



# **Cattle Health and Well-Being (CHW) Committee**

*Policies for Review*

*September 2018*

### Animal Welfare (CHW-1)

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have long been concerned with the welfare of livestock; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers disagree with the position taken by those who believe that animals have legal and moral rights similar to humans; and

WHEREAS, the entire livestock industry ~~often~~ must often bear the brunt of regulatory action and public ill will over the misguided and inappropriate actions of a few; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA, recognizing that good animal health, care, production, and handling practices are essential to efficient, humane, and profitable production, calls upon and urges its members to continue to follow commonly accepted livestock and business management practices in animal health and care.

*new 3/20/89, renewed 3/21/05, renewed 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Revise

### Border Inspections (CHW-7)

WHEREAS, due to violence along the Texas-Mexico border, USDA is inspecting cattle from Mexico for diseases and cattle fever ticks after entering Texas; and

WHEREAS, inspecting these cattle and the trucks transporting them after entering Texas ~~can increase the risk~~ enhance the threat of a disease and cattle fever tick outbreaks in Texas and the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA strongly supports the continued inspection of cattle on the Mexican side of the border over the long-term and demands that the U.S. Congress and the Texas Legislature provide funding and resources for more secure federal and state inspections to occur; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports proper federal, state, and local disease inspection mitigation and emergency management measures be in place in Texas to ensure the safety of the Texas and U.S. cattle industry.

*new 3/16/88, renewed 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Revise

### Inspection of Live Cattle and Beef from Foreign Countries (CHW-8)

WHEREAS, foreign animal diseases could cause a widespread quarantine and possible massive depopulation of the U.S. cattle herd, thus compromising national security and jeopardizing the U.S. beef supply; and

WHEREAS, protecting the U.S. cattle industry is a major priority for TSCRA and other industry partners; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for regulating the importation of live cattle, beef, and beef products from foreign countries into the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness and quality of USDA inspection of live cattle, beef, and beef product imports is imperative to the health and economic success of the U.S. cattle industry; and

WHEREAS, some foreign countries with histories of significant chronic animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, have petitioned ~~the~~ USDA to import live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, ~~the~~ USDA's ability to accurately evaluate the risk of animal diseases in these foreign countries can be uncertain and inconclusive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA oppose the importation of live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S. from foreign countries with histories of significant chronic animal diseases and lack of strict animal disease control and eradication measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports independent scientific and legal analyses of USDA proposals, risk assessments, and supporting information, when necessary, to substantiate risk levels of imported live cattle, beef, and/or beef products and assure the protection of the U.S. cattle industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges ~~the~~ USDA to include U.S. cattle industry stakeholders in any negotiations with foreign countries relating to efforts that may affect the health of the U.S. cattle industry and provide the U.S. cattle industry opportunities to comment on new procedures for developing risk analyses for any foreign country with significant chronic animal disease issues wishing to export live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that slaughter, processing, transporting, and other facilities and equipment used to export foreign live cattle, beef, and/or beef products into the U.S. be subject to equivalent, or greater, inspection and sanitation requirements applicable to U.S. inspected facilities and equipment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA requests that ~~the~~ USDA continues to take all reasonable and appropriate measures to protect the U.S. cattle industry from the introduction of foreign animal diseases; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA urges USDA to require and communicate to foreign countries that wish to export live cattle, beef, and/or beef products to the U.S. ~~to commit~~ to enhanced efforts to control and eradicate animal diseases that may be a chronic problem in their country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, USDA protocols be substantiated by sound, scientific evidence and that animal health related regulations not be used as non-tariff trade barriers.

