use by the national Checkoff program should be forwarded to the CBB and awarded by the Beef Checkoff Operating Committee, in a like manner as the national Checkoff monies expended by the Cattlemen’s Beef Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State Beef Councils at their direction be allowed to earmark such funds to certain specific programs.

**Proposed
6.27.08**

**Passed
6.27.08**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Improvement-Promotion of U.S. Born and Raised Beef

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has been a leader in the promotion of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), its approval in the 2002 Farm Bill, and subsequent improvement and implementation in the 2008 Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, ICA recognizes that COOL is a marketing tool and not a food safety issue as determined by USDA; and

WHEREAS, when COOL is fully implemented, producers will have two beef marketing programs, the Beef Checkoff and COOL, with which to promote beef; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes that the Beef Checkoff program, which is funded primarily by U.S. producers, whose cattle are solely U.S. born and raised, should promote their product, U.S. beef,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ICA supports the promotion of U.S. born and raised beef as identified thru COOL, utilizing Beef Checkoff dollars, thus combining the complimentary parts of both programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA believes that by promoting U.S. beef in the market case, U.S. producers will be better able to see their Checkoff dollars working for them.

**Proposed
6.27.08**

**Passed
6.27.08**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Improvement-Public Market Reimbursement

WHEREAS, for over twenty-two years public livestock markets have collected and forwarded checkoff dollars to qualified state beef councils in support of the beef checkoff; and

WHEREAS, during this period of time public livestock markets have provided this service for cattle producers and the checkoff without remuneration for their expense; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, (ICA) considers the present arrangement established under the 1986 Beef Promotion and Research Act and Order and mandated upon livestock markets to be an unfunded and therefore unfair mandate,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ICA supports reimbursing public livestock markets (in a manner similar to other checkoff contractors) for their administration expenses incurred in the collection, record keeping, and forwarding of checkoff funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports the allotment of ten (10) per cent of any Checkoff assessment increase approved by a vote of cattle producers to be retained by the owners of livestock markets that collect and forward Checkoff assessments to qualified state beef councils in order to defray administrative costs of collection.

Proposed
6.27.08

Passed
6.27.08

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Improvement-Assessment Exemption

WHEREAS, The Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) supports a strong and effective Checkoff for the purposes of research, safety, and the promotion of beef; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes that the checkoff should be assessed fairly, should benefit all producers, and should not be a burden to any producer or class of producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ICA supports exempting the sale of animals valued at twenty-five dollars (25.00) or less from the collection of the checkoff assessment.

Proposed
6.27.08

Passed
6.27.08

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Assessment Increase

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has represented cattle producers in Texas since 1974, ICA members support a strong Beef Checkoff program that promotes beef and utilizes our Checkoff dollars wisely. ICA believes the Beef Checkoff program should be a producer-driven program controlled and directed by all of the participants. As an association, ICA has supported the Checkoff since its inception and remains committed to promoting our products and educating consumers; and

WHEREAS, research conducted using checkoff dollars (during the 22 years that the beef checkoff has been in existence) has provided invaluable information and resources in the areas of human health and nutrition, beef safety, beef quality assurance, developing new cuts and new uses for beef, defending the industry against false and unwarranted attacks and criticism, and defense, mitigation and protection against foreign animal disease threats; and

WHEREAS, in the same 22 years, the costs involved in conducting research, development, and promotion have increased, the value purchased by each checkoff dollar has decreased, and the total number of checkoff dollars has steadily decreased. Not only are there substantially less dollars in terms of real value now compared to 1986, but valuable research, development, and promotion goes unfunded, putting beef at a disadvantage compared to the competition,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports an increase in the checkoff assessment to two (2) dollars or an amount decided by producers who pay the assessment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports the creation of a mechanism for future increases in the assessment but also is adamant that a present increase or future increases be subject to and contingent upon the successful vote of those who pay the assessment. No increase should be implemented without the consent of cattle producers.

Proposed
6.27.08

Passed
6.27.08

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Improvements-Referendum, Contractors, Independence

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has represented cattle producers in Texas since 1974 and ICA members support a strong Beef Checkoff program that promotes beef and utilizes our Checkoff dollars wisely; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes the Beef Checkoff program should be producer-driven, controlled and directed by all of the participants. ICA has supported the Beef Checkoff since its inception and remains committed to promoting our products and educating consumers; and

WHEREAS, ICA supports a future Beef Checkoff plan that addresses the inequities in the present system, that insures that producer funds are utilized efficiently and as intended and that the contracting process is transparent, conducted at arm's length from all contractors and is easy to understand by all producers; and

WHEREAS, the per capita beef consumption in the United States has ceased to decline according to Texas Beef Council statistics while ranchers expenses have continued to increase and the packer and retailer portions of the beef dollar, taken as a percentage of gross beef revenue have continued to rise based on industry reporting during the same time period,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that cattle producers who are the primary financial contributors of Beef Checkoff funds, should be the ultimate income beneficiaries of increased beef demand spurred by Checkoff dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that deficiencies in the present system need to be addressed and ICA believes that the Beef Checkoff program would be much more effective and result in a greater return to the producer if the following recommendations are instituted:

1. Conduct a referendum every ten years to determine if producers wish to continue the Checkoff and prior to each ten year referendum conduct an unbiased, third party analysis that measures the effectiveness of the Checkoff program. In addition, producers should continue to have the option to petition for a referendum in the interim between ten year required referendums.
2. Require that the opportunity to contract for Beef Checkoff dollars be open to all contractors to allow for increased competitiveness in the bidding process.
3. Terminate contractor participation in all Checkoff functions such as governance, leadership selection, administration (except for execution of contracts), advisement and contracting selection, so that the contracting process is

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Checkoff Improvements-Referendum, Contractors, Independence continued...

transparent, understandable, at arm’s length from all contractors, and so that the financial trail of Checkoff funds is easily traceable by all parties.

- a. Remove the Federation of State Beef Councils from NCBA. (This is a prime example of an organization, FSBC, involved in the Checkoff fund contracting process that is not at arm’s length with a primary contractor, NCBA.)
- b. Require the Cattlemen’s Beef Board to meet separately from NCBA and all other policy driven and/or contracting organizations (again this is an example of an organization, CBB, that recommends and provides input for Beef Checkoff contracts that is not at arm’s length with a primary contractor, NCBA.)
- c. Remove all policy representatives from joint Checkoff committees and make the representation on those committees reflect the makeup of the Checkoff Operating Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the present Beef Checkoff system and does heartily endorse the above recommended changes.

