

Cattle

Animal Health

Akabane

AC 03 That the Association urgently request the NSW Minister for Agriculture to facilitate the commercial production of an Akabane disease vaccine

AC 99 That the Association strongly urge the State and Commonwealth Governments and the animal health industry to address the issue of Akabane Virus disease in cattle and for all parties to give high priority to the development and field availability of an appropriate vaccine.

Bovine Johne's Disease

AC 07 That the Association ensure dairy and beef producer members are involved in the review of Stage 2 prior to the commencement of Stage 3 on 1/1/2010 of the new BJD National Programme.

AC 02 That the Association seek the abandonment of the current BJD control program in beef cattle herds and support a replacement program based on the recommendations of the Sykes report which emphasises herd-based control.

AC 00 That the Association support a Bovine Johne's Disease program which includes the following elements:

- (a) the development of an accurate and affordable test for the testing of cattle;
- (b) abattoir surveillance of cattle throughout Australia;
- (c) the development of a cost effective vaccine; and,
- (d) a full investigation of the cost and means of funding a financial assistance scheme.

00 Feb GC That the Association urge the National Veterinary Committee (Vetcomm) to set clear minimum standards for zone progression, and that NSW Agriculture promptly communicate clear options to RLPBs and producers on BJD zoning and progression of status to ensure the continued support for the control of BJD.

AC 99 That the Association:

- (a) recognise the importance of implementing a BJD Control program in NSW in an effort to control the spread of BJD;
- (b) support the NSW BJD Steering Committee in its aim to move areas in NSW zoned as Control areas, to Protected status as a matter of priority, and thus achieve Protected status for the whole of NSW;
- (c) support the use of national Cattle Transaction Levies for BJD control in the NSW BJD Control Program;
- (d) support the raising of producer levies in NSW, to part fund the BJD Control Program;
- (e) support in principle the draft NSW BJD funding proposal that consists of financial assistance for surveillance testing, infected herd testing, abattoir surveillance and tracing from infected herds;
- (f) support the NSW BJD Steering Committee in an approach to State and Federal Governments to secure funding support for a NSW BJD Control Program.

AC 98 That the Association support financial assistance for herds affected by Bovine Johne's Disease and undertake an approved control or eradication program.

AC 98 That the Association continue to push for funding for research into an efficient and cost effective form of testing for Bovine Johne's Disease.

AC 99 That the Association strongly support a national approach to OJD and BJD to keep these diseases to a minimum or eradicate

BSE

01 Feb GC That in relation to the threat of BSE in livestock products for human consumption the Association supports:

- (a) The removal of exemptions for the use of equine and porcine meal for feeding to ruminants, effectively banning its use;
- (b) The continued exemption of tallow for use as feed in feedlots (provided it is grown and processed in Australia and has an acceptable level of insoluble impurities); and
- (c) The continued exemption of poultry and fishmeal for use as livestock feed, (provided they are grown and processed in Australia).

Cattle Ticks

05 AC That the Association urge the NSW Government to halt the spread of cattle ticks in the north east of the State.

05 May EC That the NSW Farmers Association, RLPB State Council, Board of Tick Control and NSW DPI explore

Cattle Ticks

options including the concept of including cattle ticks as a noxious insect and thereby using a portion of the Noxious Insect (Locust) Levy to subsidise cattle producers' purchase of chemicals required to control cattle ticks in NSW and thus create a buffer zone to protect the rest of the cattle industry of NSW from cattle tick infestation and tick fever.

03 AC That the Association request the NSW government defer the closure and dismantling of the border crossing inspection stations until further discussion with industry regarding risk assessment and risk management of livestock disease and weed control, and that the NSW government honour their commitment to accept financial responsibility for cattle tick control in NSW.

03 AC That the Association request NSW Agriculture continue to investigate and publicise alternative treatment strategies for the control of paralysis and brown grass ticks.

02 Jun That the Cattle Committee reject the introduction of the Cattle Tick Standard Definition and Rules (SD&Rs) for cattle movement between QLD and NSW until QLD procedure issues of 'ticky' cattle crossing the QLD Tick Clearing Line have been resolved.

