



Wisconsin Cattlemen's Policy Book

Updated February 2026

Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association Mission

To promote the Wisconsin beef business through advocacy, leadership, and education

Strategic Priorities & Goals

The strategic priorities and the goals of each are:

Represent WCA Members Goal: Be the definitive voice of the Wisconsin beef industry.

Have a Legislative and Regulatory Presence Goal: Influence the outcome of government actions to the most positive outcome for cattle producers.

Support Leadership Development of Members Goal: Strengthen the leadership capacity of WCA members with a special emphasis on developing young leaders.

Review Governance Structure Goal: Assure association governance is representative of members while maintaining effective and efficient operations.

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TAXATION (TAX)

Sales and Use Tax (TAX-01-24)

WHEREAS tractors and machines, including accessories, attachments and parts for tractors and machines, and other tangible personal property that are used exclusively and directly, or are consumed or lose their identities, in the business of farming are exempt from Wisconsin sales and use tax:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports maintaining Wisconsin sales and use tax exemptions that are applicable to farm products.

Property Tax (TAX-02-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin's use-value assessment law taxes Wisconsin farmland based on its agricultural productivity rather than its potential for development or its fair market value; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin's use-value assessment law aims to protect against urban sprawl and keep farmland in agricultural production:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA supports continued application and preservation of Wisconsin's use-value assessment of agricultural land.

Inheritance Taxes (TAX-03-24)

WHEREAS farms often consist of valuable land, equipment, and buildings, which can significantly increase the value of the estate and these high valuations can lead to substantial inheritance tax liabilities; and

WHEREAS farm assets are typically non-liquid assets such as land, machinery, and livestock and families may struggle to find the cash to pay inheritance taxes without selling assets, leading to liquidity issues; and

WHEREAS high inheritance taxes can deter older farmers from creating succession plans or passing the farm to the next generation which affect the farm's long-term sustainability and continuity; and

WHEREAS to avoid selling farm assets, farm families may take on debt to pay inheritance taxes,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA support continuance of the exemptions from inheritance and capital gains taxes adopted under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

TRANSPORTATION (TRN)

Highways (TRN-01-24)

WHEREAS a sound state and federal highway system is vital to the wellbeing of agriculture, agribusiness, and the state's economy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA urges that state government place a greater emphasis on the improvement and maintenance of our existing highway system rather than on new highway construction, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA supports Wisconsin's implements of husbandry (IOH) law which allows higher weight limits, no-fee permits and exemptions from registration for Implements of Husbandry (IOH) and Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicles (Ag CMVs).

Livestock Truck-Trailer Combinations (TRN-02-24)

WHEREAS the State of Iowa has different weight limits for vehicles transporting livestock and a more flexible overweight permitting system for vehicles transporting livestock than the State of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS the inconsistency between Wisconsin and Iowa regarding livestock truck weight limits and overweight permitting causes administrative barriers and increased expense for those transporting livestock,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports an amendment to Wisconsin law that would allow greater weight limit and overweight permitting consistency for vehicles transporting livestock specifically on the roads most frequently used to move livestock from Iowa through the State of Wisconsin.

Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP) – (TRN-03-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin's rural road and bridge infrastructure is critical to Wisconsin's agricultural and agribusiness economies, and

WHEREAS thousands of miles of rural roads and bridges are posted either seasonally or permanently at lower weight limits due to lack of funding to upgrade the road infrastructure to support heavier, modern farm and agricultural equipment and vehicles, and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin State Legislature allocated \$150 million as a part of the 2023-25 biennial budget bill to fund the Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP) and award grants to municipalities to upgrade posted agricultural roads and bridges,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the allocation of the initial \$150 million in ARIP funding to as many agricultural road improvements as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the continued funding of the ARIP program in future state budget bills.

