

Marketing, Transportation & Labor Committee

Chair: Jack Berger

Vice Chair: Judy West

Recorder: Bridger Feuz

- Meeting called to order by Chair, Jack Berger
- Legislative Update – Travis Jordan of Senator Enzi’s Office
 - COOL
 - Secretary of Agriculture has indicated his intent is to implement COOL law as congress originally intended
 - Moved into the trade realm - Canadian and Mexican Governments have filed for official consultations on COOL
 - Trade Legislation
 - Current administration has not made their stance clear on free trade agreements
 - Panama agreement is being treated as a pre-cursor for other agreements
 - Columbian and South Korean agreements will follow
 - Livestock Marketing Fairness Act
 - Legislation introduced by Senator Enzi
 - Intent is to focus on formula price contracts that could facilitate captive supply
 - Changes from the captive supply reform act
 - Remove restriction of multiple bid requirement
 - Agricultural cooperatives, facilities that don’t report under mandatory price reporting and companies with only one packing plant were exempted
 - Added a definition of a “Firm Based” price
 - Transaction must use a reference price linked to an external source
- Checkoff Update – Diane Kirkbride and Scott George
 - Challenges
 - Numbers are declining
 - Fewer turnovers – more retained ownership
 - Losing good programs because of fewer dollars available
 - 55 million to 41 million
 - American Farm Bureau Federation hosted a meeting to discuss the checkoff
 - Attendees
 - Federation of State Beef Councils
 - Dairy Management Incorporated

- National Milk Producers
 - Meat Importers Council
 - American National Cattlemen
 - National Meat Association
 - R-CALF USA
 - American Farm Bureau Federation
 - American Meat Association
 - National Farmers Union
 - U.S. Cattlemen’s Beef Association
 - Cattlemen’s Beef Board
- Recommendations – subject to approval by a referendum and act of congress
 - Increase assessment from \$1.00 to \$2.00
 - Exemption from assessment for animals sold for \$50.00 or less
 - Provide beef producers with the opportunity every seven years for additional referenda on the Beef Checkoff Program
 - Expand the people the contracting authority to allow any national non-profit industry governed organization to work with the checkoff
 - Amend the act to expand the contracting authority of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee to contract with subcontractors of national non-profit industry governed organizations if requested by those organizations to facilitate payment of services.
 - Allow for regional beef councils
 - Extend the officer term for the Cattleman’s Beef Board
 - Enhance Ability for Cattleman’s Beef Board to enforce collection
- New Policies
 - Whereas the dairy producers are going through hard times with low milk prices and high feed costs, and
Whereas drastic sell-off of dairy cattle would negatively impact beef producers;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WSGA support the dairy industry in passing the “Federal Milk Marketing Improvement Act of 2009”.
[Submitted by Converse County Stockgrowers]

Moved to Table until December for lack of information – Motion carried

- Policy Review
 - Moved to repeal policy #15 “Oppose the proposed JBS Swift acquisition of National Beef, Smithfield Beef and Five Rivers Cattle Feeding until the Department of Justice review is completed.”
 - Motion Carried

- Meeting Adjourned
- Meeting was again called to order for further discussion on the proposed new policy.
 - Moved to bring proposed policy off the table – motion carried
 - Whereas the dairy producers are going through hard times with low milk prices and high feed costs, and
Whereas drastic sell-off of dairy cattle would negatively impact beef producers;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WSGA support the dairy industry in passing the “Federal Milk Marketing Improvement Act of 2009”.
[Submitted by Converse County Stockgrowers]
 - Discussion on need for support of dairy industry from a dairyman’s perspective
 - Moved for question – Motion to adopt policy failed