**Proposed
6.02.2008**

**Passed
6.27.2008**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Revisions to the Beef Checkoff Program

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has represented cattle producers in Texas since 1974 and ICA members support a strong Beef Checkoff program that promotes beef and utilizes our Checkoff dollars wisely; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes the Beef Checkoff program should be a producer-driven program controlled and directed by all of the participants and ICA has supported the Checkoff since its inception and remains committed to promoting our products and educating consumers; and

WHEREAS, ICA supports a future plan that addresses the inequities in the present system, in which producers must be assured that their funds are utilized efficiently and as intended; and

WHEREAS, the per capita beef consumption in the United States has ceased to decline according to Texas Beef Council statistics while the rancher’s expenses have continued to increase and the packer and retailer portions of the beef dollar, taken as a percentage of gross beef revenue, have continued to rise during this same period based on industry reporting,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that cattle producers, who are the major financial contributors of the Beef Checkoff funds, should be the ultimate income beneficiaries of increased beef demand spurred by Checkoff dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that deficiencies in the present system need to be addressed and ICA believes that the Beef Checkoff program would be much more effective and result in a greater return to the producer if the following recommendations were instituted:

1. Create a Checkoff program utilizing a proportionate share of all Beef Checkoff monies, collected from the sale of United States born and raised cattle, being used to promote only U.S. born and raised beef;
2. Allow producers the opportunity to petition for a referendum every five years to decide whether the Checkoff should continue, and whether any changes should be made to the assessment. Prior to such a pending referendum, a third-party, unbiased analysis would be conducted to measure the effectiveness of the Checkoff program;
3. Require that the opportunity to contract for Beef Checkoff dollars be open to all contractors to allow for increased competitiveness in the bidding process;
4. Require that the Cattlemen’s Beef Board and the Federation of State Beef Councils operate as separate and distinct entities, apart from all policy driven organizations, and that contracting entities not be allowed the appearance or the opportunity to influence the administration or decisions of the Cattlemen’s Beef Board or the Federation of State Beef Councils.

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Revisions to the Beef Checkoff Program continued...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the results of the producer poll conducted for the Cattlemen’s Beef Board by Gallop in which producers expressed support of continuation of the Checkoff and the desired areas of change and improvement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the present Beef Checkoff system and does heartily endorse the above recommended changes.

Proposed	Passed
06.02.2007	06.29.2007

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Beef Checkoff Task Force

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) was instrumental in the creation of the current Beef Research and Promotion Act and Order (Checkoff); and

WHEREAS, ICA has continued to be a staunch supporter of Checkoff funded beef research and promotion,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ICA supports the efforts of the Beef Checkoff Task Force to review and improve the Beef Promotion Act and Order.

Presented
6.16.06

Passed
6.16.06

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Beef Checkoff Program

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas has supported the Beef Checkoff program in the past,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association continues to support the Beef Checkoff in its current form and urge the Texas Beef Council to continue to seek improvements in the program’s efficiency and effectiveness.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Texas Beef Checkoff Program

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) supports the current National Beef Checkoff program; and

WHEREAS, ICA recognizes the need for additional promotion of Texas beef, both in Texas, nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the ICA believes that funds generated by an additional, Texas only, beef checkoff should be used solely to promote beef in Texas and to promote Texas beef statewide, nationally and internationally; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports a \$1.00 Texas state checkoff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports:

A referendum and favorable vote of Texas producers be required to implement a separate Texas Beef Checkoff program; and

That a producer referendum election be held every ten years thereafter for the continuation of the Texas Beef Checkoff program, and

That in-state contractors be given first priority over out-of-state contractors; and

That contractors or potential contractors may not have any governance privileges for the operation of the Texas State Beef Checkoff program; and

That an independent third party must provide not only an annual fiscal audit, but also an audit of the program’s effectiveness every five years for the life of the program.

**Presented
2.23.20**



EPA & ETHANOL

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

EPA Endangerment Finding

WHEREAS, under a public health endangerment finding rule, methane gas, one of the six greenhouse gases (GHG) and a derivative of ranching and farming operations, would be considered a threat to the public; and

WHEREAS, a public health finding would expose the agricultural community to new and unnecessary legal liability and increase the cost of business due to the additional costs to prepare for the threat of litigation; and

WHEREAS, given the significance of this finding, every consumer, small business and farmer should be afforded ample time to offer comments to the Environmental Protection Agency,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas opposes the Environmental Protection Agency’s public health endangerment finding rule and urges the Environmental Protection Agency to extend the accelerated public comment period from 60 to 120 days, the normal length of time allotted to comment on its proposals.

Passed	Amended
6.16.06	6.19.09

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the development of renewable energy resources in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the current program, that provides for governmental subsidies for domestic production and tariffs on imports, has promoted an unreasonable market advantage for grain-based ethanol production and has created an economic burden for livestock producers and feed grain related industries; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of governmental mandates for the usage of ethanol has created an additional demand for ethanol,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports a shift of resources towards the development of non-feed grain sources of renewable energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas urges Congress to temper its enthusiasm in rapidly expanding ethanol usage requirements, to eliminate subsidies and tariffs, and to redirect their interest to alternative sources of energy.

Proposed	Passed
3.08	6.27.08

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Use of Ethanol and Bio-diesel Fuel

WHEREAS, the State of Texas has a growing interest in using ethanol and bio-diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, cars built since the 1970’s are fully compatible with up to 10 percent ethanol in the mixture; and

WHEREAS, production of ethanol and bio-diesel in Texas could be the spark needed to make such fuels available for use in thousands of Flex-Fuel vehicles (FFV’s) already on the roads of the state (Ford Taurus, Ford F150 pickups and Chrysler mini-vans) and are sold at no additional cost; and

WHEREAS, ethanol from corn is a clean, renewable fuel that could help solve energy problems while boosting the farm economy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the use of bio-diesel and ethanol blended vehicle fuels and further considers ethanol as the likely replacement for the polluting additive MTDE, which has been sold in “non- attainment” areas of our country.