*new 4/6/14*

**RECOMMENDATION: Revise**

### **Brucellosis - Testing and Surveillance (CHW-12)**

WHEREAS, billions of federal, state and private funds have been invested in the national and state brucellosis eradication efforts since 1951; and

WHEREAS, Texas and other states have achieved brucellosis free status while working to achieve the national cattle industry goal of eradicating bovine brucellosis nationwide; and

WHEREAS, funding reductions at the federal, state and industry levels will continue to occur in future years and the need for brucellosis eradication, testing, and/or surveillance efforts will continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA continue to work with and support the efforts of ~~the~~ TAHC, USDA and other cattle industry stakeholders to keep Texas brucellosis free; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that if budget reductions are necessary that TSCRA supports changes to the state brucellosis program that do not appreciably increase the risk for brucellosis in the state cattle herd; remain in compliance with the federal brucellosis program requirements; and do not impact interstate movement of Texas cattle due to restrictions and/or increased testing requirements imposed by other states; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports:

- Voluntary brucellosis testing at auction, private, and show sales, especially for cattle returning to herds for breeding purposes
- Brucellosis vaccination of heifers as recommended by ~~the~~ TAHC

- USDA approved packer level brucellosis surveillance procedures that test an appropriate statistical number of cattle to accurately assess and/or detect the risk of brucellosis and that comply with federal brucellosis program requirements

*new 3/22/95, revised 9/29/05, renewed 10/2/09, revised 6/17/11, revised 9/26/12, renewed 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Revise

### **Trichomoniasis (CHW-20)**

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that trichomoniasis, a venereal disease in cattle resulting in infertility, abortions, delayed calving, and/or reduced calf crops, has an increasing prevalence in the cattle herds of Texas; and

WHEREAS, this disease causes significant economic impact from calving production losses, as well as the loss of valuable genetic base of seedstock producers; and

~~WHEREAS, trichomoniasis is a disease that requires prevention rather than cure; and~~

WHEREAS, bulls become infected from serving infected females; and

WHEREAS, there is no effective treatment of infected bulls, thus leaving slaughter of such bulls as the only prudent option; and

WHEREAS, cattlemen recognize that females are integral in the spread of trichomoniasis; and

~~WHEREAS, this disease has the potential of causing significant economic impact from calving production losses, as well as the possible loss of valuable genetic base of seedstock producers; and~~

WHEREAS, Texas has implemented regulations to address this disease in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the inclusion of breeding females and bulls in the trichomoniasis program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the efforts of the Texas Animal Health Commission to continue to work with the cattle industry to effectively implement the trichomoniasis program and to review this program on an annual basis and make any revisions necessary.

*new 06/17/08, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Revise

### **Feral Swine (CHW-21)**

WHEREAS, feral swine are feral, domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, the feral swine is a depredating animal capable of spreading animal diseases to domestic livestock; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA is opposed to classifying ~~ing~~ feral swine as a nongame species; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the Texas Department of Agriculture's Feral Swine Abatement Program, supports funding for this program, and supports the Texas Animal Health Commission's efforts to address disease concerns associated with feral swine.

*new 3/31/93, revised 3/27/96, renewed 3/21/05, revised 10/2/09, renewed 9/27/13, revised 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION:** Revise

**Texas Animal Health Commission - Structure  
(CHW-22)**

WHEREAS, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) diligently works to protect the livestock industry from, and mitigate the effects of, animal diseases ~~prevent, control or eradicate diseases~~ important to the cattle industry such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, BSE, babesiosis, trichomoniasis ~~tick fever~~ and others; and

WHEREAS, TAHC's continual operation it is imperative ~~that the TAHC continue its functions~~ to protect the livestock herds of Texas from animal diseases and in order to reduce the economic burden they place on ranchers and consumers ~~created by such diseases and to keep markets open for free movement and the costs to the consumer to a minimum~~; and

WHEREAS, TAHC's functionality is vital to the intrastate, interstate, and international movement and marketability of Texas livestock; and

WHEREAS, legislative efforts ~~proposals could evolve~~ to merge ~~the~~ TAHC with the Texas Department of Agriculture or other state agency would be detrimental effects on the livestock industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that TSCRA supports the continuation of ~~the~~ TAHC ~~in the status~~ as a free-standing state agency lead by a gubernatorial appointed body of commissioners charged with the protection of the Texas' livestock industry from domestic, foreign and emerging diseases ~~with continued oversight by a gubernatorial appointed body of commissioners~~.

*new 9/29/05, revised 10/2/09, revised 9/27/13, renewed 9/26/14*

**RECOMMENDATION: Revise**