

Standing Resolutions

Approved at MMPA State Annual Delegate Meeting on March 23, 2017

S-1. FARMER COOPERATIVES

We believe that the concept of farmer cooperatives and family farms, upon which this nation relies for providing high-quality agricultural products at reasonable prices, is of immeasurable value. We urge the administration to be guided by that fact as it formulates and carries out policies and programs pertaining to farming.

We will continue to strongly resist efforts in private or government sectors to weaken or destroy farmer cooperatives.

We are determined that present tax regulations, which result in a single taxing of farmer cooperatives' overages allocated to members, must be maintained.

S-2. DAIRY PRODUCT IDENTITY

We pledge continued support for the work of the National Milk Producers Federation, United Dairy Industry Association, National Dairy Promotion & Research Board, and other responsible groups that defend and promote the integrity of "Real" dairy products.

S-3. AGRICULTURAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS — DAIRY COMMUNICATORS

We commend the corps of the MMPA Dairy Communicators for their efforts to improve the position of dairy farmers.

We recognize the growing need for regular communication with legislators, and news media; for local promotion and consumer education activities geared to the milk consuming public.

We re-emphasize our continuing belief that all news media must be made aware of, and have access to, up-to-date information regarding our views on a wide range of agriculture-related issues.

We encourage the participation of all designated Dairy Communicators and local officers in events that allow communication about dairying and other agricultural issues to the general public.

S-4. ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

We acknowledge the increased importance of marketing services and programs of such dairy farmer cooperatives as MMPA in our complex marketplace. We, therefore, pledge continued support to the activities of the following organizations, allies working to extend the effectiveness of MMPA members and all other dairy farmers:

National Milk Producers Federation in representing dairy farmers and their cooperatives in Washington, D.C.; National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in conveying the farmer cooperative story to elected officials and federal agencies.

S-5. MMPA LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

We recognize the importance of programs that help ensure MMPA's future strength and effectiveness, and we continue our endorsement of programs that identify and build future leadership for this cooperative. We urge young cooperators to attend association meetings, share ideas and concerns, discuss solutions to common problems, and become involved in activities which lead to development of abilities needed to provide sound, foresighted operation of agricultural cooperatives.

S-6. IMAGE ENHANCEMENT

We direct the MMPA board of directors to work with leaders of other farm groups to enhance the image that farmers and agriculture project to the general public.

S-7. QUALITY PREMIUM PROGRAM

We commend the MMPA board of directors and management for their continuing vigil over the quality of milk produced on our farms. We commend them for developing and implementing the Quality Premium Program, which provides to MMPA members financial incentive to produce superior quality milk. We direct the MMPA board and management to monitor the progress of this important program and to make adjustments, as needed, to ensure its effective continuation.

S-8. MICHIGAN DAIRY MARKET PROGRAM

We continue our solid endorsement of the Michigan Dairy Market Program, which funds dairy product promotion and market-building activities of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM) and United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA) at a rate of \$.10/cwt. through dairy farmer investment.

S-9. EXPANDING MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

We direct MMPA management to continue to aggressively seek new customers for milk-derived products made at the MMPA manufacturing plants. We support MMPA's expansion of its marketing activities into that segment of the food industry, in addition to the broad range of traditional products. We endorse continuation of that practice, as a way to capitalize upon milk marketing opportunities that enable MMPA to market its members' milk to their best advantage.

S-10. INVOLVEMENT: THE COMMUNITY OF AGRICULTURE

We urge each MMPA member to seek and/or accept the responsibility for involvement in local government. We urge each member to enter into this continuing vigil in the spirit of responsible citizens as his or her livelihood and way of living depends on it.

We suggest strongly that the areas to be closely monitored — with an eye to potential impact on the agriculture community — include issues related to: livestock management, environmental integrity, equitable taxation, planning commission and zoning ordinance board.

S-11. MICHIGAN BEEF INDUSTRY COMMISSION

We support the Michigan Beef Industry Commission and the National Beef Check-off Program of which over 40 percent of the Michigan funds come from dairy beef and veal in Michigan. Therefore, we support the Michigan Beef Industry Commission in directing dairy farmers' check-off dollars to promote beef through its consumer education, industry information, and a more aggressive beef promotion program.

S-12. INDUSTRY RELATIONS

With the declining number of producers in the agricultural community, it behooves all producers to stand together when confronting agricultural issues. We are encouraged by recent movement to work toward common goals and encourage further cooperation and unity in dealing with future beef and dairy legislation.

S-13. MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

We recognize the value of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development having its operating policy determined by the Michigan Agriculture Commission. We urge the Governor to ensure that animal agriculture interests are adequately represented and to seek input from the agriculture industry when opportunities arise to fill vacancies on the Michigan Agriculture Commission. Recognizing that the dairy industry represents 25 percent of Michigan's agricultural income, and is a major user of Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development services, we encourage the appointment of an individual directly involved in the dairy industry. Further, we strongly urge that steps be taken to allow the Commission to approve the rules and regulations promulgated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

S-14. NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

We encourage the Governor to maintain a person with an agricultural background on the Natural Resources Commission.

S-15. SPONSORING OF EVENTS

Many times MMPA is asked to sponsor many events such as dinners, special events, etc. We support such sponsorship, however, when MMPA sponsors these events, one stipulation must be made to the group that wants our sponsorship. The group that wants our sponsorship must agree to serve "Real" dairy products at the event.

S-16. RESIDUE PREVENTION QUALITY ASSURANCE/HAACP PROGRAMS

Recognizing the importance of producing a safe, residue-free product, we encourage participation in the Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program or a similar HAACP-based program by every MMPA member. These programs enable producers to carefully evaluate their production and management practices to enhance production of residue-free milk and meat.