**Passed
6.22.02**



National Issues

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Wildlife and Livestock Mexican Border Barrier

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the completion of a continuous border barrier (fence) between Texas and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a barrier that prohibits livestock and wildlife from entering the U.S. will prohibit the introduction of additional fever ticks from Mexico. This barrier will facilitate the cooperative efforts between USDA, APHIS, TACH, and the cattle producers in eradicating the fever tick in the U. S.; and

WHEREAS, the United States has officially initiated programs since 1906 to eradicate fever ticks from our cattle herds; these efforts have been successful in all states, but Texas where it borders Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the recurring problem is the uncontrolled travel of both livestock and wildlife between Mexico and Texas; and

WHEREAS, efforts to eradicate fever tick infested areas separated from the border, such as Live Oak County have been successful due to the separation from the Mexican border,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports legislation to construct and maintain a border barrier of sufficient capability to halt the travel of wildlife and livestock between Mexico and Texas.

Proposed	Passed
5.19	6.19.19

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024
Increased Border Security

WHEREAS, the incidence of murder, burglary, drug trafficking and other serious criminal acts continue to increase along the Texas-Mexico border daily; and

WHEREAS, Texas Border area ranchers continue to have fences cut, gates destroyed, equipment stolen by trespassing illegal criminals; and

WHEREAS, the federal, state and local authorities are unable to protect the citizens and their property in the Border area,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas urges the Department of Homeland Security to dispatch U.S. Armed Forces personnel to the Border area to combat the criminal element that is actively operating along the Texas-Mexico Border. These reinforcements working both independently and in concert with federal, state and local authorities are needed to bring law and order to this region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforce all immigration laws of the United States of America.

Passed
6.11.10

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Unjust Public Criticism by NCBA

WHEREAS, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) is now attacking beef consumer groups, American Trading Partners, and any other legitimate cattle organization that might disagree with it, and has intentionally commended a course of conduct to destroy the cooperative efforts of all cattlemen; and

WHEREAS, the NCBA has commenced a course of destructive hysteric comments within the beef industry, has purposely ignored cow/calf producers and that leadership NCBA is guilty of misleading the USDA, the American consumers, and its fellow cow/calf operators; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCBA cease and desist all unjust public criticism of other beef and cow/calf producers, US Trade partners and beef consumer groups; and that the NCBA join with R-Calf USA, USDA, ICA, and all other legitimate and reputable beef producers to support a safe US beef product for America and the World.

**Presented
06.12.04**

**Passed
06.12.04**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Right to Own and Bear Arms

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) is concerned that the constitutional “right to bear arms” has come under attack by certain entities; and

WHEREAS, ICA supports the use of guns for recreational purposes and for the defense of private property, our families and loved ones,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas strongly supports the right of law abiding citizens to own and bear arms and that under no circumstances should our constitutional right to own and bear arms be impeded by either State or Federal Law.

**Passed
08.02.99**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Cattle Price Discovery & Transparency Act of 2021

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the enhanced profitability for all beef producers; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas believe in fair and just compensation in the sale of all beef animals,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the Cattle Price Discovery & Transparency Act of 2021 that supports more fair competition and true price discovery for all transactions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the following tenets of the bill, but not limited to only these tenets, and

A negotiated price not more than 14 days before delivery, and

Regional mandatory minimums each current slaughter week, and

The minimum percentage of such cattle that are purchased through negotiated purchases or negotiated grid purchases from producers; and

Packer processing plant must report for each previous business day the number of cattle and the cattle type scheduled for delivery the next 14 days, and

A library or catalog shall be maintained of each type of contract offered by packers to producers for the purchase of fed cattle including purchases or commitments to purchase and including schedules for premiums and discounts.

Pending

4.22



Private Property Rights

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

High Speed Rail

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas has investigated the proposed High Speed Rail planned to be constructed between Dallas and Houston, and;

WHEREAS, the current proposal would destroy thousands of acres of rural farmland and ranches if built; and

WHEREAS, many farms and ranches are going to be needlessly divided by the railroad rights-of-way causing access limitations and diminished property values for those owning property adjacent to the rights-of-way and nearby landowners,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas remains opposed to the Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail project.

**Proposed
9.16.16**

**Passed
9.16.16**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Trans Texas Corridor

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation has been given the authority by the Texas Legislature to create the Trans Texas Corridor system; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation has embraced a policy of taking private property through the use of eminent domain condemnation proceedings consisting of transportation corridors up to 1200 feet in width thus dissecting many privately owned farms, and ranches; and

WHEREAS, the state owned corridors will be used as rights-of-way for many future privately owned utilities and railroads thus depriving local taxing entities from future ad valorem tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has been unable to pass sufficient legislation to adequately protect and justly compensate private property owners located in the path of the proposed corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas believes the Trans Texas Corridor will dissect many farms and ranches and will not benefit rural residents of the state,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas opposes any future development of the Trans Texas Corridor and urges the State Legislature to pass legislation to direct the Texas Department of Transportation to begin a policy of enlarging and upgrading the existing state highway infrastructure to meet the present and future needs of public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas urges the Texas Legislature to immediately create and pass legislation adequately protecting and compensating private property owners facing condemnation through the eminent domain proceedings.

Passed	Amended
6.27.08	6.19.09

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Eminent Domain

WHEREAS, the exercise of the power of eminent domain by government or by private entities providing a public service is the most extreme infringement on the private property rights of individual landowners that is allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States of America and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides protection for the rights of individuals in and to their private property by prohibiting the taking of private property without just compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires that the rights of all individuals and landowners be protected by requiring government and its agencies, as well as private entities providing a public service, to respect their right to due process under the law; and

WHEREAS, there are three main tenets of eminent domain reform: a good faith offer by the taking entity; compensation, including diminished access; and a clear definition of public use,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) believes that the power of eminent domain, also known as the power to condemn, should be exercised only when clearly necessary to achieve a justifiable public purpose and in the most extreme and rarest of circumstances and that landowners’ rights to due process and against takings, of any manner, including partial takings, without just compensation must be protected at all times under all circumstances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports a constitutional amendment that narrowly defines legitimate public use and prohibits the use of eminent domain for private and for profit economic development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with regard to truth in condemnation ICA believes:

- a. actual usage stated in condemnation must be followed
- b. Entities employing condemnation should be required to pay all fees the landowner incurs in challenging unfair offers.
- c. Negotiations need to take place before the entity claiming eminent domain should be allowed to set foot on property.
- d. A rule that allows property owner to buy back condemned property at the price he received if the condemned property has not been developed at the end of ten years should be implemented.
- e. The state should maintain a list of entities that are qualified and have the authority to use eminent domain to condemn private property. Registration should be with the Texas Attorney General and private entities should be bonded.

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Eminent Domain continued...

