

2007 Resolutions

Resolution 1:

Whereas, several watersheds throughout the state of Minnesota have been classified as impaired waters, and;

Whereas, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) are being used as a measure to improve water quality in those watersheds;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports being proactive in the legislative process and in implementing agricultural best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, consumers continue to be concerned about quality milk, beef, and animal food products, and;

Whereas, the Minnesota Holstein Association continues to be concerned about producing quality milk, beef, and animal food products;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the educational and informational programs of quality assurance for production of milk, beef, and animal food production, and;

Be it further resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the Minnesota Beef Council programs and its educational efforts currently being promoted with regard to dairy beef quality assurance programs.

Resolution 3:

Whereas, the University of Minnesota's several experiment stations impact the economy of Minnesota through education and state of the art research programs and the dissemination of information in the vital out-reach programs of the University of Minnesota Extension Services;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the 2007 current dollar requests by the University of the Legislature to adequately fund buildings and programs that will further the missions of the University of Minnesota Experiment Stations, University of Minnesota Extension, and 4-H and Youth Programs.

Resolution 4:

Whereas, the animals used in laboratory research and teaching are humanely treated, and;

Whereas, we recognize that the use of animals in biomedical, veterinary medical and animal production enhances positively the welfare of humanity;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the University of Minnesota and other research facilities in the humane use of animals for research and teaching.

Resolution 5:

Whereas, the Minnesota Holstein Association fully recognizes the importance of sound animal husbandry practices, and that all animal agriculture producers are in fact animal welfarists, and;

Whereas, we realize the importance of consumer concerns with regard to the care of animals for food or other use, and;

Whereas, the animal rights activists may not be aware of our husbandry practices and the economic value that animal agriculture contributes statewide and nationally, and

Whereas, we express the need to be pro-active in education of the general public with regard to animal agriculture;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Minnesota Holstein Association encourage all Minnesota dairy producers to continue to support the Minnesota Foundation for Responsible Animal Care.

Resolution 6:

Whereas, promotion and increasing the demand of dairy products is essential to the economy of the dairy farmer, and;

Whereas, access to dairy products to our youth is essential for good nutrition and good dental health,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the dairy check-off program and its continuance, and;

Be it further resolved, that Minnesota Holstein Association supports efforts of the Midwest Dairy Association and local dairy groups to encourage placement of plastic milk bottle vending machines and to support the development of school wellness nutrition programs in all public and private schools. Be it resolved that the Midwest Dairy Association surveys all school districts within their trade area and continue to expand towards the goal of 100% availability.

Resolution 7:

Whereas, the Holstein Foundation relies on a large network of youth and adult leaders from all areas of expertise to carry out their programs;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the efforts of the Holstein Foundation in training, educating, and encouraging the young people interested in the dairy industry in a diversified manner, and;

Be it further resolved that knowing the future of the Minnesota dairy industry will depend on the abilities of the future leaders, the Minnesota Holstein Association and its members take a leadership position towards helping promote the Holstein Foundation programs.

Resolution 8:

Whereas, the economic health of the U.S.A is tied to the cost of energy, and;

Whereas, the production of renewable clean energy in the form of ethanol, biodiesel, methane digesters and wind generators also provide expanded growth to our economy, and

Whereas, the State of Minnesota has taken a leadership position in developing renewable fuels;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports tax incentives for; renewable clean energy sources and encourages the state and federal governments to continue to develop new sources of renewable fuels.

Resolution 9:

Whereas, all imported retail agricultural products are not labeled with their country of origin, and;

Therefore, be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein Association supports legislation to have country of origin labeling on all retail agricultural products.

Resolution 10:

Whereas, imported dairy products are not inspected as stringently as are U.S. dairy products; and;

Whereas, an inadequate inspection system may constitute a bio-security risk; and;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports federal legislation to increase inspection of imports and to ensure that imported products adhere to the same regulations as U.S. products.