S-17. PUBLIC NUTRITION PROGRAMS

We recognize the importance of public nutrition programs that help maintain the nation's health and provide stable markets for agricultural commodities. We urge Congress to take the necessary steps to maintain child feeding, school breakfast and lunch programs, and other public nutrition programs that include REAL dairy products. We further urge Congress to ensure these programs are adequately funded, regulated, and administered.

In addition, we urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that adequate funds are made available to states for distribution of dairy products to needy families.

S-18. GREEN

We support the partnership efforts of Michigan State University, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University Extension, state government, the state's commodity groups and food processors and consumers in structuring the GREEN program (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs). The GREEN proposal seeks to boost the state's economy by expanding Michigan's plant-based agriculture and processing systems through research and educational programs while protecting and preserving the quality of the environment and the safety of our food supply.

S-19. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We believe that property owners have the constitutional right to be duly compensated for any use by the government that in any way diminishes the property owners use of the property. Any action taken by the government that lessens an owner's right to use his property constitutes a taking of that owner's property and should be appropriately compensated to the owner. Compensation should be paid from the budget of the agency responsible for the action and must be of fair market value.

S-20. FOOD SAFETY

We acknowledge that the public perception of food safety may have adverse public policy and market-related impacts upon dairy farmers. MMPA and NMPF have taken and will continue to take proactive positions to protect the nation's milk and dairy beef supply from violative animal drug residues and other potential contaminants.

S-21. FEDERAL ORDERS

We strongly endorse the continuation of the Federal Milk Marketing Order system, established by the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. The Federal Order system has a long history and time-tested record of changing individual order rules and regulations to meet changing market conditions and consumers' needs. The formal hearing process used to amend Federal Orders has served the industry well. We endorse the use of the recently revised hearing and decision making process.

S-22. NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION/MARKET-BUILDING PROGRAMS

We reaffirm our support for market-building programs financed by producer investment. We endorse funding of these programs which include the National Dairy Board (NDB) and United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA), at levels that ensure continued effectiveness.

S-23. TRUCK WEIGHTS

We oppose any efforts by the state legislature to reduce Michigan's gross vehicle weight limits. Lowering truck weights would result in higher energy, environmental and transportation costs, negatively affecting the income of dairy farmers and ultimately impacting the prices consumers pay for dairy products. Studies have shown that individual axle loads and speed are more important than total gross vehicle weight when determining factors that affect road damage.

S-24. MICHIGAN DAIRY EXPO

We applaud the efforts of the Michigan State University 4-H program at the Michigan Dairy Expo. The development of this event has revitalized the Dairy 4-H program in Michigan. We support the educational and promotional activities associated with the Michigan Dairy Expo and encourage participation in this event.

Furthermore, we extend our appreciation to the numerous 4-H volunteers and leaders and MMPA members who had the vision to make the Michigan Dairy Expo a reality. Without their continuing commitment to our youth, the programs and activities at Michigan Dairy Expo would not be possible.

S-25. 4-H, FFA AND AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION

We reaffirm our belief in the value of youth-directed programs and activities of the Michigan 4-H Clubs, FFA, and Agriscience Education — all of which are vital to the future of America. We recognize that most MMPA members benefited from taking part in these programs and we recommend that each dairy farm family accept the challenge of personal involvement to help perpetuate these valuable programs and activities.

We support the establishment of standards for ethical behavior in exhibiting livestock at fairs and expositions. Furthermore, we support youth livestock ethics education and awareness.

Further, in view of the vital investment that vocational agriscience programs represent in the future well-being of the state's economy, we urge that these programs be fully funded, on a continuing basis, at levels to ensure their effectiveness and state accreditation. That is particularly important in small rural school districts located in areas that often must compete for funds with large urban school districts.

S-26. UNITED STATES DAIRY EXPORT COUNCIL

We support and encourage further development of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) to increase net exports of U.S. dairy products. With the continued productivity of U.S. dairy farms, we will have an even greater reliance on world markets for our products. We therefore need to continue to effectively work to develop international markets through the USDEC.

S-27. LOW VOLTAGE (BROWN OUTS)

We urge all electrical utility companies maintain and improve their delivery systems to ensure that the expensive problem of low voltage (brown outs) ceases to exist.

S-28. CLONED ANIMAL PRODUCTS

We are reassured that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review finds no health or safety issues with food from cloned animals. We endorse the U.S. Department of Agriculture's request that cloning technology providers, and the owners of existing cloned livestock continue to observe the moratorium on the commercial marketing of cloned animal products. This will allow a further review of the economic and trade issues regarding the new technology. We further oppose labeling which would differentiate between milk and meat from cloned and conventionally bred animals.

S-29. STRAY VOLTAGE

Stray voltage, sometimes known as neutral to earth voltage, is an electrical problem that can affect livestock operations. Stray voltage can be attributed to a number of potential sources. We applaud the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for the adoption of stray voltage rules formally known as "Rules and Regulations Governing Animal Contact Current Mitigation." The rules outline realistic stray voltage standards and the process for investigations when necessary by neutral third parties to resolve disputes between utilities and producers. By following the steps outlined in the rules, producers have the opportunity to address stray voltage concerns in a consistent, fair and systematic manner.

We also encourage the MPSC to routinely evaluate the rules and procedures of stray voltage standards and the best management practices that coincide with them. We encourage the commission to also review research conducted on the impact stray voltage has on livestock.

We will continue to work with electric suppliers and the Public Service Commission to resolve problems with stray voltage on farms to ensure that problems are resolved in a fair and equitable manner for all involved.

We further encourage and support research on the effects of stray voltage on livestock.

Furthermore, we encourage the MMPA board of directors and management to monitor individual farm situations to determine if the current standards and regulations are still applicable to on-farm situations.

We strongly urge utility companies to fully fund their Agricultural Service Departments so there are enough personnel to routinely visit dairy farms and identify and solve stray voltage problems.