02 Jun That the Cattle Committee support the use of tick fever vaccine in NSW with the following provisos:
(a) that a more detailed segment be included within the tick strategic plan outlining NSW Agriculture's commitment to cattle tick eradication;
(b) that based on technical assessment the probability of cattle tick vaccine reverting to virulence is negligible; and
(c) that the Cattle Tick Advisory Committee (CTAC) recommend its use

02 Feb EC That the Association support the completion by NSW Agriculture of a new strategic plan for the control of cattle ticks in NSW that requires endorsement by the Association that the plan demonstrates a commitment to long term tick eradication.

01 AC That the Association reject the decision by NSW Agriculture not to reinstate the subsidy for the supply of chemicals required to control cattle ticks, and express its concern at the lack of consultation with industry on the original decision.

00 Feb GC That the Association support the continuation of the cattle tick eradication program, with the understanding that a co-operative approach between producers, the Board of Tick Control, the Cattle Tick Advisory Committee and NSW Agriculture is essential to the success of the program.

96 Oct GC That the Association objects to the possible cost of tick eradication being passed on to all cattle producers in NSW.

96 Oct GC That the Association seeks that there should be:
(a) maintenance of the present Cattle Tick Protected Area (CTPA);
(b) a requirement for stock owners to carry out a recommended control program to the Board of Tick Control's satisfaction and so preserve a cattle tick and tick fever free NSW; and
(c) continued negotiations with NSW Agriculture and Board of Tick Control to identify efficiencies that can be achieved.

96 Oct GC That the Association seek that the Minister for Agriculture take immediate action to:
(a) secure the main border crossings out of Queensland from incursion of cattle tick and other diseases into NSW;
(b) upgrade penalties for illegal entry of tick infected stock into NSW.

AC 94 That the Association seek that the State Government should reintroduce as a minimum condition the first light to last light policy for transporting livestock across the Queensland/NSW border.

AC 07 That the Association request that:
a) the recommendations from the Gary West Cattle Tick Fever Inquiry are acted upon and implemented by the NSW Government; and
b) the Animal Health Statement for cattle moving from Tick Infested Queensland to NSW is mandatory and includes the following information:
i) the property of origin
ii) the exposure to tick fever, i.e. if they have been vaccinated or exposed to tick fever
iii) if the cattle have been treated for cattle ticks and with what chemical
iv) the approval that cattle have been treated and inspected for cattle ticks prior to entering NSW.

Disease

AC 06 That the Association request the NSW Government through the Department of Primary Industries, fund a

Disease

research program which encompasses the production losses caused by Neospora Caninum in NSW cattle herds and sheep flocks and the control of vectors (ie wild dogs, foxes) which carry this parasite; and the research be undertaken in collaboration with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Disease Surveillance

01 May GC That the Association renew its efforts to have NSW Agriculture reverse its decision to introduce full cost recovery of veterinary and plant diagnostic and analytical service charges for disease surveillance.

Hormone Growth Promotants

95 Oct GC That the Association push for a review of audit procedures surrounding the use of Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP).

AC 95 That the Association seek that HGPs should continue to be freely available and their use remain at the producers' discretion and identification of treated cattle be by an ear punch.

Q Fever

AC08 That the Association ensure that sufficient Q-fever vaccine is available ongoing for existing and new industry entrants.

Veterinary Services

01 Oct GC That the Association endorse the joint NSW Farmers' Association/Australian Veterinary Association submission to the Federal Government in support of veterinary education being more readily available to students from rural origins who are more likely to return to rural- based practice through a series of measures that include:

- (a) veterinary rural bonded scholarship scheme;
- (b) assistance to the Queensland Veterinary School to ensure its continuation;
- (c) a national veterinary resources benchmarking study, and
- (d) post-graduate veterinary scholarships in areas of relevance to the rural industries.

01 May GC That the Association, in concert with the NSW Division of the Australian Veterinary Association, approach Minister of Agriculture with concerns about the withdrawal of veterinary services in this state and the implications for the prevention and control of exotic diseases.

