



Marketing and Transportation (MKT) Committee

Policies for Review

September 2017

**North American Free Trade Agreement
(MKT-2)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has enacted the North American Free Trade Agreement, also known as NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is a leading market for U.S. goods and, in Texas, Mexico is our top international market; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA is intended to improve living standards in Mexico, decrease illegal immigration, stabilize local government and increase the purchase of much needed U.S. exports, including cattle and other Texas agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA is intended to make Mexico a better neighbor for animal health and the environment because of the powerful incentive of free trade and, long-term, a better life for Mexico's growing population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continue to support NAFTA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose any changes to NAFTA which reduce or limit free trade with Mexico.

new 9/18/93, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW AS AMENDED

**Cattlemen's Beef Board
(MKT-5)**

WHEREAS, the Beef Promotion and Research Act as defined in the Beef Promotion and Research Order provides the basis for development of a producer-funded beef promotion and research program aimed at building demand for beef and beef products, both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA has a vested interest in the actions of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the cattle industry who serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board are nominated by producers of their respective states and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the Act and the Order as written and passed into law, which clearly designates the number of representatives of the Beef Industry Council on the Beef Board Operating Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA calls for the national beef checkoff program to be administered as stipulated in the strict guidelines of the Act and the Order as approved through referendum by cattle producers of this nation.

new 3/31/93, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW AS AMENDED

**Dairy Cattle Subsidies
(MKT-7)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress continues to consider legislative proposals addressing the long-term problem of milk surpluses; and

WHEREAS, in the past, these legislative proposals have provided a subsidy to encourage the slaughter of dairy cows in direct competition with unsubsidized beef cattle slaughter; and

WHEREAS, the cost to beef cattle producers as a result of these poorly considered policies can and has run into the millions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the members of the U.S. Congress to oppose any dairy legislation that would adversely impact the beef cattle industry.

new 10/22/83, revised 1992, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW

**“Go Texan” Program
(MKT-8)**

WHEREAS, Texas has a great mystique in domestic and foreign markets; and

WHEREAS, there are ways to produce a “Texas Branded Beef” product; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA endorse the “Go Texan” beef marketing program.

new 3/31/99, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW

**Anti-Competitiveness
(MKT-11)**

WHEREAS, the ability of an individual or corporation to freely buy and sell their cattle through all available marketing channels is a key risk management strategy; and

WHEREAS, increased regulation of cattle marketing practices through legislation has the potential to disrupt cattle markets and cause prices to decline; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA ~~is opposed to~~opposes any government policies relative to livestock ownership which threaten to dictate market conditions or negatively impact market prices.

new 3/22/09, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW AS AMENDED

**Ethical and Humane Disposal and Slaughter of Horses
(MKT-15)**

WHEREAS, it is important to have an ethical and humane means to dispose of horses; and

WHEREAS, TSCRA supports every effort to ensure horses are treated humanely throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, without a means to dispose of horses there will ultimately be detrimental effects to the welfare of horses; and

WHEREAS, unwanted horses are processed into products that are consumed overseas; and

WHEREAS, the value of unwanted horses as a food animal dictates they not be abused, less their value be diminished; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that TSCRA:

1. Oppose legislation, regulations, or legal activities that would hinder efforts to ethically and humanely dispose of horses; and
2. Support legislation, regulations, or legal activities that would allow for the ethical and humane slaughter of horses for human and/or non-human consumption at approved and inspected slaughter facilities.

new 3/21/10, revised 9/26/12, revised 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW

**Farm/Ranch to Market Roads
(MKT-17)**

WHEREAS, in 1949 the Texas Legislature passed the Colson-Briscoe Act, which created an annual appropriation from the State General Fund for the construction of farm/ranch to market roads; and

WHEREAS, farm/ranch to market roads serve as reliable access routes that allow ranchers to move cattle, feed, equipment, and other supplies in a safe and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, farm/ranch to market roads are valued by ranchers and other residents and landowners in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, proper and regularly scheduled repair and maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads is needed and is the responsibility of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT); and

