



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

Cattle Health and Well-Being Committee Minutes

Denver, CO

Hyatt Regency, Mineral Hall DE

July 14, 2017, 9:15 am to 12:15 pm MST

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:19 am MST by Chairman Jimmy Holliman. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes for the 2017 Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Nashville, TN were approved without objection.

II. Speakers:

Beef Industry Traceability Project—Rick Husted, Vice President for NCBA Market Research and Strategic Planning.

Animal Disease Traceability—Dr. Burke Healey, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS, VS.

III. Reports:

Report of the Audit Task Force—Dr. Dale Grotelueschen, Task Force Chairperson
The committee accepted, without objection, the report of the task force and their conclusion, “The CHWB Feedyard Audit Tool task force agreed to the feasibility of developing a feedyard audit tool based on the BQA feedyard assessment and further recommended NCBA staff to establish a working group/task force, outside of the Cattle Health and Well-being Committee, to continue the Feedyard Audit Tool based on the BQA Feedyard Assessment in consultation with, and to include representation from members of the BQA Advisory Board, members of the CHWB committee, and members who are knowledgeable about feedyards, including but not limited to feedyard producers.”

Report of the Herd Security/BVD Working Group—Dr. Bob Larson, WG Chairperson

Report of the Emerging Cattle Health and Research Issues Working Group—Mary Ann Kniebel, WG Chairperson

IV. Committee Actions:

a) Consideration of Expiring Policy:

After the conclusion of the speakers and reports, Chairman Holliman took up the consideration of expiring policy. The following policies were acted on:

CH 1.6 Livestock Management & Animal Health and Well-being Standards—RENEWAL

CH 2.3 Brucellosis—Select Agent—RENEWAL

CH 3.9 Residues of Imported Meat—RENEWAL

CH 3.13 Selenium Supplementation Needs for Healthy Cattle—RENEWAL

CH 4.8 Protection of Integrity of Fetal Calf Serum through International Biosecurity—RENEWAL

CH 7.3 Diseases—Emergency Management Planning—RENEWAL

CH 7.7 Indemnity—RENEWAL
CH 8.6 Identification of Imported Cattle—RENEWAL
CH 8.24 Greater Yellowstone Area Bison Relocation—RENEWAL
CH 9.10 Trichomoniasis Control—RENEWAL

The above listed policies were renewed upon recommendation of the committee leadership with no objections.

The following expiring policies were recommended for **deletion** by the committee leadership:

CH 8.7 The Role of Individual Animal Identification to Enhance Genetic Improvement and Source Verification Programs—DELETE
CH 8.8 Animal Disease Traceability—DELETE
CH 8.9 Traceability—DELETE
CH 8.17 Alternative Feedstuffs—Amended
Internal CH Directive 2012 Beef Imports from Nations with FMD—DELETE
Internal CH Directive 2012 Trichomoniasis—DELETE

Mary Ann Kniebel made a motion to set aside CH 8.8 and 8.9 on animal disease traceability to discuss with new business and the motion passed and the policies were set aside. Dave Daley, representing California Cattlemen’s Association, moved not to delete CH 8.17. Jerry Christin from Arkansas moved to amend the last paragraph of CH 8.17 to read “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA work to discontinue the feeding of poultry litter to cattle except during extreme drought and under the guidelines of science-based research.” The motion passed and the amendment to CH 8.17 was accepted and the membership acted to renew CH 8.17 as amended. Members deleted CH 8.7 and the two above listed internal CH Directives with no objection.

The following expiring policies were recommended for amendment by the committee leadership:

CH 3.8 Animal Drugs, Biologic & Feed Additives—AMEND
CH 4.1 Screwworm Eradication--AMEND
CH 4.4 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)--AMEND
CH 6.1 Tuberculosis—AMEND
CH 9.8 Chronic Wasting Disease Eradication—AMEND
CH9.15 Regional Diagnostic Laboratory Capacity—AMEND

The above listed expiring policies were approved as amended and recommended by the committee leadership, with no objections.

b.) Consideration of Recommended Actions by the CHWB Policy Review Task Force, which reviewed all CHWB policies:

The CHWB committee was tasked to review the CHWB committee’s current policies for relevancy, duplicity, or the need to update or delete. The committee leadership appointed a CHWB Policy Review Task Force to review existing policies and to make recommendations for action to the committee at the summer business meeting. Chairman