Resolution 11:

Whereas, the Minnesota Holstein Association believes food safety, animal health and security are animal agriculture issues that cross state lines and affect the entire country;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports collaborative efforts of industry, state, and federal animal health officials to develop an identification system for livestock. We strongly encourage Minnesota to join forces with evolving programs that are national in scope and oppose development of individual state identification initiatives. Furthermore, the Minnesota Holstein Association requests that all Minnesota agencies recognize the National F.A.I.R. numbering system as an official number for animal health, food safety and security programs.

Resolution 12:

Whereas, some townships, with county regulations, have their own zoning ordinances on feedlot permits that would supersede county and state;

Therefore, be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein Association supports keeping feedlot permits at a county level.

Resolution 13:

Whereas, the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and its continued efforts to eradicate and control numerous domestic animal diseases in the state. It is the Association's position to enhance the Board's ability to conduct disease prevention, surveillance, control and eradication activities, and;

Whereas, the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the Board's active role in control programs, such as Johne's disease. This program has assisted numerous cattle producers in Minnesota in reducing the presence of the disease in their herds and ultimately increasing profits. Minnesota continues to lead the nation in Johne's disease control and has served as a model for other states and countries, and;

Whereas, the cattle industry in Minnesota is facing a new challenge since detecting tuberculosis in seven beef cattle herds in northwestern Minnesota. This discovery led to the reclassification of Minnesota as a modified accredited advanced state with the attendant changes in requirements for interstate movement of cattle. The challenge will be to eliminate the disease and regain Minnesota's accredited free status.

Whereas, just as these programs are key to the future of the cattle industry in Minnesota, the Board oversees numerous control and eradication programs for other livestock species. For these reasons, the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the efforts to provide the Board with the necessary authority and resources so that animal health officials can continue to safeguard domestic animal health in Minnesota.

Resolution 14:

Whereas, the University of Minnesota Animal Science Department provides technical information and education to sustain the viability of the dairy industry and its contributions to the economy of the State of Minnesota;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association supports the University of Minnesota's Animal Science Department and the continuation and enhancement of its program.

Resolution 15:

Whereas, urban sprawl has become prohibitive to agricultural growth,

Therefore, be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein Association supports legislation to protect farmers from nuisance suits brought by persons moving into close proximity to an existing farming operation and from existing neighbors. Those parties, i.e. individuals, groups, and units of government that initiate litigation be financially responsible for costs incurred in the event that these parties lose the suit.

Resolution 16:

Whereas, the 2007 Farm Bill is under discussion;

Therefore, Minnesota Holstein Association urges Congress to provide full funding for all Farm Bill programs that have an impact on dairy producers, including but not limited to, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), and Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC).

Resolution 17:

Be it resolved the Minnesota Holstein Association recognizes and supports programs of animal agriculture education as a part of agricultural exhibitions: most specifically the Minnesota State Fair, State Show, and Minnesota's county fairs. We also support ethical show ring practices and enforcement of ethic rules by show management.

Resolution 18:

Where as, the Minnesota State Fair is a world-renowned event, and is unparalleled in providing educational opportunities for all people.

Where as, allowing schools to open prior to Labor Day would unintentionally create a significant negative impact on the educational, employment and economical opportunities provided by the Minnesota State Fair.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association urge all lawmakers to support legislation requiring all Minnesota State schools to open no earlier than Labor Day.

Resolution 19:

Be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association *supports termination* of the "loss-leader" fluid milk law and any costs incurred by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture associated with regulating or enforcing of this law.

Resolution 20:

Minnesota Holstein Association supports the passage of legislation and administrative action that treat United States import of milk protein concentrate (MPC), ultra-filtered milk, and casein-equivalent to and consistent with the importation of similar dairy products.

Resolution 21:

Be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association support passage of legislation to create Investment Tax Credits and Modernization Grant for farmers upgrading their animal agriculture facilities.

Resolution 22:

Be it resolved, Minnesota Holstein Association strongly encourages Midwest Dairy Association to use and promote the Real Seal in conjunction with the 3-A-Day Program.

