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Cattle Call

Volume 5, Issue 4

Holidays 2010

Ballots Are IN!

This year, CICA voting members were asked to vote on ten resolutions plus board members. Resolutions included resource management, health, management and trade, as well as industry pressures issues. There were 207 ballots mailed out and 81 were returned.

Resource Management Resolution #1

WHEREAS, the Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association acknowledges that specie habitat has declined because of development and population growth.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association strongly recommends that Colorado Division of Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service correlate target specie population to current available habitat in lieu of historical numbers and habitat when developing their 5 year game management strategy.

Approve: 73
Disapprove: 7
No Vote: 1

Resource Management Resolution #2

WHEREAS, Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association supports legislation to add language to the Endangered Species Act and require peer reviewed science with supporting documentation to propose listing or delisting a species.

Approve: 68
Disapprove: 8
No Vote: 5

Product Safety, Health & Promotion Resolution #1

WHEREAS, Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association would consider participation in a model project on foot-and-mouth disease at Colorado State University on a voluntary basis with individual producer confidentiality.

Approve: 65
Disapprove: 13
No Vote: 3

— See: Ballot on page 2.



2011 CICA Board of Director (Left to Right): Wayne Rusher, Steve Jarmon, Tom Hagans, Bill Bledsoe, Tom Moulden, Richard Kipp, Leellen Koroulis, Gerald Schreiber, Kimmi Lewis, and Charles Klaseen.

Ballot - from page 1

Product Safety, Health & Promotion Resolution #2

WHEREAS, Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association recommends state animal health officials maintain a foot-and-mouth disease vaccine bank in the event of a United States of America outbreak with the vaccine being furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture free to producers.

Approve: 79
Disapprove: 1
No Vote: 1

Product Safety, Health & Promotion Resolution #3

WHEREAS, Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association resolves that in case of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak that a fair economic value be placed on all animals, prior to animals being destroyed.

Approve: 79
Disapprove: 0
No Vote: 2

Product Safety, Health & Promotion Resolution #4

WHEREAS, it is mandatory that all cattle producers participate in mandatory check-off dollars; and
WHEREAS, it is detrimental for one policy agricultural organization to control check-off dollars;
Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association supports a transparent check-off program controlled by all producers promoting United States of America beef production.

Approve: 79
Disapprove: 1
No Vote: 1

Private Property & Environment (Directive Only)

WHEREAS, The Private Property Rights and Environment Working Group directs the Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association Board of Directors to actively pursue clarification as to who may access CLSS COIN (Colorado Livestock Security System Identification Number) numbers and how CLSS COIN numbers will be used. Additionally the Board should actively pursue obtaining absolute assurance that no one has access to this information except in the event of a disease outbreak.

Approve: 79
Disapprove: 2
No Vote: 0

Marketing & Trade Resolution #1

WHEREAS, the Marketing & Trade Working Group recommends that Colorado Independent Cattle-Growers Association supports proposed Grain Inspection, Packers Stockyards Administration rule changes and clarifications of definitions to the Packers & Stockyards Act that were announced on June 22, 2010.

Approve: 77
Disapprove: 1
No Vote: 3

Marketing & Trade Resolution #2

WHEREAS, the Marketing & Trade Working Group recommends pursuing action with the United States Department of Justice and the Colorado State Attorney General object to the JBS acquisition of the McElhaneey Cattle Company of Arizona.

Approve: 71
Disapprove: 4
No Vote: 6

Industry Pressures Resolution #1

WHEREAS, Colorado Independent Cattle-Growers Association sees the need to expand a positive image of agriculture to the general public;
THEREFORE, the Industry Pressures Working Group proposes that Colorado Independent Cattle-Growers Association develop a budget and marketing alliance with various media to develop a more accurate image, identifying and promoting diverse career opportunities for youth, and to produce and publish a regularly scheduled column in independent papers and other media.