Holliman brought forward for the committee’s consideration the following reviewed policies that were recommended for action by the CHWB Policy Review Task Force:

CH 1.1 Non-Ambulatory Livestock-AMEND

WHEREAS, livestock producers are vitally interested in the well-being of the animals in their charge, and

WHEREAS, producers make every effort to obtain veterinary care for animals that are sick or injured, and

WHEREAS, despite all precautions, some animals may become non-ambulatory, and

WHEREAS, cattle producers are committed to ensuring that all cattle are treated humanely,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA supports policies to prohibit the transport and harvest of non-ambulatory cattle for the commercial food supply.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA shall work with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and other appropriate partners, such as the rendering industry and livestock markets, to develop incentives to facilitate the surveillance of non-ambulatory animals for BSE and other important diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA will also work with these partners to ensure the financially and environmentally sound disposal of such animals.

The membership of the committee approved amended CH 1.1 with no objections.

CH 1.9 Layover of Livestock--AMEND

WHEREAS, livestock producers are interested in the well-being of their animals during transportation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA oppose any policy on enforcement of extended layovers of livestock on trailers due to transportation regulations, and support hours of service extension to allow for cattle to be transported to a facility where they may receive proper care, feed, and water.

The membership of the committee approved amended CH 1.9 with no objections.

CH 3.1 Pests—Ticks--AMEND

Part I— Coordination

WHEREAS, ticks enter the United States (U.S.) periodically from other countries and cause a threat to cattle and wildlife by possible disease transmission, and

WHEREAS, these diseases could cause great economic hardships to agriculture and inhibit foreign trade,

WHEREAS, systematically treating cattle is the most effective means of eradicating Cattle Fever Ticks from a premises,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and all other agencies to work closely with foreign governments, including frequent interchanges of information and technicians between countries, so that the prevention/eradication efforts and elimination of ticks from all animals being exported can be coordinated with the prevention/eradication program in the U.S.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA strongly supports greater flexibility of the Designated Fever Tick epidemiologist to develop an attainable herd management plan to prevent cattle from being vacated from a premises.

Part II—Research

WHEREAS, acaricides have been used successfully to eradicate cattle fever ticks from the U.S., and

WHEREAS, a limited number of acaricides are still in use in order to prevent reinvasion of Cattle Fever Ticks and are used to eliminate cattle ticks found on cattle in the U.S., and

WHEREAS, there ~~are~~ is scientific evidence reports that Cattle Fever Ticks in Mexico and Southern Texas, have become resistant to many commonly used acaricides. ~~and recent evidence of acaricide resistance was detected in some Cattle Fever Tick outbreaks in Southern Texas;~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA urges that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service take all necessary measures to prevent the introduction of ticks into the U.S. and that USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) undertake accelerated research to mitigate the threat of acaricide resistance by conducting research aimed at developing alternate materials, methods, and techniques to control resistant strains of cattle ticks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA works in concert with the United States Animal Health Association and APHIS to enhance the surveillance program for the Cattle Fever Tick as well as an emergency response plan in the event ticks or tick borne disease is introduced into the U.S.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA acknowledges the research initiatives of the Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory and supports continued research in pesticide resistance, development of technology to control populations of Cattle Fever Ticks maintained and distributed by ungulate wildlife and development of alternative methods to reduce reliance on coumaphos and doramectin as the only form of chemical controls of specific insect and tick vectors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA strongly supports the construction of new laboratory facilities to replace the World War II era buildings currently used.

Part III – Funding

WHEREAS, the National Cattle Fever Tick Eradication program was initiated in 1906 and was initially funded by Congress in 1907 as a cooperative federal/state/industry disease and pest eradication effort, and

WHEREAS, a permanent quarantine area was established along the Texas side of the Rio Grande in 1938 to prevent re-establishment of Cattle Fever Ticks from Mexico in Texas, and

WHEREAS, Cattle Fever Ticks were eradicated from all 14 states that comprised the fever tick's historical range and were pushed across the Rio Grande by 1943, and

WHEREAS, since 1943 the permanent Cattle Fever Tick Quarantine Area has been maintained by the cooperative efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission and USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services, and

WHEREAS, the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program has been habitually under-staffed and under-funded, while the level of tick infestations is trending upward and tick incursions from Mexico are increasing, resulting in a historical high number of infested premises ~~since between 2004 and 2011~~, and

