



POLICY HANDBOOK

Our Mission

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

COLORADO LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION POLICY HANDBOOK

Colorado Livestock Association

2425 35th Ave. Suite 202

Greeley, CO 80634

Phone: 970-378-0500

Fax: 970-378-1962

www.coloradolivestock.org

Association policy is established by the

Colorado Livestock Association (CLA)

Board of Directors

Last revised

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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

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 2013 Edition of the American Veterinarian Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals.

06-24-2011 New

02-19-2013 Revised

01-30-2016 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.

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

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

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, that CLA opposes the mandatory brand inspection of cattle going to slaughter.

07-06-2001 New

10-15-2013 Revised

11-30-2016 Renewed

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, that CLA supports reform of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 to 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, and provide for direct federal and or state landowner incentives and 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

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, that 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 land owners and state and federal governments,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CLA opposes all efforts by state and federal government 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 government 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

GOV-107-16 Sale or Transfer of Public Lands

WHEREAS, the public lands of this nation managed by the United States Departments of the Interior and Agriculture 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, that 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 and the Department of Agriculture.

11-30-2016 New

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, that 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

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, that 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 and 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, that 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, that 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

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, that CLA urges U.S. officials to diligently work toward the optimization of the trading relationship 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

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 that 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, that 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

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

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 that promote animal health and well-being,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CLA supports the standardization of safety testing and verification at packing and processing plants, 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

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