S-30. APPROVED TECHNOLOGY

We urge the MMPA board of directors and management to continue monitoring the existing and potential impact of advances in technologies on our farming operations. We are concerned about the growing scrutiny surrounding approved technology and management practices used in production agriculture. We believe it is the responsibility of the entire agriculture community, including government agencies and universities, to protect our industry by informing consumers of the safety and efficacy of modern farming practices in producing an abundant, safe and affordable food for the consumer. Without proper education we will continue to lose our ability to use FDA approved technologies on our farms due to consumers' lack of understanding of our industry.

S-31. DIAGNOSTIC CENTER FOR POPULATION AND ANIMAL HEALTH

The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health in East Lansing, Mich. plays a critical role in protecting the health and safety of humans and animals throughout our state and nation. With new and improved technology and increased bio-security including threats of bio-terrorism, we support full funding for the effective operation of the lab.

S-32. LIVESTOCK SEIZURE

We understand that in any group of livestock, condition may exist where some animals will appear to be in better health and body condition than others due to weather and other external factors. We believe that people not familiar with standard livestock animal care do not have the right—because they think the animal is being abused—to confiscate or have confiscated another person's livestock from the owner's property without a judicial review and determination, including notification of the owner, prior to the seizure of animals.

Law enforcement agencies (including animal control authorities) should obtain the opinion of two unbiased local livestock professionals and a large animal veterinarian prior to the seizure of a person's livestock. The accuser should pay for costs associated with the resulting investigation if no abuse is found.

S-33. ANIMAL DISEASES

Animal diseases continue to reduce profitability for dairy producers and may impede exports and international market development. Diseases such as Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Johne's Disease and others can significantly increase costs to dairy producers in terms of decreased milk production, loss of animals, and replacement of animals. In an effort to protect the entire livestock industry in the United States from possible occurrence of animal diseases, we recommend a very aggressive enforcement of regulations to limit all imports of livestock and animal by-products. We encourage the continued and increased financial support of research to determine the causative agent, life cycle and possible control of these diseases.

We urge MSU, MDARD and USDA to provide sufficient funding and programs for animal health education, disease monitoring, border inspections and disease eradication that protect the United States livestock industry and ensure continued market access.

We further oppose importation of livestock that does not meet import testing requirements as deemed appropriate by the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, have appropriate quarantine protocols in place, and have an animal I.D. system to track the movement of livestock to prevent the possible spread of disease.

S-34. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease that attacks the nervous systems of deer and elk, causing chronic weight loss that eventually leads to death. It is not known to be contagious to humans, livestock or other animals. We encourage Federal and State agencies to study, monitor, control and eventually eradicate CWD from the nation's deer and elk population.

S-35. RAW MILK CONSUMPTION

We know that according to the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control, consumption of raw milk poses a health risk to humans. We therefore support Michigan's legal requirement that prohibits the sale of unpasteurized (raw) milk to consumers. All milk intended for direct consumption should be pasteurized as a matter of food safety. Since its introduction over a century ago, pasteurization has been recognized around the world as an essential tool for ensuring that milk and dairy products are safe.

S-36. MICHIGAN AG COUNCIL

We support the collective efforts of the Michigan Ag Council as a way to bring awareness and education to the role of animal agriculture in Michigan. The collaborative efforts of the Ag Council partners serve as an effective tool in bringing unity among agricultural organizations to promote a positive image for the agriculture industry. The Michigan Ag Council takes an assertive, proactive approach in telling the story of modern agriculture practices and advancements.

S-37. CAPPER-VOLSTEAD PROTECTIONS

We strongly support the protections provided by the Capper-Volstead Act's limited antitrust immunity for farmers and their cooperatives. The Capper-Volstead Act gives agricultural producer organizations limited antitrust immunity "in collectively processing, preparing for market, handling and marketing" their products. We urge Congress to support and maintain the protections provided by the Capper-Volstead Act. These protections are as important to farmers and cooperatives today as they were when originally passed in 1922.

S-38. FERAL ANIMALS

Many farmers and rural residents are very concerned about the increasing population of feral hogs and other destructive wild animals. We need to have every tool or means available to help control these animals. We strongly support the state order that went into effect on October 8, 2011 that declares wild hogs an invasive and prohibited species. The state order is essential to protect Michigan's agriculture industry from the destructive animals.

S-39. STARLING CONTROL MEASURES

Starling populations continue to pose a threat to livestock health and production in dairy herds. Their droppings in feed and bedding areas have known negative effects on livestock health. Starlings glean the expensive, high protein components of dairy feed, reducing herd protein intake and adversely affect milk production. Since birds can travel easily from farm to farm, there is also the potential for disease transmission. We approve USDA's program for starling control and urge the continuation and expansion of the program. We encourage producers to participate in the program.

S-40. REAL SEAL

We applaud National Milk Producers Federation for taking over the management of the REAL Seal program. The revitalization of the REAL Seal places a renewed emphasis on highlighting the importance and value of American-made dairy foods. The program will help educate new generations of dairy consumers about the significance of the REAL Seal and promote the good taste, nutritional value and wholesomeness associated with dairy foods and dairy food ingredients made from milk produced in the United States.

S-41. NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE CROSSING

We support the New International Trade Crossing (NITC) project that will construct a second bridge crossing between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. Being able to connect more efficiently to the East Coast through the NITC will help increase the market options available to Michigan's dairy and agriculture industry.

S-42. JOHNE'S DISEASE

We are concerned about the significant animal health problems and economic impact on dairy farms from Johne's disease.

We encourage the Michigan State University (MSU) Animal Science Department, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, departments of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, MSU Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work cooperatively to develop control and prevention guidelines to assist producers in managing Johne's disease.

