

# POLICY HANDBOOK



## *Our Mission*

*Representing Colorado's livestock producers with  
a unified voice by advancing the interests of  
members, livestock, and the public.*



## **CLA GOVERNANCE**

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

#### **AH-102-02 Livestock Import-Export Authority**

CLA supports the retention of authority for the importation of all animals (domestic livestock, alternative livestock, or exotic animals) with the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and specifically, the State Veterinarian's Office. This authority would pertain to the transfer of animals into or out of Colorado, or into or out of endemic areas within Colorado.

*03-15-2002 New*

*11-19-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Renewed*

#### **AH-105-11 Euthanasia Policy**

CLA recognizes our moral obligations to the animals under our care and endorses the protocol as set forth in the 2020 Edition of the American Veterinarian Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals.

*06-24-2011 New*

*02-19-2013 Revised*

*01-30-2016 Revised*

*10-06-2020 Revised*

**AH-106-13 Animal Care Code of Ethics** CLA members are devoted to the animals in our care. We therefore affirm our obligation to provide responsible animal care using sound animal husbandry practices, based on practical experience and scientific research. Because all species of livestock are produced in diverse environments and geographic locations, we recognize there is no single set of production practices that can be recommended for all livestock producers. Personal experience, training, best practices, and professional judgment can serve as valuable resources for providing appropriate animal care for the well-being of livestock and worker safety.

To that end we commit to:

- ◆ Provide ready access to fresh water and adequate nutrition.
- ◆ Follow applicable disease, injury prevention and treatment practices to ensure herd health.
- ◆ Provide a species appropriate environment.

- ◆ Using appropriate methods to humanely euthanize terminally sick or injured livestock and minimize the animal's pain and distress. Whether death occurs by euthanasia or natural causes, remains should be disposed of by approved methods that will minimize risk of disease and infection to people or to other animals.
- ◆ Provide personnel with training to properly handle and care for livestock.
- ◆ Keep updated on advancements, research and changes in the industry and make decisions based upon sound production practices with consideration for animal well-being.
- ◆ Provide facilities and handling practices that allow for the safe, humane, and efficient movement and/or restraint of livestock.
- ◆ Encourage all segments of the livestock industry to recognize their respective meat quality assurance programs and guidelines as the foundation for producing a safe, nutritious, and wholesome product.

**The willful mistreatment or abuse of livestock is not acceptable under any circumstances.**

*03-19-2013 New*

*11-19-2013 Revised*

*02-24-2016 Renewed*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Revised*

## **ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION / BRAND INSPECTION**

**AI-101-04 Mandatory Animal Identification** CLA supports an effective permanent mandatory animal identification program that is technology neutral and that is developed by industry partners who agree on an acceptable plan that can be implemented in the most cost efficient manner that does not limit, inhibit or prevent commerce, and is uniformly accepted and eliminates variation from state to state.

*01-14-2004 New*

*09-24-2010 Revised*

*11-19-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Revised*

*10-06-2020 Renewed*

**BI-101-01 Mandatory Brand Inspection** *WHEREAS*, brand inspection, is a legal and historical method of identifying ownership of livestock, and

*WHEREAS*, cattle, on feed are held in a confined environment where the possibility of strays or co-mingled animals is remote, and

*WHEREAS*, physical inspection, can create unwarranted stress on market cattle finished for slaughter and provides negligible value for producers, consumers, or the beef cattle industry,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA opposes mandatory brand inspection of cattle going to slaughter.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA supports the Certified Feedlot Program administered by the Colorado State Board of Stock Inspection Commission.

*07-06-2001 New*

*10-15-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Revised*

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

### **ESA-101-99 ESA Reform**

*WHEREAS*, CLA supports the maintenance and enhancement of threatened and endangered species populations and their habitat,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA supports ongoing reform of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and in so doing require the use of sound science and peer review in listing decisions, provide just compensation for landowners whose land is devalued as a result of regulatory action under the Act, require coordination of pre-listing status, review any subsequent recovery efforts with affected parties and the appropriate state and local government entities, provide for direct federal and/or state landowner incentives, hold-harmless assurances in the development of habitat conservation plans, and other species recovery efforts.