Approve: 74
Disapprove: 7
No Vote: 0

2011 Directors by Area

President	- Kimmi Lewis	- 80 votes.
Region 1	- Leellen Koroulis	- 1 vote.
Region 2	- Tom Hendrix	- 13 votes.
	1 write-in vote for Dr. John Maulsby	
Region 3	- Tom Moulden	- 3 votes.
Region 4	- Ron Rehfeld	- 20 votes.
Region 5	- Lorene Bonds	- 7 votes.
	- Richard Kipp	- 3 votes.
Region 6	- Wayne Rusher	- 27 votes.

Out in Public:

Duped, hoodwinked, and misinformed!!

On June 21, GIPSA, Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration announced some proposed rule changes to the 90 year old Packers and Stockyards Act. These proposed rules attempt to clarify and define the "Act" as it relates to market actions between producers and processors in the poultry, swine, and beef markets. The Act was originally written in the 1920's by Congress with the recognition that the Sherman Anti-Trust laws did not go far enough in protecting unorganized independent livestock producers when selling into a concentrated market place.

Congress recognized independent producers need more protection from market abuse and deceptive buying practices than Anti-Trust laws afforded. Thus finally after over 90 years the 2008 Farm Bill directed USDA and GIPSA to develop rules and clarification that would make P&S enforceable and attempt to rectify market power abuse between individual producers who sell into a highly concentrated procurement system, i.e., in beef four firms harvest around 85% of all beef production.

Since that announcement on June 21 of these proposed changes the AMI, American Meat Institute, and some national livestock organizations, primarily NCBA and NPPC and their state affiliates have been crying foul. It is not surprising that AMI, the powerful representative for the packers would be lobbying against these changes but the degree to which so called producer organizations have aligned themselves with the effort to undermine, distort, deceive, and create paranoia among producers is a bit confounding.

The concentration in the meat protein processing and procurement business is well documented. This power is not only domestic but international. In the last 20 years beef producers have lost \$.20 of the retail beef dollar slipping from \$.62 back to \$.42. It is no wonder that the packing and retailing segment of the processing industry do not want enforcement of the P&S Act. But for producers and their so called commodity organizations to be the spokesmen for defeat of these proposed changes is incomprehensible to me and suggests ignorance of how the dynamics of our current market actually works.

Just in the last few weeks CCA put out a news

release entitled GIPSA rules could have unintended consequences. I am tired of hearing this rhetoric and suggest that we should be discussing and debating the intended consequences of continued market concentration upon independent beef producers and feeders. For the dynamics of any market to work, where producers have the ability to negotiate effectively with packers to get profitable returns from a market place equal power must exist. This cannot happen when an individual seller deals with a packer buyer. This was recognized in the 1920's and 90 years later as the industry has evolved and become even more concentrated than the times leading up to the original P&S Act of 1921.

The consequences of doing nothing are evident in every agriculture community every year. There are less independent ranchers and farmers raising and/or feeding cattle. The trend since 1980 is staggering - those of us left are getting older. Look at our rural schools and any rural town that depends on agriculture, I submit that unless an agriculture community is next to a developing urban corridor you will be experiencing a state of decline.

So, CCA, CLA NCBA, NPPC go ahead keep carrying the water for the meat packers with their absurd propaganda and their ridiculous accusations about the unintended consequences of the proposed rule changes to the P&S Act. The "Study" referenced by John Dunham and Associates was nothing more than a spin piece created by a New York firm with a history of media influence on issues such as this. If your organizations are going to oppose something - at least do your own homework.

This is an historic time for beef producers. There is an opportunity to empower P&S to help balance the market place in the beef producer segment so we do not end up like the chicken and pork industries, and yes maybe even help halt the decline of our rural communities. No, nothing is perfect but to do nothing is a vote for more concentration and less beef producers and yet smaller rural communities

Gerald Schreiber
Vice President CICA

From the President's Desk . . .

Merry Christmas!