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that with respect to appraisals and food faith offers, ICA believes:

- a. “Actual replacement value” should replace “fair market value”
- b. Property appraisers should be required to appraise the property at the “highest and best use value” including the project proposed by the condemning authority
- c. Condemning authorities should also pay for diminished access, actual relocation costs which compensate property owners and restore them to their original position, and should factor in historical value (e.g. century farm or ranch)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for land that is condemned for use by revenue generating projects such as utilities or pipelines, the landowner should have the option to receive rent for an easement across that land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Texas should adopt legislation that redefines blight. Blight should be confined to true nuisance properties that pose a direct threat to public health and safety. Said legislation should require blight determinations to be made on a property-by-property basis.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Trans Texas Corridor

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation has been given the authority by the Texas Legislature to create the Trans Texas Corridor system; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation has embraced a policy of taking private property through the use of eminent domain condemnation proceedings consisting of transportation corridors up to 1200 feet in width thus dissecting many privately owned farms, and ranches; and

WHEREAS, the state owned corridors will be used as rights-of-way for many future privately owned utilities and railroads thus depriving local taxing entities from future ad valorem tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature during the 2007 Session was unable to pass sufficient legislation to adequately protect and justly compensate private property owners located in the path of the proposed corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas believes the Trans Texas Corridor will dissect many farms and ranches and will not benefit rural residents of the state,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas opposes any future development of the Trans Texas Corridor and urges the State Legislature to pass legislation to direct the Texas Department of Transportation to begin a policy of enlarging and upgrading the existing state highway infrastructure to meet the present and future needs of public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas urges the Texas Legislature to immediately create and pass legislation adequately protecting and compensating private property owners facing condemnation through the eminent domain proceedings.

**Passed
6.27.08**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Trans Texas Corridor

WHEREAS, safely accommodating today’s heavy traffic on major highways demands the upgrading of existing freeways and the building of additional thoroughfares; and

WHEREAS, present highway planners are proposing many changes to the existing manner of transportation in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the footprint or right-of-way of the proposed Trans Texas Corridor is excessive and eliminates a significant segment of agricultural real estate in rural counties, thus limiting or denying access to many farms and ranches that will be partitioned by the planned freeway; and

WHEREAS, the concept of foreign entities and investors utilizing state laws and regulations to seize private property for public business, and the anti-competition clauses provided to those entities and investors once the corridor is established, are unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the loss of revenue to rural public schools and counties due to the tax free status of the utilities, improvements and real estate contained within the right-of-way, will create future financial problems for rural governments and result in escalating taxes for those areas in proximity of the Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory control of tolls and fees is not being retained by the Texas Department of Transportation thereby creating the possible scenario of continuous future toll escalations,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas strongly opposes the construction of the Trans Texas Corridor until rural residents impacted by the freeway system are guaranteed fair treatment with reasonable solutions to all present and future issues created by the proposed Corridor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that existing freeways and highways be upgraded and that an alternative to foreign owned and operated tollways be addressed.

Proposed	Passed
6.29.07	6.29.07

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Availability of Trans Texas Corridor Details

WHEREAS, the Trans Texas Corridor will negatively impact many thousands of acres of Texas farm and ranch land; and

WHEREAS, Texas farm and ranch land will be taken for public transportation purposes but will directly benefit private businesses,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the Texas Attorney General’s ruling that all details of all contracts involving the Trans Texas Corridor be made available to the public within a timely manner.

**Presented
7.1.05**

**Passed
7.1.05**

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Freeway Access

WHEREAS, safely accommodating today's heavy traffic on major highways demands the upgrading of existing freeways and the building of new freeways; and

WHEREAS, present freeway plans are proposing very limited access; and

WHEREAS, the businesses of RANCHING & FARMING are FEEDING the many drivers of these vehicles; and

WHEREAS, ranching & farming on lands adjacent to freeways are absolutely dependent on accesses for transporting equipment, not allowed on freeways, to land on the other side without traveling long distances on the lateral roads; and

WHEREAS, the transporting of large, oversized equipment for long distances also increases the risk of a serious accident on the lateral roads which are also heavily traveled by passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, moving heavy equipment long distances increases wear and tear as well as fuel consumption and adds to the ever increasing costs of doing business with the very expensive equipment in use today,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) support and strongly recommends that accesses over or under freeways be provided no more than one mile apart in areas where freeways divide family operations depending on the land for their livelihood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when new freeways are created and existing roads are upgraded to freeway status and access to these roads is limited as is being proposed, ICA strongly recommends that access to these freeways shall be no further apart than 2 miles and that access to freeway will be available from all state and county maintained roads that intersect the freeway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when existing roads are upgraded to freeway status and made into limited access roads ICA strongly recommends that modern lateral roads be created or upgraded to provide for the safe and timely movement of farm and ranch equipment, supplies, livestock and harvested crops in the local area.

**Passed
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

FM & RM Roads

WHEREAS, Farm and Ranch to Market (FM & RM) roads were created to link farms and ranches to each other and to cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, these FM & RM roads are also used extensively for movement of livestock and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the speed limit on these rural roads has been increased thereby increasing the risk to the rural residents who use them daily; and

WHEREAS, these rural roads are being used more and more by urban drivers with no appreciation of the rural way of life and feel that the use of these roads by farmers and ranchers is an intrusion and therefore show little or no respect for rural activities; and

WHEREAS, there are few and no signs on the FM & RM roads indicating caution because of rural activities thereby providing some measure of protection for rural residents,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas recommends that the Texas Highway Department revisit all FM & RM roads with the intent being to re-designate those roads that do not conform to Farm to Market or have been incorporated into urban areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional caution and warning signs be installed with an increased measure of enforcement by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**Passed
6.22.02**

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

Guadalupe River Diversions

WHEREAS, the lower Guadalupe River Diversions plan to take water from beneath the ground somewhere in the vicinity of Refugio, Victoria, Goliad, and Calhoun counties, mix it with Guadalupe River water drawn from near Tivoli, and, pump it by the billions of gallons to San Antonio via a 78 inch diameter pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the projects infrastructure system would forever change the characteristics of the river by depleting the area’s groundwater aquifer and cause too little river water getting to the bays and estuaries of the Guadalupe Delta; and

WHEREAS, the \$600-plus-million dollar project is scheduled to be on line in another ten years,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas strongly supports the “Time-Out” for further study as recently called for by Victoria’s O’Connor ranching family and many other interested landowners and citizens.