Carbon Accounting

Methane

94 AC That the Association oppose any tax on natural emissions from animals, such as a methane tax.

Food Safety

Chemical Residues

00 Oct GC That the Association:

- (a) Support the development and implementation of a Code of Practice to protect the interests of producers participating in residue surveillance programs, which includes withholding detailed information of producer paid testing results from abattoirs which engage in discounting of product that satisfies market Maximum Residue Level specifications; and
- (b) encourage its members to request that their livestock agents obtain written buying policies from meat processors/buyers in an effort to avoid discounting of product that satisfies market maximum residue level specifications.

99 Feb GC That the Association encourage Cotton Australia to ensure that individuals who adversely impact on neighbours through chemical application are appropriately dealt with.

Meat Inspection

AC 97 That the Association support that SafeFood – Meat Division:

- (a) facilitate the development of quality assurance systems throughout the NSW meat processing sector to enhance food safety and improve efficiency, and act as an independent auditor to ensure the integrity of these systems;
- (b) food safety and hygiene activities be funded to the fullest extent on a user-pays basis, with appropriate Government contributions in recognition of the public good arising from safe food;
- (c) implement a registration system for NSW saleyards, with registration underpinned by appropriate, independently audited quality assurance systems;
- (d) no longer have any role in meat research, meat grading, and power to influence the location or number of meat processing facilities throughout NSW.

01 May GC That the Association reject the Federal Government policy of full cost recovery of AQIS meat

Meat Inspection

inspection charges, and support Federal Government payment of the total costs.

95 Oct GC That the Association press for all abattoirs to carry out chiller assessment under the AUSMEAT accreditation standards.

AC 98 That the Association:

(a) review AUSMEAT's performance in providing consistent grading of animals between abattoirs; and
(b) undertake whatever actions are found to be necessary to improve the current system of policing meat trading, including:

(i) seeking that AUSMEAT accreditation be mandatory for all domestic and export abattoirs; and
(ii) withdrawal of funding to AUSMEAT if consistent grading cannot be achieved.

98 Oct GC That the Association seek to ensure continuing progress in the Meat Safety Enhancement Program, particularly the participation of export beef processing establishment and the development of protocols into the US and EU markets

Meat Processing

03 Apr EC That the NSW Farmers' Association seek the abandonment of the NSW Meat Industry Levy and that the full funding of SafeFood's Meat Food Safety Program be on a user pays basis for those sectors of the industry that directly benefit.

Livestock Marketing

European Union Market

AC08 That the Association investigate the closed nature of the EU scheme now that all cattle carry NLIS devices and life time traceability can be assured and HGP status is covered by the NVD.

AC 01 That the Association seek amendments to the EU Beef Accreditation Scheme that allows accredited producers to run non-accredited trading stock on their properties provided that there is approved separation and identification of livestock.

AC08 That the Association investigate the closed nature of the EU scheme now that all cattle carry NLIS devices and life time traceability can be assured and HGP status is covered by the NVD.

Grading

AC 03 That the Association urgently lobby Cattle Council of Australia, the Red Meat Advisory Council and Meat and Livestock Australia to design and implement an appropriate consumer education program to complement the existing MSA grading and "Budget" beef labelling schemes, and that consumer education be an integral part of any future grading scheme.

AC 01 That the Association with respect to the MSA grading system, seek that the system be extended to include lower grades of beef.

AC 00 That the Association support the MSA star system for beef grading.

00 Feb GC That the Association recommend that MLA/AUSMEAT review the definition of a "vealer" so as to make it properly representative of the vealer class of carcass.

Labelling

AC 94 That the Association undertake whatever action necessary to ban the use of the word "export" to describe beef for domestic consumption in NSW.

Livestock Traceability

AC 07 That the Association support the expanded use of NLIS (Cattle) Device Based Status messages (warning "flags") on the NLIS database being available to all subsequent buyers to minimise animal and human health risks.

AC 01 That the Association seek Federal and State Government financial assistance for the urgent introduction of National Livestock Identification Schemes for all livestock to provide:

(a) an effective traceback system for disease control;
(b) an effective feedback system for slaughter stock; and
(c) an effective system to trace stolen livestock (with increased penalties for convictions of stock theft).