We oppose the classification of Johne's disease as a reportable disease.

In addition, we urge that all imported cattle be tested negative for Johne's.

S-43. LAND USE POLICIES

We support positive land use policies, including urban redevelopment and higher density suburban growth.

S-44. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONCERNS

We understand there are conflicting arguments within the scientific and political community surrounding the existence and causation of global warming and climate change. There is some belief that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities are contributing to an increase in average global temperatures and adverse changes in the world's climate and weather. GHG emissions include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane. While we do not accept the responsibility for the increase in GHG emissions, the dairy industry is poised to play a unique role in the climate change debate. We urge the MMPA board of directors and management staff to closely monitor any climate change legislation or greenhouse gas reporting that may adversely impact the dairy industry's ability to provide a safe and abundant milk supply. Furthermore, we oppose any efforts to regulate livestock operations' GHG emissions through the Clean Air Act.

It is important to recognize the great strides that have been made in lowering the carbon footprint and greenhouse gases (GHG) of the U.S. dairy industry. Today's U.S. dairy industry is supplying consumers' needs for dairy products with about one-third of the GHG emissions generated by the system in 1944 per pound of milk produced. The imposition of GHG standards could stifle the further success and ongoing innovations in the dairy and agriculture industry.

Current Resolutions

Approved at MMPA State Annual Delegate Meeting on March 23, 2017

Milk Pricing and Market Regulation

C-1. U.S. DAIRY POLICY

We support the changes made in the 2014 Farm Bill to replace outdated dairy policy. We applaud National Milk Producers Federation's appointment of an Economic Policy Committee to fully review and analyze the Dairy Margin Protection Program incorporated into the 2014 Farm Bill. The committee will make recommendations on improvements that can be made to the Margin Protection Program to ensure it provides meaningful risk management assistance to dairy producers of all sizes. Given the current economic situation in the dairy industry, we strongly urge the United States Department of Agriculture to consider all options possible to provide additional risk management tools prior to the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill.

C-2. OVER-ORDER PRICING

We continue our firm commitment to maximizing returns to dairy farmers and ensuring stability of the milk market. We believe in the pooling concept of over-order pricing and acknowledge its effectiveness when accompanied with equitable sharing of proceeds among all dairy farmers.

We urge MMPA to promote the concept of over-order pricing and equitable sharing of over-order proceeds among all dairy farmers in the region.

We urge cooperatives and all others involved in the dairy industry across the country to work together in a manner that promotes market stability. We encourage our leaders, when possible, to work with dairy organizations to solve problems to the benefit of all dairy farmers.

C-3. COOPERATIVES WORKING TOGETHER

We support the industry-led Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program developed to help strengthen farm milk prices. The CWT program demonstrates the ability of farmers to work together to enhance their industry. We commend the program's success and we support CWT's current efforts to focus exclusively on an Export Assistance Program. CWT's Export Assistance Program has demonstrated its effectiveness in enhancing dairy farmer revenue by expanding the demand for U.S. dairy products. We urge all dairy farmers across the U.S. to participate in the CWT program.

Furthermore, we urge NMPF to renew and utilize the program to its fullest potential to help provide long-term stability for the dairy industry. We are in favor of the possibility of increasing our financial support to the CWT program.

Advertising, Research, Education & Public Relations

C-4. DAIRY PRODUCT PROMOTION PROGRAMS

We support the continuation of joint programs between Dairy Management Incorporated (DMI) and the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board designed to promote the consumption of fluid milk. We urge further collaboration to identify and break through barriers to fluid milk marketing. We further urge DMI to focus on its primary mission: to increase sales and demand for dairy products and maximize value returned to dairy farmers.

We are pleased with the recent increased consumer demand for milkfat. With medical journals touting the health benefits of milkfat, sales of whole milk have grown on a year over year basis in 2015 and demand for butter has been steadily increasing. We urge continued focus and outreach in this area.

We further support the promotional and nutrition education efforts of United Dairy Industry of Michigan and its work within the state to promote the consumption of dairy products.

C-5. CUSTOMER SUPPORTED DAIRY PROMOTIONS

We applaud the efforts of MMPA fluid milk and dairy ingredient customers promoting dairy products and our family farms in their advertising and marketing efforts. It is beneficial to the industry as a whole when more companies promote the consumption of dairy products.

C-6. MSU EXTENSION

We urge MSU Extension to be mindful of the important role production agriculture plays in our state's economy when making any changes to the structure and focus of MSU Extension. We urge the leadership within MSU Extension to carefully examine ways to best meet the needs of the agriculture community and to bolster the industry's growth as a vital contributor to our state's economy.

We urge state lawmakers to provide adequate funding to keep MSU Extension effective and viable. We further urge county governments to continue their support for MSU Extension.

C-7. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

We continue our support for Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine and programs of Extension and Research. We support continued legislative funding for these two colleges and their facilities at appropriate levels.

We urge the MSU Administration and Board of Trustees to continue the focus on improving agricultural education, research and extension programs. We support the continuation and strengthening of the Agricultural Technology program at MSU.

We acknowledge the importance of a working partnership between the dairy industry and the university. We expect to achieve cooperative efforts from the college faculty, providing partnership and collaboration between the university and the agriculture industry. We further encourage the university to conduct research programs that support the mainstay of the agriculture industry.

We applaud the establishment of the Agriculture Stakeholder Advisory Committee to provide input and future direction to academic and research programs affecting the agriculture industry.

C-8. MSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

We urge the CANR and University leadership to maintain the agricultural focus that has been so vital to the university, the State of Michigan and its citizens. We urge continued emphasis on the Land Grant mission of the University.

We strongly support having the Directors of Ag BioResearch and MSU Extension be under the direction of the Dean of the CANR.