Resolution 23:

Be it resolved that MHA support the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program.

Resolution 24:

Whereas, youth development with livestock projects evolves in 4-H, FFA and Holstein shows, and;

Whereas, positive learning experiences in the show ring enhance youth development, and;

Whereas, project requirements vary from organization to organization, and;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association support the meeting of 4-H, FFA and Minnesota Holstein to:

1. Discuss mutual concerns and clarify livestock project exhibition requirements
2. Develop understandable guidelines of similarities and differences
3. Develop and deliver education of lease contracts, ownership, and other requirements to youth and adults on a continuous basis

Resolution 25:

Whereas Premise ID is the first step to controlling animal disease, and;

Whereas Wisconsin has successfully implemented a mandatory premise ID for all dairy herds.

Therefore, be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein encourages the legislature to require premise ID of all dairy farms.

Resolution 26:

Be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein encourages the Holstein World to print all top BAAs including herds less than 25 cows.

Resolution 27:

Whereas the rules regulating TB testing requirements vary greatly in each state making it very difficult for farmers to do normal business of buying and selling animals from their herd.

Therefore, be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein encourages the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to work with other states and any national organizations to develop a more uniform set of requirements based on science.

Resolution 28:

Whereas most county fairs do not require TB testing of animals and the Minnesota State Fair will require TB testing for all dairy and beef cattle exhibited in open shows and 4-H and FFA youth shows.

Whereas TB tests must be done with at least 90 days between testing, but places that require testing must have the tests done either 30 days or 60 days prior to the event.

Whereas, both timing of tests and suspects can make it very difficult to be in compliance, and;

Whereas many farms are working towards, or will have accredited TB free herds and need to be safe to attend shows.

Be it resolved that Minnesota Holstein urge all county fairs require TB testing and that those requirements be consistent across the state and do not inhibit participation at events in the early and late parts of the show season. Also that the Minnesota Holstein Association take the lead in a meeting with MNBAH-Dr. Bill Hartman, Dr. Tom Haggerty(MN State Fair Vet), MN Extension-Brad Rugg, 4-H Superintendent, MN Federation of County Fairs and MN FFA-Duane Hutton, Superintendent, MN State Fair staff and superintendent to:

1. Develop clear and concise test requirements
 - a. Counties that are Required
 - b. Test Procedure- inoculate- later date to read test
 - c. Retest limitations for suspects
 - d. Retest for entire show season
2. Specific Show Requirements for each of the following:
 - a. MN Holstein State show, Junior and Open
 - b. Counties in designated areas that require TB Testing
 - c. State Fair- 4-H, FFA, and Open, Midwest Fall National Holstein Show
 - d. World Dairy Expo
 - e. Show on Calendar 30, 60, and 90 days out from the show
3. Identification on health certificate conformity
 - a. Registration number
 - b. Ear tag number
 - c. Tag ID number
 - d. If new tags put in they must be listed on affidavit of ID(4H)
4. Develop and Distribute a communication tool for:
 - a. Show management
 - b. Exhibitors-Open Shows
 - c. Youth- 4-H and FFA

Resolution 29:

Be it resolved that the Minnesota Holstein Association support the candidacy of Larry Tande for the Vice President position to the Holstein Association USA at its 2007 National Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Resolution 30:

Whereas, Minnesota Holstein business programs and events experienced a successful year, and;

Whereas, Minnesota Holstein human resources are the wealth of our organization;

Therefore, be it resolved that the membership of the Minnesota Holstein Association (MHA), friends and guests present express of our thanks to executive secretary, Jennifer Dingbaum and staff, the MHA Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers and hosts who directed and assisted in the success of any aspect of the Minnesota Holstein Association, with special recognition for the production of the Midwest Holstein News.

Resolution 31:

Be it resolved that the members of the Minnesota Holstein Association at our 97th annual convention wish to express our thanks to the staff and everyone else who helped to make the 2007 convention successful.

Resolution 32:

Be it resolved that the convention here join in a moment of silence in respect to our departed Holstein friends.