WHEREAS, increased truck traffic from oil and gas activity has caused many farm/ranch to market roads to become dangerous and resulted in poor road surface and base conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports an appropriate and reasonable level of funding from the Texas Legislature to properly fund the repair and maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports that any repair and/or maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads be at least to the road surface and base standards as when the farm/ranch to market roads were initially constructed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges the oil and gas industry to make financial contributions to help fund the repair and/or maintenance of farm/ranch to market roads that are being utilized for oil and gas activity.

new 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW

**Truck Weights
(MKT-18)**

WHEREAS, truck transportation is a vital component to the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, ranchers often truck cattle hundreds of miles to pasture, market, feedyard, or slaughter, which causes great financial hardships due to high fuel costs; and

WHEREAS, having fewer trucks on the road would increase safety, reduce fuel use, and spread the freight cost among more cattle; and

WHEREAS, appropriate overweight permits and overweight penalties exist to ensure proper compliance with federal and state truck weight laws; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports increasing the gross weight for vehicles used on federal, state, and local roadways to over 80,000 pounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports adding additional axles to semi-trailers to increase the braking power and put less total weight on each axle making transporting cattle safer and less stressful on federal, state, and local roadways.

new 9/27/13

RECOMMENDATION: RENEW

**Country of Origin Labeling
(MKT-6)**

WHEREAS, federal law enacted by passage of the 2002 farm bill mandates beef sold in retail supermarkets must be labeled as to its country of origin; and

WHEREAS, there are no credible consumer surveys or studies that illustrate consumers will pay more for beef that is labeled as to its country of origin; and

WHEREAS, USDA will require that compliance with the law will require the beef industry, including producers, to maintain records on where cattle are born, raised and slaughtered that can be verified by audit trails costing producers billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, compliance costs borne by the retailing and meat processing industries will be transferred to either consumers or back to U.S. producers rather than foreign competitors; and

WHEREAS, food service establishments, the major segment of the United States' food retail system that utilizes imported beef products, is also exempt from the law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA shall ~~work with Congress to modify current federal law to repeal its mandatory provisions~~ ~~oppose mandatory country of origin labeling~~ -and its misplaced financial burden on U.S. ranchers and ~~establish support~~ voluntary guidelines that will facilitate private, market-driven efforts to label beef as to its country of origin.

new 3/25/03, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14

RECOMMENDATION: AMEND AS SHOWN. THIS POLICY IS NOT UP FOR SUNSET REVIEW BUT NEEDS TO BE UPDATED TO REFLECT THE CURRENT STATUS OF COOL.

Market Access and Exports to Japan (MKT-14)

WHEREAS, Japan is one of the largest markets for United States beef exports; and

WHEREAS, after the discovery of one Canadian-born cow infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) disease in the State of Washington in December of 2003, Japan closed its market to United States beef and still restricts access to a large number of safe United States beef products; and

WHEREAS, for years the United States government has developed and implemented a multilayered system of interlocking safeguards to ensure the safety of American beef, and after the 2003 discovery, the United States implemented further safeguards to ensure beef safety; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 study by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that BSE was virtually nonexistent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized standard-setting body, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has classified the United States as a controlled risk country for BSE, which means that United States beef is safe for export and consumption; and

WHEREAS, while Japan remains an important ally and trading partner of the United States, this unscientific trade restriction is not consistent with fair trade practices, or with United States treatment of Japanese imports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA encourages NCBA, USDA, the Administration, and Congress to demand that Japan comply fully with the guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health and immediately grant increased market access for United States beef and beef products by Japan and immediately allow the importation of United States bone-in and boneless beef of all ages.

new 3/21/10, revised 9/26/14

RECOMMENDATION: RESCIND. TRADE WITH JAPAN IS NOW NORMALIZED AND A JAPAN-SPECIFIC POLICY IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. MKT-12, FREE TRADE, PROVIDES BROAD SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.