Furthermore, we urge the college to engage in the dialogue surrounding the use of safe, approved and scientifically-sound technology used in production of food. We rely on the university to make their research findings available to not only those involved in agriculture, but to the general public when modern farming practices are challenged.

We further support reviving the ability for students to earn a degree in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications and Agriculture Education. With the increasing need to enhance the public understanding of the agriculture industry and to communicate to a variety of audiences, having students properly educated in this area is a key component to the continued growth of the agriculture industry.

C-9. FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION MEDICINE

We are concerned about the shortage of veterinarians in the area of food animal production medicine. It is important for the animal agriculture industry to have qualified and experienced animal health professionals to protect the state's livestock industry.

We support the Production Animal Scholars Program developed jointly by the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. The program encourages interested students to pursue food-animal medicine careers and provides them with a broader understanding of the entire food production system.

We encourage the MMPA Board of Directors, management and members to work with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine to assist in efforts to increase the number and level of experience of food animal practitioners.

C-10. SUSTAINABILITY ON DAIRY FARMS

We recognize the tremendous efforts dairy farmers have made over the years to protect and preserve our environment. We also know that our members work diligently to provide the best possible care for their animals. These factors illustrate the sustainable practices that take place on today's dairy farms.

We also recognize the growing consumer quest for information concerning food production in our country. We understand the need to fill the information gap with correct information concerning the sustainability efforts on today's dairy farms. Therefore, we encourage our members to share their stories and let neighbors know of the sustainability efforts taking place on their farms every day.

We also encourage the MMPA board of directors and management to monitor the sustainability studies underway through the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy to ensure reliable sustainability indicators for the areas of energy, environment and animal care are developed.

C-11. K-12 AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Knowledge is the key to understanding and the vast majority of our formative knowledge comes through the educational process at a school. Today, the majority of consumers are more than a generation removed from the farming sector of society. Be it resolved that through working with local community schools that an agricultural component be recommended as part of the K-12 curriculum. This includes teaching about agriculture, both plant and animal, from farm to plate with as much as possible taught in a hands-on method. We further urge all MMPA members to support and become involved with current agriculture education initiatives.

Legislative and Regulatory Issues

C-12. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

We direct the MMPA board of directors to closely monitor international trade discussions to ensure the interests of U.S. dairy farmers are preserved and advanced. MMPA encourages the pursuit of carefully-negotiated trade agreements offering the prospect of net benefits to U.S. dairy producers.

We applaud Congress for reauthorizing the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) which helps facilitate the negotiation and implementation of U.S. trade agreements. We encourage the administration to maintain fair trade policies when negotiating with any country to ensure the preservation of the U.S. dairy industry.

We urge the MMPA board of directors and management to closely monitor significant multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and the effect the negotiations have on U.S. dairy policy. It is important that international trade agreements do not hinder the ability to provide an effective safety net for the U.S. dairy industry.

We urge the careful review and assessment of the dairy provisions contained in the recently We are disappointed that the United States was formally withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. The negotiated TPP made significant progress in breaking down barriers and provided new market access for the dairy industry. We are concerned about the competitive disadvantage the TPP withdrawal puts the U.S. dairy industry in with other countries who have been negotiating trade agreements over the last several years. We urge the current Administration to ensure future trade agreements provide reasonable and balanced market access for U.S. dairy producers.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has played a tremendous role in expanding dairy trade to Mexico. Mexico is the largest export market for U.S. dairy products, and accounts for over 3 percent of U.S. milk production. We urge any negotiations involving NAFTA must preserve what is working well such as U.S.- Mexico dairy trade and focus on areas that need improvement such as U.S.- Canada dairy trade.

We endorse the dairy industry's challenges to countries we believe to be in violation of WTO policies and urge continual monitoring of those areas. We support the Consortium for Common Food Names in their efforts associated with specialized foods from regions throughout the world. In addition, because various countries within the WTO are working to increase access to world markets, we ask the FDA and USDA to inspect all dairy imports to ensure they meet U.S. health and quality standards. We further support enforcement action which ensures that imported dairy foods meet the same compositional requirements as domestically-produced standardized dairy foods.

C-13. FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ACT

We reaffirm our support of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, 1974 PA 116, (now Part 361 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) as an effective, voluntary method to preserve essential farmland and open space while providing farmers needed tax relief. We further urge the Treasury Department to process PA 116 refunds in a timely manner.

C-14. RIGHT TO FARM

Knowing the importance of protecting our environmental resources, we strongly encourage dairy farmers to maintain high standards of environmental practices. We acknowledge and support the Michigan Commission of Agriculture's role in developing and reviewing Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). Practices dealing with livestock manure management and utilization, nutrient utilization, pesticide utilization and pest control, care of farm animals, irrigation water use and site selection and odor control for new and expanding animal livestock facilities are reviewed and approved by the commission on an annual basis. We encourage the continued development of other GAAMPs that will provide protection for other segments of agriculture. We urge

awareness among the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University and others involved in developing the guidelines that there is an opportunity to preserve the quality of our environment while maintaining an efficient agriculture community.

We are opposed to any efforts to define the production of wind energy as a farming practice under Michigan's Right-to-Farm Act.

C-15. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

We acknowledge that it is the responsibility of all livestock producers to follow proper nutrient management guidelines to prevent any contamination of our environment. We strongly encourage producers to follow the Michigan Right to Farm Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for Manure Management and Utilization and Site Selection.

We endorse the efforts of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to help producers assess and reduce environmental risks on farms. We encourage all producers, regardless of farm size, to seek environmental assurance through MAEAP verification in Michigan or similar programs in other states.

We encourage all producers to develop a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) as outlined under the MAEAP for their farming operation. A CNMP addresses manure handling and storage, land application of manure, farm specific conservation practices, feed management, record keeping and other aspects of waste and nutrient management.