**Passed
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Saltwater Intrusion

WHEREAS, Saltwater Intrusion along the Gulf Coast in Texas is consuming large amounts of productive farm and ranch land, and endangering fresh water supplies, and because of Saltwater Intrusion the productive capability of Texas farmers and ranchers is continually being diminished. And because Texas farmers and ranchers try to meet a food demand for consumption, which is predicted to be 6.5 billion people worldwide in the year 2020, it is necessary therefore that the political, legal, and business leaders of our cities, counties, agencies, and departments, and state act to preserve and conserve Texas farm and ranch land,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas encourage said political, legal, and business leaders of our cities, counties, agencies, and departments, and state to halt and/or reduce saltwater intrusion along the Gulf Coast to protect fresh water supplies.

**Passed
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Rule of Capture

WHEREAS, the “Rule of Capture”, which allows a landowner to capture the water under his or her land without regard to the effect on his or her neighbors and without regard to conservation, has been the basis of Texas water law since 1904; and

WHEREAS, water marketing, the sale of groundwater to the highest bidder, is increasing across Texas and is having an adverse effect on neighboring land and landowners; and

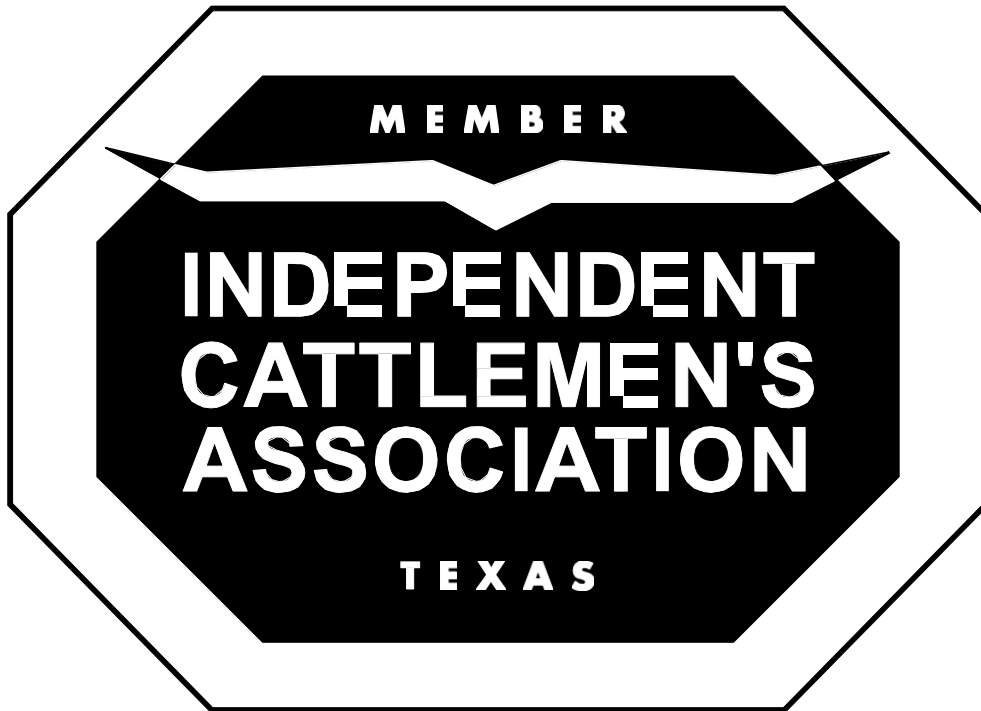
WHEREAS, as stewards of the land and of the water resources that are a part of the land, landowners owe a duty to future generations to manage land and water judiciously and wisely; and

WHEREAS, water is not just a commodity but is unique,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the creation of locally controlled Underground Water Conservation Districts with sufficient power and authority to protect private property owners and prevent abuse of the Rule of Capture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to allow Underground Water Conservation Districts to adequately perform the function for which they are created, which is to protect our invaluable water resources from exploitation by irresponsible individuals, and in order to protect water in areas where there is no Underground Water Conservation District, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas reserves the right to support legislation to modify the Rule of Capture by incorporating the concept of correlative rights or reasonable use.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01



State Issues

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Lands

WHEREAS, Texas’ production agriculture is a prime driver of Texas’ economy, and

WHEREAS, production agriculture requires ranch and farm land to operate, and

WHEREAS, production agriculture requires associated businesses to process the agricultural products to final usage, and

WHEREAS, foreign entities are purchasing our production land and/or support businesses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, is against the purchase of agricultural lands, agricultural processing facilities, and any agricultural businesses that support the agricultural process by any foreign government, any foreign corporation or any non-USA citizen. For the security of our businesses and the Nation, we must control our agricultural endeavors from start to finish.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the sustainability of Texas Agriculture is our primary goal. The right to farm or ranch requires suitable land for the selected task, as well as, suitable processing facilities, and consistent service businesses for continuity. We should not depend upon foreign countries, corporations, or individuals to ensure our sustainability.

Presented 07.08.2023

Passed 07.08.2023

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024
Orphan Wells

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Texas agriculture depending upon clean water and soil for production.

WHEREAS Texas agriculture is dependent upon oil and gas production

WHEREAS orphaned wells pose a significant and dangerous threat to all producers and the damage to our land surface and aquifers can be catastrophic. Leaking wells are polluting our aquifers with salt water laced with benzene, radium, arsenic, sulfur and hydrocarbons. When it pools on the surface, it kills all vegetations and renders the soil barren. Unplugged wells also vent methane and hydrogen sulphide to the atmosphere.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we support the Texas Railroad Commission accomplishing the following tasks:

- Identify and ensure that orphan wells are located and secured
- Monitor the financial solvency of all operators
- Establish protocols for wells given to landowners as water wells to ensure power plugging
- Establish protocols to develop systems for location of and well records
- Increase the fee structure and bonding requirements to cover the cost to plug orphaned well inventory
- Fully fund the plugging and abandonment of all orphaned and p13 wells.

Passed
09.14.22

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024
Texas Tax Code Rollback

WHEREAS, Section 23.55 of the Texas Tax Code imposes a “rollback” tax on 1-d-1 land when it is taken out of agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, the original intent of Section 23.55 of the Texas Tax Code was meant to target land permanently taken out of agricultural use or diverted for non-agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, appraisal districts are imposing the “rollback” tax on land temporarily being taken out of agricultural use, where there is intent to return the land to agricultural status,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas work with other interested organizations to urge our State Representatives and Senators to review Section 23.55 of the Texas Tax Code during the next legislative session to define the intent of the law.