*06-09-1999 New*

*11-19-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Revised*

*10-06-2020 Revised*

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **GOV-106-07 State and Federal Acquisition of Agriculture Land**

*WHEREAS*, state and federal governments, acquire vast acreages of land for single purpose uses, and

*WHEREAS*, CLA recognizes the right of a landowner, to sell his or her property to the highest bidder, and

*WHEREAS*, all sellers, are entitled to receive a fair price for their property including considerations for inconvenience and costs of transition, and

*WHEREAS*, acquisition, of private lands, or impairment of property by state and federal governments may have serious detrimental effects on local economies, adjacent landowners, and livestock producers in general,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA opposes the involuntary transfer of private land to public land,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA supports the establishment of an arbitration committee to settle any selling price disputes between landowners and state and federal governments,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA opposes all efforts by state and federal governments becoming additionally involved in the purchase and management of agricultural lands, by unfriendly condemnation,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA opposes all private land acquisitions by federal and state governments that causes local governments, school districts, and special districts to suffer a net loss of revenue as result of lost tax base.

*03-13-2007 New*

*10-15-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Renewed*

### **GOV-107-16 Sale or Transfer of Public Lands**

*WHEREAS*, public lands of this nation, managed by the United States Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the Colorado State Land Board are a part of our national treasure and heritage, and

*WHEREAS*, these public lands, are held in perpetuity to benefit future generations of citizens and visitors because of the renewable resources and recreational value, and

*WHEREAS*, the transfer or sale of these lands, will remove large acreages from the national federal public lands system, fragmenting existing land areas, compromise public access, and set a precedent for privatization of all public land, and

*WHEREAS*, specifically, the disposal of these federal lands will decrease the opportunity for all recreational and grazing use of these lands,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA opposes any plan, action, or legislation for the disposal, sale, or transfer of public lands managed by the United States Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture and the Colorado State Land Board.

***11-30-2016 New***

***10-06-2020 Revised***

## **IMMIGRATION**

### **HRS-102-11 Guest Worker Program Enhancements**

*WHEREAS*, agricultural employers, in the United States, face a shortage of available domestic workers and subsequently require a dependable source to obtain foreign workers, and

*WHEREAS*, the H-2A program has seasonal implications that impact the usability of the program by all agriculture segments, and

*WHEREAS*, proposals, to address these implications through “Ag JOBS” legislation have created certain proposed inconsistencies between livestock industries,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA supports a guest worker program that provides work authorization, for a minimum of three years, and treats all segments of the livestock industry fairly and consistently.

***11-16-2011 New***

***11-19-2013 Revised***

***11-30-2016 Renewed***

***10-06-2020 Renewed***

## **HRS-103-12 Colorado Compact**

*WHEREAS*, CLA recognizes, that the growing consequences of a broken immigration system must be addressed in a bi-partisan effort, and

*WHEREAS*, CLA supports, efforts to convene and promote a reasonable conversation on immigration in Colorado that could lead to real and lasting federal reform,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA supports the following principles regarding meaningful immigration reform:

- ◆ **FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY**: Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. We urge the Colorado congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policy at the federal level that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
- ◆ **STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY**: Colorado is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.
- ◆ **ENSURING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY**: We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is an utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and national borders.
- ◆ **FAMILY**: Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping close families together to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children across our state.
- ◆ **EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT**: We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and safeguards witnesses and victims. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interest of, and unintended consequences to businesses, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably and affordably, determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.



♦ **A COMMONSENSE APPROACH:** Immigrants are part of our communities across Colorado. We must adopt a commonsense approach to this reality that reflects our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA supports efforts that bring together leaders and community members of diverse backgrounds and politics who are committed to fostering a more rational and collaborative approach to immigration policy than exists today,

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED*, CLA respectfully requests the opportunity for member involvement in the development of any legislation directed at addressing immigration reform.

*11- 19-2012 New*

*01-19-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Revised*

*10-06-2020 Renewed*

## **MARKETING**

### **MK-111-04 Foreign Trade Policy**

*WHEREAS*, CLA supports free and fair trade, and

*WHEREAS*, CLA believes, that trade issues should be resolved using sound science, and

*WHEREAS*, there are significant economic advantages to U.S. livestock producers by having fair and equal access to foreign markets,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA urges U.S. officials to diligently work toward the optimization of the trading relationships between all foreign trading partners regarding the trade of meat and dairy products.

*01-12-2005 New*

*11-19-2013 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Revised*

*10-06-2020 Renewed*

## **MK-112-09 Purchases & Sale of Livestock and the Availability of Local Scale Facilities for Agriculture Producers**

*WHEREAS*, the availability of local scale facilities is essential for the orderly purchase and sale of livestock, and

*WHEREAS*, it is critical certified scale facilities be inspected by an official licensing agency, and

*WHEREAS*, scale certification renewal is required, on an annual cycle by most state licensing agencies, and

*WHEREAS*, the Packer & Stockyard Administration, currently mandates that livestock weights for purchase and sale must be from a scale certified within the previous six months, thus requiring two inspections in a one-year period,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA supports the modification of the Packer and Stockyard Administration rules to allow livestock sales on certified scales inspected within the previous 12 months period.