OCT EC 07 That the Association support the mandatory uptake of any land carrying livestock to be issued with a Property Identification Code.

01 May GC That the Association support processor efforts in promoting accurate completion of National Vendor Declarations (NVD's) and therefore encourage producers to:

(a) complete an NVD for all sales ensuring accuracy of information provided;
(b) retain a copy of the original NVD for their own records; and

Livestock Traceability

(c) ensure their agents forward a copy of the original NVD to the purchaser of each lot.

04 Feb EC That the Association opposes unjustified fees for NLIS implementation by the post farm gate sectors, and calls on these sectors to apply transparency in all future costs.

OCT EC 07 That the Association seek that the NSW Government re-establish the NSW NLIS (Cattle) Advisory Committee as a matter of urgency.

04 Feb EC That the Association

- i. support the introduction of compulsory NLIS for cattle; and
- ii. renew calls for government assistance being available for identification devices.

AC 04 That in respect to NLIS the Association reject any unjustifiable agent or processor costs being passed back to producers.

Over the Hooks

Feb 96 GC That the Association seek that in over-the-hooks transactions:

- (a) the buyer accepts full responsibility for the welfare of animals from delivery until slaughter;
- (b) all industry participants acknowledge that ownership passes from seller to buyer at the scales on the slaughter floor except in the case of a chemical residue detection which renders the carcass unfit for sale, in this case ownership would revert back to the vendor.

Quality Assurance

04 Feb EC That the Association support the auditable Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration as a minimum standard for red meat food safety.

03 Apr EC That the Association support the development of a 2-tiered approach to on-farm quality assurance for sheep, cattle and goat producers based on the following:

- (a) Tier 1 will be adopted nationally to demonstrate the integrity of the use of National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) through a yet to be established auditing process;
- (b) Tier 2 will be similar to the current Cattlecare and Flockcare models of best industry practice that will be market driven;
- (c) The record keeping and activities required for each tier will be easily understood through practical guidelines appropriate to the relevant tier; and,
- (d) Subject to support through the buying actions of feedlotters, processors and retailers.

AC 95 That the Association seeks that quarantined farmers who have followed NSW Agriculture recommendations for use of chemicals should be able to claim compensation from the State Government and be eligible for "fast track" rural assistance scheme loans were appropriate.

Saleyards

AC 02 That the Association seek the following being provided at saleyard livestock sales:

- (a) age and breeding details of store cattle;
- (b) liveweight facilities for slaughter sheep at major saleyards.

95 Oct GC That the Association seek amendment of procedures for the live weight selling of cattle so bidding be only in half cent bids and no comeback bid be used for sheep and cattle.

94 Oct GC That the Association lobby the NSW Government to make it a legal requirement that all stock and station agents have del credere insurance.

Meat and Livestock Australia

Board Selection

03 Apr EC That the Association support retention of a Selection Committee for assessment of potential Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Board members.

97 Feb GC That the Association support the principle that there be a majority of livestock producer representation on the Boards of federal meat industry bodies.

03 Apr EC That the Association support the make-up of the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Selection Committee being:

- (a) the Selection Committee Chair being the MLA Board Chair who has no voting rights on the Selection Committee
- (b) three Peak Council representatives (CCA, SCA and ALFA) with 1 voting right each,
- (c) five producer representatives elected at the AGM (2 Sheepmeat, 2 grass feed beef, 1 feedlot) with 1 voting right each; and
- (d) one processing representative.

Board Selection

nominates more than 1 candidate for each skills based position on the MLA Board and introduces each of these candidates personally to the AGM.

97 May GC That the Association seek that the balance of non-producer meat industry body board positions requiring industry, business, marketing, trade finance and R&D skills be filled by nominees who are multi-skilled, and able to demonstrate an involvement in the industry.