MARKETING (MK)

Livestock Marketing Education (MK-01-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin livestock farmers need avenues to sell their products, and marketing support helps connect farmers with potential buyers, ensuring that their products reach the market efficiently, and

WHEREAS effective marketing support can help stabilize prices for livestock products by facilitating transparent and fair transactions between producers and buyers and can help prevent extreme fluctuations in prices that can be detrimental to both farmers and consumers, and

WHEREAS marketing support provides farmers with valuable market information such as current prices, demand trends, and consumer preferences, which allows farmers to make informed decisions about production levels, timing of sales, and product diversification, and

WHEREAS marketing support often involves quality control measures to ensure that livestock products meet certain standards,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA urges the Division of Extension at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to allocate additional resources to rebuild the education and services needed to improve marketing education to Wisconsin livestock producers.

USDA Meat Grades (MK-02-24)

WHEREAS providing clear grade designations for beef, the USDA helps ensure transparency in the beef market and consumers can easily compare different cuts of beef and understand the quality differences, and

WHEREAS grades also play a role in price determination and reflect the increased value of beef with superior characteristics such as tenderness and flavor, and

WHEREAS USDA grade designations serve as a tool for consumer education allowing consumers to make more informed choices about the type of beef that best suits their preferences and cooking needs, and

WHEREAS standardized grade designations help maintain consistency and uniformity within the beef industry, which is important for producers, processors, and retailers to ensure that they are meeting established quality standards,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA encourages that the use of the USDA grade designation names (Prime, Choice, Select) only be used in conjunction with USDA graded beef.

Alternative and Lab-Grown Meat (MK-03-24)

WHEREAS the interest and investment in cultured protein, synthetically produced or lab-grown muscle fibers, and plant-based alternative proteins has increased, and

WHEREAS these products have been referred to as ‘meat’ in an effort to indicate an equal replacement for animal protein sources, and

WHEREAS if economically feasible, alternative, or lab-grown products imitating meat could greatly impact the cattle markets, and

WHEREAS there is a lack of scientific research that ensures the health and safety of lab-grown products, and

WHEREAS the FDA and the USDA have no current regulatory measures in place to monitor the development of the technology, and

WHEREAS utilizing identical terminology as traditionally raised meat and livestock to describe proteins created through cellular or lab-grown processes will cause consumer confusion; and

WHEREAS cattle producers have an interest in protecting consumer confidence in beef produced from live animals,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the use of the term “meat” to only describe proteins derived from actual livestock raised by farmers and ranchers harvested for human consumption, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports oversight of alternative protein products by the FDA and USDA.

Harmony in Beef Promotion (MK-04-24)

WHEREAS the WCA supports alternative beef markets such as all natural, implant free, humanely treated, antibiotic free, and other similar designations, and

WHEREAS the absence of health-enhancing and performance-improving technologies such as implants, beta agonists, and antimicrobials does not improve beef safety or nutrition, and

WHEREAS certain niche beef marketing programs have promoted their products as safer or more healthful than conventionally produced beef,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA works cooperatively with all beef marketers to eliminate beef advertising that promotes niche beef products favorably, while simultaneously implying that conventionally fed beef is less safe or less nutritious for consumers.

Transparency in Labeling (MK-05-24)

WHEREAS the WCA supports clear retail labeling of beef products to reduce consumer confusion at the point of purchase, and

WHEREAS the potential for ambiguous labeling of beef products without meaningful audit and verification is a cause for concern among beef producers across the country, and

WHEREAS the USDA currently oversees multiple, voluntary Process Verified Programs (PVPs) that include source of origin claims, and those PVPs have a proven track record of adding value to enrolled cattle, the flexibility to adapt to the needs of producers, and have been designed and tested by cattlemen in real-world production,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports USDA verification of any source of origin claim or label.

Food Safety (MK-06-24)

WHEREAS there is an increasing incidence of foodborne pathogens reaching consumers through a variety of foods they eat including such foods as fruits, vegetables, juices, meat and poultry, water, eggs, cereal, and

WHEREAS the cause of foodborne illness can be traced to all levels of the food chain, from farm to processing to manufacturing to distribution to foodservice to retail to home preparation, and

WHEREAS consumers have a responsibility to understand how to handle food safely,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the beef industry supports efforts to share expertise and information with consumers to help ensure that Wisconsin consumers have a safe food supply and know how to properly handle food.