WHEREAS, the increasing occurrence of acaricide resistant ticks in Mexico and the identification of some acaricide resistant ticks in Texas, and the increasing role of wildlife hosts (especially white-tailed deer, red deer, nilgai, and other exotic ungulates) in the spread and maintenance of fever ticks in Texas are of great concern, and

WHEREAS, recent Cattle Fever Tick outbreaks have occurred in the free area portion of several South Texas counties ~~during since November 2016 2007~~ and ~~expanded into additional areas in 2008~~ has resulted in a significantly increased number of Cattle Fever Tick infested premises outside the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Quarantine Area (permanent Cattle Fever Tick quarantine area), resulting in over a million acres of the formerly free areas of South Texas under Cattle Fever Tick quarantine and requiring many millions of dollars in resources to cover the costs of the increase in human and fiscal resources needed to contain and eliminate the Cattle Fever Tick outbreak, and

WHEREAS, if Cattle Fever Tick outbreaks are not systematically contained and eliminated in South Texas, the entire historic range of the Cattle Fever Tick is in jeopardy for the potential reintroduction of fever ticks, which in turn could cause outbreaks of Cattle Tick Fever, resulting in large numbers of cattle being lost to the disease and costing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact to affected areas, ~~and potentially~~ billions of dollars on a national scale,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA urges USDA, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress to immediately provide funding needed to cover the costs associated with elimination of Cattle Fever Ticks from the outbreak areas of ~~South~~ Texas, and other states if needed,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA urges Congress to provide to the Agricultural Research Service funding for research and development of novel acaricides and anti-tick vaccines for fever tick control on wildlife hosts and on livestock, to identify mitigation strategies, like that Veterinary Pest Genomics Center, that could aid in control of fever ticks, to develop advanced methods for prevention and eradication of Cattle Fever Ticks, and to improve management of diseases related to Cattle Fever Ticks that are associated with wildlife and livestock.

Dr. Bud Dinges, representing the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), offered additional amendments to CH 3.1 in Part I-Coordination. The membership of the committee approved the amendments, as shown, to CH 3.1, without objection.

CH 3.10 Judicious Use of Antibiotics and Drugs-AMEND

WHEREAS, the use of antimicrobial agents and other modern compounds is necessary at times to preserve life and prevent suffering in the face of disease in cattle, and

WHEREAS, indiscriminant use of antimicrobials may lead to the development of bacterial resistance, possibly impacting both animal and human health, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that cattle producers have an obligation to protect animal health and protect human health and promote food safety,

~~WHEREAS, it is further recognized that there is an obligation to protect human health by promoting food safety,~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA advocates the judicious use of antimicrobials, other compounds, and drugs. Issues involving the use of such products in animals and humans must be resolved using sound, peer-reviewed science without influence of emotion or political agendas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA advocates the responsible use of antimicrobials, other compounds, and drugs as outlined in the Quality Assurance Guidelines for both beef and dairy cattle, as appropriate.

The members of the committee approved the amendments to CH 3.10, as shown, without objection.

CH 4.3 Bont Tick—Heartwater--DELETE

~~WHEREAS, the Tropical Bont Tick and its associated disease, Heartwater and acute bovine dermatophilosis, has not been found since 2010 on the United States Virgin Islands, there is a need to continue eradication and prevent reintroduction or further spread of the disease in and around the Caribbean, and~~

~~WHEREAS, this tick and these diseases pose a serious threat to the cattle industry and wildlife, especially deer, in the United States,~~

~~THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA should promote the continued work of the Caribbean Animal Health Network to eradicate the Bont Tick from all Caribbean islands and work closely with the United States Animal Health Association and United States Department of Agriculture to support initiatives such as the tick eradication program in St. Croix, surveillance programs, response plans, and the validation of approved tests.~~

CH 4.6 Tropical Bont-Tick: Risk of Acute Bovine Dermatophilosis and Heartwater Introduction to the United States-AMEND

WHEREAS, the Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) and its associated disease, heartwater and acute bovine dermatophilosis, Heartwater disease has migrated from Africa to the Caribbean Islands and is now recognized by the the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) as a “high-consequence” threat to United States (U.S.) cattle production and

wildlife, but funding levels for programs to protect the U.S. cattle herd have been reduced significantly, and

WHEREAS, reduced TBT eradication funds will likely lead to TBT spread throughout the Caribbean and population increases on all affected islands, and