Proposed
6.16.16

Passed
6.16.16

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
(TSSWCB)**

WHEREAS, the TSSWCB is a single purpose agency whose only concern is the delivery of conservation to farm and ranch lands of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the program that provides the delivery of that conservation has been voluntary and incentive based from its inception and said program has been successful because it has been directed by a board that is elected by the producers involved in the program. Further, these state board members are involved in agriculture and have direct knowledge of the conservation needs of the landowners across the state; and

WHEREAS, landowners and producers have developed a trust in this relationship because it is non-regulatory in nature and not swayed by political views and political appointments,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) supports the continued independence of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from any other state agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA supports the current five member board configuration with one board member coming from each of the state’s five regions. Furthermore, should additional board members be appointed by the Governor, ICA recommends that each appointee be actively engaged in production agriculture (minimum of fifty-one per cent of income from agriculture), and that the appointees be selected on a rotational basis from among the five state regions so that no region can gain dominance over the other regions.

Presented	Passed
06.21.03	06.21.03

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Healthcare

WHEREAS, proper healthcare can determine a person’s quality and length of life; and

WHEREAS, rural residents have access to fewer and fewer healthcare facilities because of hospital and clinic closures; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of health insurance has become a severe burden to farm and ranch families,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) recommends that the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress provide equal reimbursement payments to rural healthcare facilities in order for them to continue to operate in rural Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA favors legislation that restricts the ability of Health Insurance Company’s to raise healthcare rates without explaining their rationale behind the increase.

**Passed
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Texas Education

WHEREAS, the future of the Texas education system is the single most important issue that will direct the future of our state and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the population growth of our state continues to demand more of limited resources for our rural school districts and their families; and

WHEREAS, excess laws and regulations prohibit educators from providing an education that is not saturated with complex curriculum; and

WHEREAS, our state has become more urban than rurally dominated,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) charges the state legislature with the duty of finding alternate resources aside from property taxes to fund our public schools that do not cripple rural school districts. ICA recommends that revenues from the Texas Lottery be used solely within the Texas Education System. Any new funding solutions should not interfere with existing agriculture exemptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICA supports legislation that would require all Texas students have some agriculture education class prior to graduating from high school and this initiative and all others applicable be developed on the local level restoring strength to the school districts.

**Passed
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Border Barrier ICA

WHEREAS, a barrier (fence) that prohibits livestock and wildlife from entering the U.S. will prohibit the introduction of additional fever ticks from Mexico. This barrier will facilitate the cooperative efforts between USDA, APHIS, TAHC, and the cattle producers in eradicating the fever tick in the U.S., and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has officially initiated programs since 1906 to eradicate fever ticks from our cattle herds and have been successful in all states but Texas where it intersects with Mexico, and

WHEREAS, one of the largest problems acknowledged, is the uncontrolled migration of both livestock and wildlife between Mexico and Texas, and

WHEREAS, these agencies have shown success in their methodology in areas separated from the border, such as Live Oak County, which is far enough from the border that migration from Mexico was not a factor.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, (ICA), supports the completion of a continuous border barrier (fence) between Texas and Mexico and the barrier needs to be impenetrable, by not only persons, but also livestock and wildlife,

**Passed
6.19**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Movement of Exotic Animals

WHEREAS, currently there are exotic animals in areas of Texas where fever ticks may exist, and

WHEREAS, several exotic animals, including Nilgai, are known to host fever ticks, and

WHEREAS, it is a common practice to trap and transport these animals to other areas of Texas, and

WHEREAS, many of these exotic animals are transported without a fever tick inspection or an insecticide spraying by Texas Animal Health Commission personnel (TAHC), and

WHEREAS, many exotic animals travel many miles and are known to travel freely across or through fences over large areas in and out of quarantined premises,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas requests that TAHC adopt rules to require inspection and treatment of all exotic animals transported from all premises in proximity to known fever tick that may be likely to harbor ticks.

**Passed
6.18.20**



Taxes

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Agriculture Exemptions

WHEREAS, agriculture benefits all Texas families by providing safe, affordable and quality products; and

WHEREAS, agriculture businesses often have many input costs that go into the production of specified goods, without ample compensation or revenue,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas strongly opposes any effort to remove any agriculture tax exemptions from legitimate agriculture producers and operations.

**Presented
06.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Reform of Internal Revenue Code

BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas supports the reform of the current Internal Revenue Code in its entirety and supports replacing it with a new, simplified tax system which shall:

- 1) Adopt a single low rate based on net income;
- 2) Include a generous personal exemption to remove the burden on those least able to pay;
- 3) Lower the tax rates on America's families;
- 4) End biases against work, saving and investment;
- 5) Allow full deductibility of the payroll tax for working men and women;
- 6) Require a two-thirds majority of Congress to raise tax rates; and
- 7) Eliminate estate taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a revised tax system shall promote the following six goals for a 21st Century tax system:

- 1) Economic growth through incentives to work, save and invest;
- 2) Fairness to all taxpayers;
- 3) Simplicity in order that all taxpayers can easily file returns;
- 4) Neutrality in order that taxpayers and not government have more freedom over choices in their lives;
- 5) Visibility in order that taxpayers and not governments have more freedom in their lives; and
- 6) Stability in order that taxpayers can plan for their future.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Revaluation of Estate and Gift Taxes

WHEREAS, federal estate and gift taxes continue to be a major burden on family farms, ranches and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been considered in Congress to provide some relief against the burden of estate and gift taxes,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) supports legislation that would not cap the amount of qualified family owned business interests subject to partial exclusion from the value of a taxable estate and supports an increase in the unified credit and the annual exclusion for gifts and indexing both to the level of inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA supports passage of any other estate and gift tax legislation, which will reduce or eliminate the burden of estate and gift taxes on family farms, ranches and small businesses.

Passed	Amended
07.22.97	05.08.01



**TRADE &
COMMERCE**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Recycling of Used Livestock Feed Sacks

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports recycling and providing the most efficient means available to feed and care for our livestock; and

WHEREAS, many livestock feed suppliers and their customers rely on the reuse of feed sacks in order to save money and to conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, feed suppliers and their customers have the expertise and the ability to adequately clean and select used sacks for reuse; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas endorses the reuse of livestock feed sacks as an efficient and economical method of recycling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas requests the Office of The State Chemist to develop guidelines for the recycling of used livestock feed sacks in the normal course of agriculture.