**06-26-2009 New**

**10-15-2013 Revised**

**11-30-2016 - Renewed**

**10-06-2020 Renewed**

## **MK-113-16 Packer Ownership/Control**

*WHEREAS*, the beef and pork industries have made progress in producing a more consistent product, and

*WHEREAS*, value-based pricing procedures, link flow of information between packers and processors to beef and pork producers regarding product quality, and

*WHEREAS*, it is important, to have numerous risk management tools available to livestock producers,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA opposes federal legislation which would limit or eliminate packer ownership and/or control of livestock.

**11-30-2016 New**

**10-06-2020 Renewed**

## **MK-114-20 Country-of-Origin Labeling**

*WHEREAS*, there is recognition about the many adverse aspects of Country-of-Origin Labeling including the costs, benefits, and impact of Country-of-Origin Labeling relative to tracking, auditing, verification, and compliance, and

*WHEREAS*, CLA opposes mandatory labeling, but remains in support of Country-of-Origin Labeling that is voluntary and industry-driven, and

*WHEREAS*, the World Trade Organization, declared the implementation of the previous mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling law to be in violation of international trade laws, subjecting the United States to severe retaliatory tariffs unless it was repealed,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA shall continue to oppose mandatory Country-of Origin Labeling laws or regulations that may violate international trade laws, and will continue to support voluntary Country-of-Origin Labeling laws or regulations for red meat products to allow maximum benefits and minimal market disruptions.

*10-06-2020 New*

## **RESEARCH / EDUCATION / FOOD SAFETY POLICY**

### **FS-113-13 Food Safety**

*WHEREAS*, food safety is important to the well-being of consumers and livestock producers, and

*WHEREAS*, good management practices, interventions, and research, are necessary to reduce the incidence of food-borne pathogens and disease,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that CLA supports expanded research and accelerated approval of interventions such as livestock vaccines and feed additives, to promote animal health and well-being,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA supports the standardization of safety testing and verification at packing and processing plants, including those that are state inspected, a uniform practice of sampling, testing and negative confirmation before meat or milk processing, and microbial control systems for foodservice suppliers,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, CLA supports continuing education and information for consumers concerning the proper storage, handling, and preparation of meat and dairy products.

*10-15-2013 New*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Revised*

## **FS 113-20 – Livestock Checkoff Programs**

*WHEREAS*, checkoff programs have proven to be instrumental in increasing demand for livestock proteins by providing funding and structure for food safety research, informing the public about livestock proteins positive nutritional benefits and health attributes, leveraging dollars for international and domestic marketing efforts, and promotional efforts with retailers and food service outlets, *THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, CLA supports livestock checkoff programs that:

- ◆ Build demand efficiently and effectively without creating new bureaucracies and administrative functions,
- ◆ Minimize government control,
- ◆ Assure accountability to livestock producers,
- ◆ Require everyone to invest,
- ◆ Preserve the ability to promote research and educate consumers and producers, and
- ◆ Provide livestock producers the opportunity, at regular time intervals, to petition for a referendum on continuing their respective checkoff programs.

*12-08-2021 New*

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

### **S-101-14 Sustainable Agriculture**

*WHEREAS*, CLA supports the sustainable production of meat, milk, and animal by-products in an integrated system that respects the animals and natural resources base under our care, profitably supports livestock producers and their families, and provides wholesome protein for a hungry planet,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, to be truly sustainable, production must be:

- I. Economically viable**, to efficiently supply production that affords value to the consumer and profit for the producer. No system is sustainable unless it is profitable.
- II. Ecologically sound**, to preserve the resource base on which present and future agriculture depends. Established practices based on sound science should seek to enhance and not deplete environmental quality, while respecting biological cycles and the synergies that exist between animals and the plant and soil population.
- III. Socially responsible**, to satisfy human need for food, fiber, and enhanced quality of life. Our

production must sustain families, communities, and cultures, as an obligation to meet the increasing need of an expanding population.

*THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, agriculture production is essential to the survivability of mankind, the planet, and future generations.

**We take this responsibility very seriously.**

*04-15-2014 New*

*10-29-2014 Revised*

*11-30-2016 Renewed*

*10-06-2020 Renew*

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Association policy is established by the  
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Board of Directors

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