AC 95 That the Association seek that all persons seeking to be members of the MLA Board should disclose any vested interest and if a sufficient conflict of interest exists, or if their appointment would lead to the dominance of a particular section, they should be deemed to be unsuitable

Functions

AC 97 That the Association seek that the core-functions of Meat & Livestock Australia should be funded on an equal basis by the livestock production sector and the post-farm sectors, but that promotion and research & development activities should be jointly funded on the basis of willing partnership agreements.

AC 97 That the Association seek that the core-functions of Meat & Livestock Australia should be:

- (a) promotion and market development;
- (b) research and development;
- (c) international market access activities and post-access facilitation;
- (d) development and maintenance of industry quality standards;
- (e) collection and dissemination of primary market information;
- (f) promotion of the general image of the industry, including crisis management;
- (g) management of industry-wide food safety and residue activities;
- (h) corporate governance and stakeholder communication.

AC 97 That the Association support the establishment of Meat & Livestock Australia, a levy-funded corporate organisation to carry out collective activities in the meat industry, and that this organisation should:

- (a) have the clear objective of enhancing the profitability of Australian livestock producers;
- (b) be capable of delivering cost-effective promotional and research and development programs;
- (c) be able to demonstrate transparency between livestock species and accountability to levy payers;
- (d) develop substantially improved communication processes with levy-payers.

AC 97 That the Association seek that levy-payers at the Annual General Meeting of Meat & Livestock Australia be empowered to:

- (a) carry a motion of no-confidence in the Board if 66% of registered votes support the motion;
- (b) trigger an automatic review of any project if a simple majority of levy-payers present at the meeting support a vote of no-confidence in that project;
- (c) establish species-specific industry levy rates, based on the support of a simple majority of species-specific votes registered.

Industry Levies

AC 04 That the Association lobby to ensure that all levy payers to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) receive their voting entitlements automatically.

AC 02 That the Association seek a reduction in government influenced charges affecting livestock producers and meat processors as outlined in the Heilbron Report and lobby the Red Meat Advisory Council and MLA, together with state and federal governments, to implement the Report's Recommendations.

04 Apr EC That the Association, in the event of the introduction of a transaction based levy collection mechanism on livestock and livestock products for raising state industry funds for animal disease control, insist that funds must only be collected after extensive consultation with the affected livestock industries and subsequent endorsement by the Standing Disease Control Advisory Committee and the disease specific Industry Advisory Committee.

International Collaborative Agreements

AC08 That the Association only support Meat and Livestock Australia entering new collaborative marketing agreements if the details of these agreements are transparently reported to levy payers.

Marketing Promotion

AC 96 That the Association seek that the MLA be charged with the responsibility of accurate forecasting of the world beef market by monitoring production of beef and levels of stocks held in competing countries.

Member Services

AC 96 That the Association seek that the MLA provide accurate and timely market information and intelligence to its registered members free of charge, either by poll fax or the Internet.

Member Services

indicators to enable clear assessment of the impact of MLA marketing and promotion programs on beef demand in key markets, and that this information be reported to levypayers via the MLA Annual Report.

Research and Development

00 Oct GC That the Association request that the MLA continue funding State producer representatives to SABRC (Federal) meetings and give highest priority to applications for research funds for those projects with SABRC/NABRC endorsement.

99

Peak Industry Body

Cattle Council

01 Feb GC That the Association seeks that Cattle Council offers the Australian Beef Association (ABA) full membership of the Council under the same conditions as existing members.

99 Apr GC That the Association reaffirm its total opposition to any changes to the Constitution of Cattle Council of Australia which would allow the overall voting entitlement of CCA to exceed 23.

97 Oct GC That Association recognises that, in order for the Cattle Council of Australia and Sheepmeat Council of Australia to effectively carry out their responsibilities within the new meat industry structure, they will need to be able to access adequate additional funds in excess of current State Member Organisation subscriptions, provided always that these State Member Organisations remain the major source of funding.

97 Oct GC That the Association seek that representation on the CCA Executive, and funding of that representation, more accurately reflect the commitment of CCA member bodies to financial support of that organisation.

97 Oct GC That the Association reaffirm its support for membership of CCA by any organisation that earns entitlement under the existing Constitution of the CCA.