WHEREAS, TBT, acute ~~B~~ovine ~~D~~ermatophilosis, and ~~h~~Heartwater will therefore continue to pose a serious threat to the cattle industry and wildlife in the U.S.,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ~~NCBA should promote the continued work of the Caribbean Animal Health Network to eradicate the Bont Tick from all Caribbean islands and work closely with the United States Animal Health Association and USDA to support initiatives such as the tick eradication program in St. Croix.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA requests United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) support and fund current work and projects being done by APHIS and its collaborators to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean, establish surveillance programs for TBT and associated disease conditions, emergency response plans, development, and validation of approved tests for Hheartwater within the U.S.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA continues to encourage USDA to enter into negotiations with French authorities, European Union representatives and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to acquire resources to work with French-speaking islands of the Caribbean for TBT eradication.

The committee members approved deleting CH 4.3 and combining CH 4.3 and CH 4.6 to amend CH 4.6 as recommended by leadership, with no objection.

CH 4.7 U.S. Screwworm Control Program Support--DELETE

~~WHEREAS, the very successful screwworm eradication program has rid the pest from the U.S., Mexico, and Central America, and~~

~~WHEREAS, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) needs to coordinate the various screwworm research programs to increase their efficiency and productivity,~~

~~THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA shall favor the ongoing research on cryopreservation, all male screwworm production, improved mass rearing techniques, and procedures to quickly manage outbreaks.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA shall insist that negotiations with Panama shall ensure availability and access to requested screwworm flies as well as allow appropriate research programs without disruption.~~

CH 4.7 Screwworm Eradication and U.S. Screwworm Control Program--AMEND

WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.) and Mexico today are free of the screwworm pest due to a very successful, and although Mexico no longer participates directly in eradication programs, ~~the Mexico-U.S. Commission continues to supply sterile flies to screwworm eradication programs,~~ and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS) needs to coordinate the various screwworm research programs to increase their efficiency and productivity, and

WHEREAS, Mexico no longer participates directly in eradication programs, the Mexico-U.S. Commission continues to supply sterile flies to screwworm eradication programs, and

WHEREAS, a new screwworm fly production plant was built in Panama and inaugurated on July 12, 2006 and the screwworm fly production plant in the Republic of Mexico was subsequently closed, and

~~WHEREAS, the plant in Panama was inaugurated on July 12, 2006 while declaring Panama as free of screwworm flies,~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA shall insist that negotiations with Panama shall ensure availability and access to requested screwworm flies, as well as allow appropriate research programs without disruption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA shall favor the ongoing research on cryopreservation, all male screwworm production, improved mass rearing techniques, and procedures to quickly manage outbreaks.

~~THEREFORE~~ BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA strongly supports the continued work of screwworm eradication and World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) recommendations for importation, quarantine, and transportation of cattle from countries considered infested with screwworm flies.

The committee members approved deleting CH 4.1 and combine to amend CH 4.7, as shown, with no objection.

CH 8.10 Veterinary College Programs--AMEND

WHEREAS, the country is experiencing an acute shortage of food supply veterinarians (food animal veterinarians, veterinary laboratory diagnosticians, veterinarians trained in agricultural bio-security, regulatory veterinarians, and food supply research veterinarians), and

WHEREAS, this shortage is felt on cattle farms and ranches across the nation causing increased costs in herd health, disease diagnostics and overall production costs, and

WHEREAS, this shortage reduces our first line of defense against bio-terrorism, disease identification, prevention, and control, and

WHEREAS, this shortage could affect food safety for our consumers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA work to support the Veterinary ~~Services Workforce~~ Grant ~~pProgram,~~ and the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment ~~Pprogram,~~ and the ~~Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act.~~

The committee members approved amending CH 8.10, as shown, with no objections.

CH 8.6 Non-ambulatory Cattle Not To Be Used in the Commercial Food Supply-DELETE

~~WHEREAS, cattle do at times become non-ambulatory; and~~

~~WHEREAS, cattle producers are committed to ensuring that all cattle are treated humanely;~~

~~THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA supports policies to prohibit the transport and harvest of non-ambulatory cattle for the commercial food supply.~~

The committee membership approved deleting CH 8.6 and combining it with CH 1.1 as previously amended, without objections.