C-16. MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) was developed several years ago as a way for producers to exhibit sound environmental practices on their farms. We encourage the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to keep the integrity of the MAEAP program as an environmental assurance program and to carefully monitor and divert any efforts to evolve the program into one of market access. As one of the founding partners of the MAEAP program we urge the board of directors and management staff to work to ensure the focus of the program remains on environmental assurance and not a marketing tool.

We applaud efforts in 2015 to pass legislation that extended the MAEAP program through 2021, expanded its funding base and broadened the certifications for MAEAP from three years to five years. We strongly support a key component of the legislation that created a tiered recognition program to highlight a farmer's efforts as they implement environmental practices, but have not yet achieved MAEAP verification. We further support efforts to develop a process that provides regular updates to producers on their environmental risk mitigation practices. This information will be helpful in highlighting the steps producers are taking to protect the environment.

C-17. METHANE DIGESTERS ON DAIRY FARMS

The growing interest for renewable energy in this country has created an increased emphasis on the use of methane digesters on dairy farms. While we acknowledge the role digesters can play on some farms, we are concerned that Dairy Management Incorporated (DMI) and outside interests such as power companies and equipment dealers may present unrealistic expectations of the role digesters can have on dairy farms. These unrealistic expectations are embraced by our customers, which in turn, leads them to expect our farms to use digesters to meet sustainability indicators. We encourage the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy to carefully monitor these expectations and more accurately gauge the role digesters can play on dairy farms.

C-18. CAFO REGULATIONS

We urge the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to not adopt any rules or regulations that exceed those established by the EPA.

Furthermore, we urge the MMPA Board of Directors and management to closely monitor actions of the EPA, MDEQ and all other agencies in an effort to protect the interests of livestock producers.

C-19. WATER USE

We understand that water used in agricultural production is in the public interest and represents an essential and necessary use of water for the production of food and fiber.

We urge the MMPA Board of Directors and management to closely monitor the implementation of any water use legislation or regulation that would create additional water quantity related fees or rules.

Furthermore, we are aware that since 1972, the Clean Water Act has regulated “navigable waters” to improve the quality of the nation’s waters. We oppose any legislative or regulatory efforts to expand the authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by granting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unlimited regulatory authority over all “intrastate waters,” rather than specifically “navigable” waters. We are deeply concerned that expanding the CWA beyond protecting wetlands and waterways would transform it into a vehicle for regulating virtually every wet area in the nation, including ditches, gutters and possibly even groundwater. Expanded federal jurisdiction would preempt traditional state and local government authority over land and water use decisions and alter the balance of federal and state authority. Dairy farmers are committed to conserving and restoring the nation’s water resources and believe this can be achieved without a dramatic expansion of the CWA.

C-20. AIR QUALITY

We understand that data from the National Air Emissions Study has been released and will be utilized by the Environmental Protection Agency to develop emission standards for different types and sizes of feeding operations. Lawsuits driven by environmental groups continue to force the development of regulation and law in the absence of sound science. We strongly urge that any government air quality standards be based on sound science and take into consideration the economic impact in our agricultural industry.

C-21. TAX RELIEF MEASURES

We applaud Congress for permanently extending the Section 179 tax credit which allows farms and other small businesses to write off capital purchases immediately, instead of over time.

We further support:

- the reduction of the capital gains tax and urge the U.S. Congress to include this provision in future legislation.
- keeping the stepped up tax basis now in effect on the assets heirs receive from estates.
- the elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- that any Michigan tax change be broad based and that business to business transactions be exempt from tax, including sales tax.
- eliminating the estate tax or maintaining the permanent extension of the estate tax exemption for the first \$5 million of a person’s estate indexed for inflation. The estate tax exemption assists farm families in passing the farm from one generation to the next.

We oppose:

- any effort to increase the state estate tax.
- any new or increased permits or fees imposed by the state, which result in an inequitable burden on the agricultural community.
- any increase in the state income tax rate and any changes to the current property tax system that would adversely affect farmers without a vote of the affected property owners.
- a tax or fee that negatively affects agriculture such as a tax on gross receipts, personal property or assets.

C-22. MICHIGAN DAIRY INDUSTRY RESEARCH FUND

We support efforts to explore the development of a Michigan dairy industry checkoff program to address environmental, animal research and animal welfare issues and help fund other applied dairy research programs.

C-23. APPLIED RESEARCH FUNDING

In 2007, MMPA delegates initiated an applied research fund in an amount equal to \$.01/cwt. on MMPA members’ September milk production. In 2011, delegates approved increasing the amount to \$.02/cwt. We fully understand that applied research is important to the advancement of the dairy industry, and traditional research funding sources have become limited. We therefore support the continuation of funding for the applied research fund in the amount equal to \$.02/cwt. produced by MMPA members for the month of September. This fund is to be managed by the MMPA board of directors or delegated committee.

We also encourage MMPA to work with other cooperatives and dairy industry groups to get all milk in the state participating in a similar manner.

C-24. MICHIGAN ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

We support the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (M-AAA) and their efforts developing a proposal to establish a state-funded animal ag research program modeled after the successful Project GREEN that addresses plant-based research programs. The M-AAA consists of representatives from various animal agriculture stakeholder organizations, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, MSU Extension, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU Department of Animal Science, MSU AgBio Research and MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The group has developed the Michigan Animal Agriculture Innovation and Workforce Development Initiative, which focuses on ensuring the sustainability of the state’s animal agriculture sector through a targeted annual investment in research, extension and workforce development. We applaud state legislators for including \$899,000 in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 2016-17 fiscal year budget in support of the M-AAA efforts. We encourage continued funding support of the proposed program.