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is here and I want to be sure and wish you the best of greetings, "Merry Christmas." This past year I've realized how important it is to remind everyone that Christianity is the cornerstone of this country. When our forefathers wrote the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence they were very mindful of how powerful Christianity is. I receive a lot of e-mails, which I get bogged down in. I opened one recently that I thought was worth sharing. *How all phones should be answered: Good morning, welcome to the USA, a Christian nation of the free and the home of the brave. How may I help you? Press 1 for English, Press 2 to disconnect until you learn to speak English, and remember only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you - Jesus Christ and the American soldier. One died for your soul and the other for your freedom.*

I have a nephew in Iraq, in fact he spent his 24th birthday there this past month. Don't forget to pray for all of those young soldiers who make freedom "real."

I hope that fall shipping and weaning went well at your place. It has been very dry here on the Eastern plains of Colorado. We are hoping for more moisture as we head into the new year. Looks like the moun-

tains are getting good snow pack now. The cattle prices being up as well as grain is unusual. When you consider your rising costs of operation whether you are a cattle producer or feeder, these cattle prices need to stay where they are or keep climbing. I pray that your private enterprise operation is profitable and you can keep it in the "black" for years to come.

At the end of each year, we look back and reflect on where we've been and try to learn something from it. As my dad always said, "It's good to look back once in awhile, as you can see more that way."

Of course he was talking about feeding and riding these canyons while looking for cows calving, but it also pertains to life in general. One of his other quotes we "girls" heard over and over was, "Time means nothing to a cow." I guess when I'm too old to saddle my horse and ride, I'll stay home and write these things into a book.

There has sure been a lot of "spin" from groups like NCBA and their cronies about the new GIPSA rules. We've heard all kinds of excuses, using terrorists as part of it to how many cattle operations will go out of business because of these new rules. I wonder what good is the Packers and Stockyards Act if it is never enforced?

How many groups do we have across the United

States that do nothing but what the big packers and NCBA tell them to do? We have so many rules and laws that are never enforced, I wonder why? The time has come to make government follow their own rules. It is time for us to study these Acts, the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

All citizens of the United States need to know what is really in these documents. One of the reasons that CICA affiliates with groups like Paragon and American Stewards of Liberty is because these groups are really digging deep and helping all of us. I applaud all of you for trying to speak up for small producers and feeders and for getting these new GIPSA rules in place by countering that "spin cycle."

CICA Board member Tom Moulden has written an invitation to Robbie LeValley, President of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association for a debate between her (CCA) and I (CICA). I jumped on the chance as we could get to some of the facts that we've been searching for plus it might be quite enlightening. She has declined thus far, but stay after her Tom!

Pink slips were given out all across this country on November 2nd. I jumped for joy with that as well as we were able to elect an honest rancher and CICA member here in my county for the county commissioner seat. Keep up the good work and let's go at them again in two years.

God Bless You!

Kimmi Lewis
CICA President

OTHER NEWS: Stockman's Ball

Southern Colorado Livestock Association held their annual Stockman's Ball in Trinidad on November 6, 2010. The event is a combination fundraiser/awards banquet and dance to celebrate the ranching way of life and honor those that have devoted their lives to ranching and our local communities. Various games, a silent and live auction, and sale of event tickets generated over \$5,500.00 that will all be given to charity. In the live auction, Henry and Marlene Brown of Folsom, NM, purchased a set of new tires, any size, any tread for \$780.00. The set of tires were donated by Big O Tires in Trinidad. A hand-carved cedar headboard donated by Sharon Devers also of Folsom, NM, and a cowboy painting by Dino Cornay, Folsom, NM were the other two top sellers.

The proceeds were divided between the SCLA Crisis Fund and the Wounded Warrior Project. The SCLA Crisis Fund provides support to ranching families in Southeast Colorado that have unexpected medical expenses. The Wounded Warrior Project supports soldiers and their families that have been wounded while serving our country.