



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

Agriculture and Food Policy Committee

Minutes

Denver, CO

Hyatt Regency, Mineral Hall DE

Friday, July 14, 2017 • 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM by Chairman Delaney. The agenda for the 2017 Summer Business meeting, as well as the minutes from the 2017 Cattle Industry Winter Business meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, were approved without objection.

II. COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

a. Consideration of Expiring Policy:

After conclusion of the speakers and presentations during the meeting, Chairman Delaney moved to consideration of expiring policy. The following expiring policies were acted on by a motion from the floor and a second, and were all renewed by a unanimous voice vote en bloc:

1. AFP 2.4 – Dairy Policy
2. AFP 2.6 – Forage Crop Storage Structures
3. AFP 3.2 – Federal and State Drought Designations
4. AFP 3.3 – Fence Replacement Cost Share Eligibility
5. AFP 4.2 – Federal Reinsurance for Private Sector Catastrophic Livestock Risk Insurance
6. AFP 5.10 – Immigration Reform
7. AFP 5.11 – H-2A or Agricultural Worker Program Enhancements

b. Chairman Delaney moved to the consideration of the Expiring Directives:

1. The first expiring directive, AFP Directive 2012- Guiding Principles for the 2012 Farm Bill was set aside with a request from T. Wright Dickinson of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

AFP Directive 2012 – Guiding Principles for the 2012 Farm Bill.

2. This directive was set aside and then amended. The amendments are reflected below in italics and strikethroughs. The motion from the floor to make the below amendments came from Todd Inglee of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. The amendments were further discussed by T. Wright Dickinson. Then a friendly amendment was offered by Josh Winegarner of Texas Cattle Feeders' Association reflected in number 6 below. T. Wright Dickinson accepted this friendly amendment without any objections. These amendments were then acted upon in totality by a motion from the floor and a second, and were passed by a unanimous voice vote. Then, there was a motion to renew AFP 2012 Guiding Principles of the 2012 Farm Bill as amended. It was seconded, then passed unanimously by voice vote.

AFP Directive **2018**- Guiding Principles of the **2018** Farm Bill.

This statement will guide NCBA's actions on behalf of the cattle industry in influencing the formulation of the **2018** Farm Bill.

Natural Resource and Conservation Policy

Government policy should enhance the individual's right of free choice in land use, soil conservation, water conservation, energy use, and development utilizing working lands conservation methods that are based on sound science and economics. State laws and individual private rights should be preeminent in the use of water and other natural resources.

To accomplish our priorities we support the following:

1. Improve the attractiveness, accessibility and efficiency of existing Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs to encourage voluntary participation by beef producers.
2. Maintain equitable funding for conservation programs important for beef producers and associated natural resources to ensure the livestock sector is not disproportionately impacted by budget limitations, budget reductions, or other program funding changes.
3. Federal conservation programs that provide flexibility to states for establishing statewide or regional priorities.
4. A preference to NRCS programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), that enhance air, soil, and water quality, wildlife habitat, and grazing land health on all lands in production.

~~5. — A continuation of the voluntary NRCS Grassland Reserve Program and Farm and Ranchland Protection Program for the protection of working agricultural lands for future generations.~~

~~6. — Continued funding for the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to meet increased demand for the Grazing. Also need to improve the effectiveness by allowing land owner approved third parties to hold, enforce, and negotiate easements.~~

5. Work to adopt the following priorities for improving the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) within the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill:

- ***Incompatible Uses: Ensure that landowners have flexibility to conduct any uses of or on the property that are consistent with the purposes of the ACEP and the agricultural operations of the property.***
 - ***Matching Funds: Eliminate the requirement for eligible entities to contribute cash resources (i.e. matching funds).***
 - ***ALE Plans: Eliminate the requirement for an Agricultural Land Easement Plan (“ALE Plan”).***
 - ***Minimum Deed Terms and Right of Enforcement:***
 - a. ***Ensure that the program is administered to allow for flexibility to acknowledge local or regional nuances that cannot be fit within a “one-size-fits-all” set of easement terms.***
 - b. ***Clarify that the contingent right of enforcement does not extend to a right of inspection unless the eligible entity fails to fulfill its enforcement obligations under the deed of conservation easement.***
 - c. ***Explicitly state that by conveying a conservation easement a landowner does not eliminate or restrict the landowner’s participation in any other environmental markets (i.e. ecosystem services markets).***
 - d. ***Explicitly state that mineral development can occur as long as it complies with the limited, localized and not irremediably destructive of the conservation values standard from the treasury regulations.***
 - ***Amendments: Ensure easement modifications that:***
 - a. ***Have a neutral effect on or increase the conservation values.***
 - b. ***Do not confer an impermissible private benefit.***
 - c. ***Are consistent with the original intent of the easement.***
 - d. ***Are consistent with the purposes of the program are permitted.***
6. ***All USDA Conservation and Easement Programs should be excluded from Adjusted Gross Income Requirements.***
7. ***Support the ability of third parties to implement federally authorized programs.***

The following expiring directives were also acted upon by a motion from the floor and a second, and were all renewed by a unanimous voice vote en bloc.

- 3. AFP Directive 2012 – CRP In Disaster Situations
- 4. AFP Directive 2012 – Agricultural Education and Research Funding

c. Chairman Delaney then opened the floor for the consideration of new resolutions:

1. A motion was then made to affirm the interim policy.
2. AFP Winter Resolution 2 - **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) & Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) Multiple Benefit Exclusion** was acted upon by a motion from the floor, with no amendments. There was a second, then it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

III. New Business

No other business was brought before the committee.

IV. Adjournment - The committee adjourned at 2:50 PM.