C-25. IMMIGRATION REFORM

We urge Congress to carefully consider immigration reform proposals and the impact they may have on the agriculture and dairy industry. Due to the importance of immigrant labor to the dairy industry, we believe that any final piece of legislation concerning immigration reform must contain the following components:

An affordable and efficient guest worker program that ensures continued availability of immigrant labor for all of agriculture, understanding that dairy farming requires year-round skilled workers.

A provision that allows those currently employed, or with recent history in the U.S., to earn the right to work here legally.

A provision that specifies that responsibility for ultimate verification of the legal status of a worker lies with the government, not with the employer.

C-26. MILK LABELING REQUIREMENTS

We urge the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Food and Drug Administration to continue to strictly enforce label claims on packages of all milk and dairy products. We further urge these agencies to take action to prevent misleading and false in-store promotions of milk and dairy products.

C-27. INTEGRITY OF MILK LABELING

We strongly oppose the use of the label “milk” on products made from plants or juice. The use of “milk” on these types of products confuses the consumer. We urge National Milk Producers Federation, United Dairy Industry Association, and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board to defend and promote the integrity of the milk label and limit its use as defined in the Federal Standards of Identity.

C-28. DAIRY PRIDE ACT

Dairy farmers produce a nutritionally consistent, safe and high-quality product long recognized for its important contributions to human health; and this product – milk – is clearly defined as a product of animal agriculture under the product’s federal standard of identity found in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 131.110.

Therefore, we strongly endorse Congressional passage of the DAIRY PRIDE Act (S. 130 and H.R. 778), which would protect the integrity of milk and other federally standardized dairy products by requiring plant-based imitation foods that make an inaccurate or misleading label claim about the attributes of the food and its nomenclature to be considered “misbranded” and subject to enforcement.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act would require the FDA to issue guidance for nationwide enforcement of mislabeled imitation dairy products within 90 days and require the FDA to report to Congress two years after enactment to hold the agency accountable for enforcement obligations.

C-29. BIOENGINEERED CROPS

Farmers have been using selective breeding to alter crops for taste, yield and disease resistance for hundreds of years. However, since the 1990s bioengineered crops have become more prevalent. These crops offer tremendous benefits to society, including the ability to increase production while reducing the need for pesticides and preserving scarce natural resources.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are now among the most extensively studied scientific subjects in history. The conclusions of these studies are unequivocal: there is no credible evidence that GMOs pose any unique threat to the environment or the public’s health.

We therefore urge all companies and government agencies recognize the numerous studies, including those by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, the World Health Organization, the International Council of Science Union, the AMA, the FDA, and the USDA, which show unequivocally that GMO crops and the products taken from animals fed GMO crops are as safe and healthy as those from non-GMO crops.

We support active involvement by the United States in the development of a uniform scientifically-based international approval process for biotechnology.

We oppose all attempts to limit the production or use of genetically modified crops based upon unproven statements and unsubstantiated fears. With the potential advancements in bioengineered crops, any limitations on some or all farmers will only serve to place them at a competitive disadvantage.

C-30. TERM LIMITS FOR STATE LEGISLATORS

In 1992 Michigan voters approved term limits for members of the Michigan House of Representatives, and Michigan Senate. We recommend that the term limits be changed to six, two-year terms for the Michigan House of Representatives and three, four-year terms for the Michigan Senate.

C-31. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) provides beneficial services to all people in the state of Michigan. MDARD plays a key role in ensuring the safety of our food supply and protects the well-being of the plant and animal industries to make sure our state is a reputable and reliable supplier of products to food processors and international markets.

The continued growth of the agriculture industry has a significant positive effect on the state’s economy. It is important that the funding for MDARD continue at a level that will protect our state’s food supply and protect animal health. Having a properly funded Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will enable the agriculture and dairy industry to continue to play a vital role in our state’s economy and will allow our industry to continue to grow and remain competitive on the national level.

We further support the continued existence of the MDARD as a distinct Department within state government. We oppose any attempt to dilute the effectiveness of the MDARD by merging it with any other government agency or department.

C-32. REGULATORY FEES

Because the function of state regulatory agencies benefits all citizens, we believe that any costs imposed on dairy farmers by state regulatory agencies should come from a state’s General Fund, understanding that significant funding currently is provided by the industry.

C-33. STATE FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURE

We support efforts to discuss state funding opportunities that will help continue to grow Michigan’s agriculture and dairy industry.

C-34. LOCAL ROAD FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE

We support Public Act 51’s distribution formula for allocating state restricted transportation revenue between MDOT and local road agencies. We further support routing additional revenue designated for roads and bridges through the PA 51 formula to ensure proper distribution and prioritization of fund usage. We support adequate funding of local road agencies to assist in the necessary maintenance and construction of rural infrastructure.

C-35. BEEF PRODUCTION RESEARCH

We support efforts to initiate funding for beef production research through the reinstatement of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission Act 291. The MBIC Act 291 of 1972 was suspended in 1986 due to the passage of the 1985 Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Act (National Beef Checkoff). The MBIC Act 291 allows for the collection of funds to support beef production research.

C-36. FEDERAL TRUCK WEIGHT LEGISLATION

We support federal truck weight legislation that would allow for an increase to 97,000 pounds on interstates, provided that trucks which utilize the higher weight limit add an additional sixth axle in order to maintain the same stopping distance and weight distribution as trucks currently operating on interstate highways. The legislation will increase transportation efficiencies by reducing the number of trucks needed for interstate shipment therefore decreasing fuel costs and helping to make the U.S. dairy industry more competitive worldwide.

We applaud Congress for passing bipartisan legislation in 2015 that gives states the option to issue permits allowing milk haulers to increase their truck weights beyond Interstate Highway System limits. This will allow milk trucks in some states to carry more product without being forced to offload portions of it at other state borders, reducing transportation costs and creating greater efficiencies.