Proposed	Passed
6.29.07	6.29.07

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Foreign Aid

WHEREAS, foreign aid in the form of monetary donations does not always reach its intended recipients and becomes hard to account for after leaving the United States; and

WHEREAS, monetary payments could be used adversely to United States citizens and agriculture producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports U.S. foreign aid in the form of agriculture commodities rather than cash contributions.

**Presented
6.22.02**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Country of Origin Labeling

WHEREAS, we, the American consumer, have the right to know if the products sold in all retail outlets (stores, restaurants, etc.) are home grown or imported,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas strongly supports country of origin labeling on all beef and beef products and that such labeling can increase the sale of U. S. beef products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose the 100-day rule, to be considered born, raised and processed in the USA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas will support any effort in Congress to make country of origin labeling mandatory on all beef or products that include beef as an ingredient.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	06.19.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

World Trade Relations

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas recognizes the need for a humane treatment of all individuals which provides for the need of expanded trade of agricultural and food products,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas will support and endorse formalized and fair trade relations with all current and future trading partners that do not discriminate against U.S. agricultural interests.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Definition of Beef Dumping

WHEREAS, market prices are driven and determined by supply and demand forces; and

WHEREAS, such a market traditionally runs in cycles; and

WHEREAS, most beef producers during low price / high production periods of such cycles sell below the cost of production and experience losses; and

WHEREAS, this cyclical low price and producer loss situation in the beef industry meets the definition of a dumping situation under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules even in the absence of evidence of predatory behavior, intention to monopolize, or any other intentional efforts to drive competitors out of business; and

WHEREAS, dumping cases filed using “below cost of production” criteria cause the beef industry in the exporting country to incur huge legal fees to defend themselves and violates the spirit of free trade,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas will work to change WTO rules defining the definition of beef dumping as selling below the cost of production.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Packer Concentration

WHEREAS, producers, meat industry executives, livestock buyers, auction markets and cattlemen continue to express concern over acquisitions of smaller packing companies by Iowa Beef Packers, Inc. and other beef packing companies; and

WHEREAS, members of the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) believe such acquisitions have a significant impact on livestock availability for other small packers (especially cow/bull slaughter facilities), especially in the southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, ICA, along with other producers organizations, have raised these concerns with the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, it is important to note the United States Justice Department considers improvements in efficiency as a net benefit and “excessively large meat companies” as not bad and that while such acquisitions increase efficiencies such efficiency is derived at the expense of the survival of less efficient slaughter operations; and

WHEREAS, mergers in the meat processing industry continue to diminish competitiveness in the marketplace which has negative impacts on producers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, the effect that a very large dominate firm can have in the marketplace may have the effect of “controlling” the price of livestock,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas believes that no additional mega mergers should occur in the meat processing and food service industries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas requests the United States Justice Department to continue monitoring the meat packing industry and prevent further acquisitions into what is already a packer controlled cattle industry.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Fake Beef Labeling

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas represents ranchers who raise cattle to furnish the beef industry with a safe and wholesome product for consumer benefit, and

WHEREAS, laboratories are producing products comprised of grain products, insect products, and cell development products from animal by-products, and

WHEREAS, these synthetic and laboratory produced products are being incorrectly advertised and labeled “meat” or “beef”, and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas believes that only products derived from cattle that are born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner should be labeled and advertised as “beef of meat”,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports immediate action by USDA FSIS to implement rules to restrict the advertising and/or labeling of synthetic and/or laboratory products using the term “beef” or “meat” to identify their products.

**Passed
6.21.18**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Animal Importation and Processing

WHEREAS, America’s agricultural industry has suffered the devastation of the Corona-Virus (Covid 19) pandemic, and

WHEREAS, our meat animals that are ready to be delivered to the packers have been delayed since the plants have had slow-downs and even closures due to their workers contracting Covid 19, and

WHEREAS, market animals must be processed when ready and additional delays cause economic and quality losses, and

WHEREAS, the United States packing industry continues to import animals, meat and meat products which create a backlog of product at the plants causing further delays,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas demands that all importation of beef, pork, poultry, sheep and goats be halted, until such time as American animals are completely process in a timely manner.

**Passed
6.18.20**

**Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**



Archived

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Brucellosis Testing Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the brucellosis eradication program has after many years resulted in Texas achieving Brucellosis Free Status; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that for the foreseeable future, first point concentration testing, a long running part of the brucellosis eradication program, will continue in Texas; and

WHEREAS, for many years first point concentration testing has been funded jointly by USDA/APHIS – TAHC in the amount of \$2.00 per head paid to livestock markets; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with first point concentration testing have risen dramatically over the years,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, requests that the Texas Animal Health Commission and the USDA/APHIS provide for an increase in payments to Texas livestock markets to cover the true costs associated with this regulatory requirement.

**Passed
6.27.08**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

The United States Department of Agriculture and BSE Testing

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been dilatory in enforcing its own requirements to safeguard US beef from BSE (a brain wasting disease), and it has admitted that “we anticipate that we may find a few additional cows” and that in April 2004 in a West Texas facility a USDA Supervisor waived the test for a downer cow, and the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, now admits “we should have tested the cow”; and

WHEREAS, USDA has also violated its own regulations last year by allowing American Meat Packers to import thirty three million pounds of processed and ground beef from Canada and then admitted “clearly the process and our failure to announce some of these actions were flawed” (Ron Dehaven, USDA Chief Veterinary Officer); and

WHEREAS, at this moment infectious material from cows can legally be fed back to cows via the blood exemption, and that the Food and Drug Administration, realizing this has proposed a ban on the use of mammalian and poultry litter in cattle feed; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has attempted to justify its position on “science” even though the scientific community does not agree, and that there are many unknowns and gaps in our knowledge about BSE and all prion diseases, and because there is not sufficient science to guide our government and our cattle support groups, the risk assessments made by the USDA are solely dependent on imperfect and inaccurate data at this time,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the following:

1. Public hearing be held on any changes in BSE policies and give consumers and public health experts the opportunity to comment on the USDA’s August 2003 decision to relax BSE protection.
2. That the USDA works with Canada to determine the actual prevalence of BSE in the Canadian cattle herds.
3. That the USDA should jointly commission the risk assessment with the Department of Health and Human Services.
4. That the USDA and the FDA include experts on both animal and human diseases.
5. That the Institute of Medicine and/or the National Academy of Science be included in such risk assessment along with other agencies.