Chairman Holliman brought forward for consideration the recommendation of the task force to move all policies pertaining to animal disease traceability to a new section entitled, CH 10 Animal ID/Disease Traceability and recommend that CH 1.5 Development of Protocols for Regionalization and CH 8.6 Identification of Imported Cattle be moved into the new category CH 10. The membership of the committee approved the recommendation, with no objections.

V. New Business:

Chairman Holliman opened the floor to new business and the two expiring policies, CH 8.8 and 8.9 that Mary Ann Kniebel had requested be discussed with new business related to animal disease traceability policy.

The chairman recognized Jay O'Brien, TSCRA, who spoke on the proposed new animal disease traceability policy from the CHWB Traceability Task Force that would replace CH 8.8 and CH 8.9. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to delete CH 8.8 and CH 8.9 and to approve the animal disease traceability task force policy as written below:

CH Summer Resolution 1-Support of Individual Animal Identification to Enhance Traceability

WHEREAS, NCBA continues to be an industry-leading organization on animal identification issues, and

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, a goal should be to enable the cattle industry, state, and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern, and

WHEREAS, the proposed United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS) animal disease traceability framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs,

WHEREAS, foreign governments and our customers overseas expect USDA and the United States (U.S.) beef industry to be able to respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and to provide them with assurances that the beef we export to them is safe, and

WHEREAS, most major beef-exporting countries have implemented animal identification (ID) and traceability systems and are using their systems to differentiate themselves from the U.S. with customers in global markets, and

WHEREAS, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted guidelines on animal ID and traceability that establish basic principles which any traceability system should satisfy, and

WHEREAS, USDA, APHIS has developed a national animal disease traceability (ADT) program that establishes minimum disease traceability requirements, and

WHEREAS, an ID traceability program would complement and enhance the USDA, APHIS ADT program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA be at the forefront of discussions on any animal identification program(s) and NCBA ~~strongly supports the implementation of an efficacious national traceability system in the U.S., whether voluntary or mandatory, that work to ensure that any national traceability system meets the following criteria:~~

1. Is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed by the USDA,
2. Is compatible with the general traceability principles of the OIE,
3. Recognizes existing USDA programs for beef exports,
4. Can be used to achieve compliance under the requirements of the USDA, APHIS ADT program,
5. Is flexible enough to work with other potential uses of ID,
6. Utilizes low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible,
7. Requires that cattle ID information for disease traceability be kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure,
8. Protects producers from liability for acts of others after the cattle have left the producer's control,
9. Operates at the speed of commerce,
10. Does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

A representative from TSCRA and representing the cow-calf sector, made a motion to amend the policy put forward by the task force to omit the terms voluntary and mandatory as shown above. The motion carried and after a short discussion, the membership approved the amended proposed policy on animal disease traceability as brought forward by the CHWB Traceability task force by majority vote. Mary Ann

Knibel made a motion to delete the existing CH 8.8 and CH 8.9, which was seconded and passed by the membership with no objection.

Colorado Cattlemen's Association brought the following policy on animal disease traceability before the committee for their consideration and action:

CH Summer Resolution 2

2017/New

Animal Disease Traceability

Submitted by Colorado Cattlemen's Association

WHEREAS NCBA is on record supporting traceability for animal disease purposes, and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED NCBA supports traceability protocols outlined below that address producers concerns relative to the USDA/ADT program.

- Allows for a separate rule-making process for cattle under 18 months of age.
- Implementation of a traceability program needs to consider technology and the speed of commerce. Specifically, USDA, state, and private datasets must function and be dependable. For ADT specifically, datasets should be correlated with other animal health data, such as those listed on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection.
- ADT is not a tool directly formatted for international market access for trade. Identification programs used for international trade access or other traceability programs, which meet ADT minimum standards for device, etc should be allowed to populate certain traceability aspects of ADT.
- Confidentiality of producer information is essential and producer information should be strongly protected from disclosure.
- Producers must be protected from liability for the acts of others after their cattle have left their control.
- The animal data management system does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.
- Cattle movement between adjoining states on pasture-to-pasture permits should be allowed to continue at the discretion of the state animal health officials involved.
- Data integrity must be maintained throughout the system, including retagging and retirement of tags at harvest,
- Adequate federal resources to the state must be readily available to facilitate the objectives of ADT.

A discussion of the proposed policy took place and the policy was approved by majority vote of the membership.

No other business was brought before the committee.

VI. Chairman Holliman adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am MST.