C-37. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The modern dairy industry is electricity intensive. Consider:

"...electricity itself accounts for 2 to 5% of a dairy farm's production costs... which is equivalent to 700-900 kWh per cow or 3.5-4.5 kWh per hundredweight (cwt) of milk produced, annually..."

-Farm Energy Management Handbook, DATCP

Whether on the farm or in our production facilities, the dairy industry is wholly dependent on a reliable source of electricity. Unlike other industries in the state, ours is not concentrated in industrial zones. Our farms are scattered throughout the state, many at the very ends of the electric grid.

Dairy farmers' demand for electricity is relentless and persists throughout the 24-hour day. Like all industry, Michigan dairy farmers need access to low cost electricity that can give local producers a regionally competitive advantage.

We therefore urge the MPSC, the state Legislature and the Office of the Governor to promote energy policy that favors the lowest cost sources of dispatchable generation with the highest capacity value.

Animal Health and Milk Quality

C-38. ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

We applaud Michigan's efforts to require mandatory cattle identification. The mandatory requirement is important to help Michigan achieve Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)-free status for all Michigan counties while helping to maintain the TB-Free status for the 79 counties and Upper Peninsula that have been designated as Bovine TB-free. We urge strict enforcement of the mandatory cattle identification requirement and strong penalties for those who violate the requirement.

We urge the USDA to implement a mandatory RFID animal identification program. We also urge that the identification database system be maintained under the control of USDA to expedite the traceback of animals. The system should protect farmers' privacy, while also allowing for immediate access of relevant information by government authorities in the event of an animal disease crisis. We therefore urge that the information in the animal identification database be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

Furthermore, we urge slaughter houses to utilize electronic ID readers in conjunction with back tags to identify all animals.

C-39. BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

We commend Michigan dairy and livestock producers, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and its partners for their efforts over the years to restore the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Free status to seventy-nine Michigan counties. This designation allows for more effective use of limited resources

to help eradicate Bovine TB from the state completely. We urge that efforts be undertaken to restore Michigan's TB-Free status and reduce bTB to the point of non-detection in both the wild and domesticated animal populations in northern Michigan. We recognize the stringent management practices many of our members have put in place in order to minimize the transmission of this disease. We believe their efforts, including the adoption of Wildlife Risk Mitigation Plans, helped expedite our TB-Free status in other areas of the state and that Wildlife Risk Mitigation practices should be implemented by all cattle producers in northern Michigan. Furthermore, we encourage farmers in the four county area around DMU-452 to adopt the new Enhanced Wildlife Risk Mitigation Plans to further reduce the chance of disease transference from the wild animal population to the domestic animal population.

We also encourage all landowners in northern Michigan be active in the legal control of the deer population. We strongly urge MDARD to only create, implement, or enforce rules or regulations that are required by USDA's published rules regarding Bovine TB except for electronic identification (EID) for livestock. We commend our MMPA field staff, management and others that have helped educate producers and others about controlling this disease. We urge the MDNR to increase their efforts in managing deer and wildlife, to help further eliminate Bovine TB. We strongly urge USDA to include controlling the deer herd as a component of any future Memorandum of Understanding. We urge the MDNR to make disease control permits available to any livestock producer that shows evidence of deer to cattle or deer to feed interaction and to farmers where TB has been detected in the deer herd in the past.

We also believe that the changes necessary to reduce Bovine TB to the point of non-detection in the wild and domestic animal populations must be permanent changes in order to prevent resurgence of the disease.

We encourage USDA to seek additional funding so that eradication goals can be achieved. We also support:

1. Payment of fair market value for animals that need to be destroyed.
2. State funding of all required testing.
3. An appeals process as part of the federal indemnity program that includes specifics of what constitutes a valid appeal, defined timeframes for filing and responding to an appeal and opportunity for an onsite appraisal.
4. A limit on maximum federal indemnity allowable by animal and by herd, but also a provision that allows the state to provide additional payment to reach the full appraised value of an animal without penalty.
5. Increased research toward the control and prevention of Bovine TB.
6. Collaborative efforts between state and federal regulatory agencies, educational institutions and agriculture industry organizations in working toward the eradication of Bovine TB.
7. We support a voluntary herd buyout plan as a tool of achieving Bovine TB-Free status.

C-40. ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS

We strongly oppose the use of mandatory antler point restrictions (APR) that would only allow you to shoot antlered deer if it has the minimum number of points on one side. We are very concerned with the adverse effects of an APR by allowing deer numbers to increase, which could negatively impact the agriculture industry.

C-41. DOE PERMITS

In an effort to control the deer population it is imperative to allow a larger number of doe permits to be issued at a reduced rate, especially in higher population areas of the state. We encourage the DNR to reduce the costs of deer licenses by half of current levels.

C-42. ANIMAL CARE

We believe in and support the humane treatment of animals. We recognize the importance of maintaining a sound animal care program on our farms.

We support the National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management developed to bolster consumer trust and confidence in the U.S. dairy industry and demonstrate the industry's commitment to the highest levels of animal care and quality assurance. The National Dairy FARM program demonstrates the dairy industry's awareness of the need to communicate its commitment to animal well-being to customers and consumers.

Association Issues

C-43. POLITICAL ACTION

We reaffirm our belief in the need to actively support the Michigan Milk Political Action Committee (MMPAC) as a legitimate means for organized involvement in areas of government legislation and regulation that affect dairy farmers and agriculture. To ensure that the dairy industry's needs are addressed in state and national lawmaking and policy-making circles, we strongly recommend a voluntary milk check deduction by each member at the rate of \$1 per cow per year.

C-44. MILK DONATION

We applaud MMPA's involvement in milk donation activities.

We recognize milk plays an important role in providing much needed nutrients in our diets and also understand that milk is one of the most requested food bank items.

We encourage the MMPA Board of Directors to continue to seek ways to assist local food banks and families in need.