**Presented
06.12.04**

**Passed
06.12.04**

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

National Identification Plan

WHEREAS, a Mandatory National Livestock Identification Plan is currently being discussed throughout the industry; and

WHEREAS, USDA has promoted the implementation of a national plan to identify all food animals and livestock to enhance disease preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas recognizes the need to protect our industry from the spread of disease and the need to ensure our reputation for having a safe food supply; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas also recognizes the increasing threat of bio-terrorism and the need to enhance our national security against such threats,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas, calls for components to be included that will ensure The Plan is seamless in nature, national in scope, developed with common technology usable for a long time and provides value for producers. The plan should encompass educational and outreach programs for producers and the database must have security provisions to ensure producer confidentiality. The plan must be fair, equitable, affordable and adaptable for all segments of the industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas adamantly supports restricting stakeholders (including all producer associations and organizations) directly involved in designing, administering, and/or implementing The Plan, from ever profiting in any way from the National ID Program.

**Presented
06.12.04**

**Passed
06.12.04**

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) Standards

WHEREAS, CAFÉ standards have not reduced U.S. oil imports; and

WHEREAS, higher CAFÉ standards cannot ensure reduced air pollution;
and

WHEREAS, CAFÉ standards have caused significant downsizing and weight reductions in motor vehicles and smaller, lighter vehicles provide less safety protection than larger, heavier ones; and

WHEREAS, the according to the National Academy of Sciences higher CAFÉ standards for light trucks can add up to as much as \$2,750 to the price of a new vehicle;
and

WHEREAS, full-size light trucks are essential pieces of farm and ranch equipment vital for effective and efficient agricultural operations and millions of farmers, ranchers and rural residents rely upon full-size light trucks to provide for safe, efficient transportation; and

WHEREAS, higher standards CAFÉ standards for light trucks would result in smaller, lighter vehicles with smaller cargo beds, reduced passenger space, less powerful engines, and weaker frames and suspensions making those vehicles far less suitable for agricultural needs,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas urges the continued freeze on current CAFÉ standards.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Governmental Ownership of Land

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17) directs Congress to require the agencies of the federal government to obtain consent of the state legislature prior to purchasing property within their respective state, if the federal government wishes to have exclusive legislative authority (meaning they would not have to adhere to state laws) over such property; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the federal estate would serve to decrease local property tax bases, disrupt rural economies, further decrease our important natural resource-based industries and interfere with the basic freedom of owning private property while doing little or nothing to improve the quality of the environment; and

WHEREAS, when certain specific purchases of the lands by the federal government are justified, they should be after a specific debate and approval of Congress,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas strongly opposes any new initiative by Congress to create land trust funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund or any other revenue stream that is an entitlement program or serves the purpose of expanding the already vast amounts of land holdings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas shall remind Congress that federal agencies should adhere to the U.S. Constitution and the rights of states prior to federal purchase of property within any state in the event the federal government wishes to have exclusive legislative authority over such property purchased.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

**Texas Workforce Commission – Agricultural
Services Unit**

WHEREAS, the State of Texas is blessed with abundant resources excellent technology allowing for a strong global leadership in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Texas agriculture is extremely diverse encompassing agricultural education, credit and information institutions, sales, scientific research and thousands of agribusiness firms who process, deliver and sell food and other products for domestic and global consumers; and

WHEREAS, Texas agriculture is a large economic force creating 20 percent of the available jobs for the state’s workers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports the establishment of agriculture as a higher priority in the Texas Workforce Commission by enhancing the Agricultural Services Unit through expansion, information and leadership.

Passed	Amended
08.02.99	05.08.01

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

Texas Forest Service Budget Streamlining Process

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas understands and appreciates budget streamlining and is encouraged that federal and state agencies are attempting to be more prudent in the spending with the public’s funds; and

WHEREAS, we are concerned about proposals that would eliminate the use of Forest Service vehicles for transportation of employees to and home from work, from the standpoint that elimination of fire fighting vehicles in rural areas would create an increased potential of property, home loss and loss of life,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas encourages the Forest Service to allow employees to utilize agency vehicles to transport to and from work and allow these vehicles to continue being used in rural areas for firefighting emergencies.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Support of Livestock Market News Service

BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) urges continued financial support for USDA’s Livestock Market News Service (LMNS).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICA urges continued priority examination of LMNS in an effort to better serve the cattle industry. By allocating more available resources to reporting retail meat sales, boxed beef sales, direct fed cattle sales, electronic sales and feeder cattle sales, etc. the LMNS will better meet the needs of a dynamic cattle industry.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

**Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
Policy Resolutions As of 2024**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and United
States Fish and Wildlife Service Data Collection
Program**

WHEREAS, an agreement exists between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to share data collected through the state’s Natural Heritage Program and any other such agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Endangered Species Act and other government efforts to control private land in Texas has left many property owners powerless over the use of their own land, often causing property values to plummet once an endangered species has been sighted; and

WHEREAS, the agreement allows the Federal government access to any information gathered by officials working through the natural Heritage Program regarding the presence of endangered species on either public or private land,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas is opposed to the above mentioned agreement or any similar agreement and supports efforts to end this Federal/State relationship.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Underinsured Homeowners

WHEREAS, many insurance companies have contracts containing clauses stating if a dwellings replacement cost is more than 20 percent of the insured value and a loss is incurred by the policy holder, the insurance company can utilize a formula to adjust the replacement cost at approximately 60 percent of actual cost; and

WHEREAS, insurance companies are not mandated to inform the policy holder that a dwelling is underinsured thus creating a potential situation where a home owner could be compensated at an amount far less than the actual replacement cost of a home,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas supports legislation requiring insurance companies to notify homeowners when their dwellings are insured for less than twenty percent of their actual replacement value.

Passed	Amended
08.11.98	05.08.01

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas Policy Resolutions As of 2024

Opposition to the American Heritage Rivers Initiative

WHEREAS, the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas (ICA) has been monitoring an initiative known as the American Heritage Rivers Initiative (AHRI) and similar such initiatives, and that the initiative proposes to control rivers for natural, historic, cultural, social, economic and ecological diversity; and

WHEREAS, ICA believes such authorities could encroach on the rights of private property owners in the basin of a river with such designation and, therefore, could be excessive and remove freedoms that such landowners should enjoy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas opposes the implementation of the federal land use control measure known as the American Heritage Rivers Initiative and the association supports organizations opposing the initiative such as the American Land Foundation and Liberty Matters in their efforts to stop the implementation of the initiative.

Passed	Amended
07.22.97	05.08.01