Small Processor, Differentiated Consumer & Local Foods Systems Markets (MK-07-24)

WHEREAS the cattle industry supports the needs and strengths of Wisconsin's local processing industry to serve producers and consumers locally processed and raised beef that is available, safe, and healthy, and that promotes the economic growth within our local communities, and

WHEREAS the consuming public perceives extra value in relationships with locally raised and processed beef, which grows a new market segment for the Wisconsin beef industry and its differentiated beef producers, and

WHEREAS the economic development of these markets and consumer trends are important to the Wisconsin beef industry and the producers in the industry, and

WHEREAS the local food systems providing these products and services are important to rural communities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports further research, development and engagement by the beef industry into local food systems and local processing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports additional investment and programs to support expansion and modernization of state-inspected meat plants and meat processing infrastructure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports additional investment and programs to promote workforce development initiatives that support Wisconsin's state meat processing industries.

Safe Food Handling Labels (MK-08-24)

WHEREAS the public needs to be aware that some food products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if those food products are mishandled or improperly cooked,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports food labeling and educational programs that inform consumers of the proper method of handling foods to avoid foodborne illness.

LIVESTOCK (LV)

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) (LV-01-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin cattlemen are dedicated to the production of safe, wholesome, and healthful beef, and

WHEREAS injectable animal health products, vaccines, biologics, antibiotics, anthelmintics and other pharmaceuticals are essential to maintaining animal health and performance, and

WHEREAS management and health procedures, encompassing all facets of production, will address and increase awareness of animal comfort zones including least invasive techniques and cervical injection sites which are subcutaneous whenever possible,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA continues to support the current beef checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA encourages cattle producers, other segments of the beef industry, and consumers to recognize BQA programs, guidelines, and associated audits as the industry standard for beef quality, beef safety, and cattle care and handling.

Animal Research (LV-02-24)

WHEREAS animal research plays a crucial role in advancing human health through disease understanding and development of treatments, and

WHEREAS studying diseases, their causes, progression, and potential treatments in animals can provide valuable insights into human physiology and pathophysiology, which is essential for the development of new therapies, drugs, and medical interventions to prevent, treat, or cure human diseases, and

WHEREAS before new drugs or medical procedures can be tested in humans, they must undergo rigorous preclinical testing in animals to assess their safety and efficacy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports appropriate programs and accurate information related to human health for the public about the benefits of animal research.

Premises and Animal Identification Systems (LV-03-24)

WHEREAS a livestock premises or animal identification system helps in disease control and management by quickly tracing the movement of livestock and, in the case of disease outbreaks, identifying and tracking the source of the disease, which is essential to contain its spread and protect the health of both animals and humans, and

WHEREAS identification systems ensure food safety by enabling traceback in case of foodborne illnesses or contamination, helping to develop targeted recalls if necessary, and

WHEREAS many countries require livestock traceability as a condition for importing animals or animal products, and

WHEREAS a transparent and reliable identification system increases consumer confidence in the food supply chain,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports a premises and/or an individual animal identification program that meets all the following criteria:

1. Is a voluntary program,
2. That utilizes an electronic tag system with unique tag numbers,
3. That holds all producer information in a secure non-governmental entity that is not subject to open record laws,
4. That establishes clear and limited parameters for disclosing producer information in accordance with any applicable state and federal requirements related to an animal disease outbreak,
5. That protects producers from liability for acts of others after the cattle have left the producer's control, and
6. That operates at the speed of commerce, with data integrity that includes retagging and retirement of tags at harvest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WCA supports the use of mandatory traceability actions by governmental agencies only in the event of an animal disease outbreak or human health crisis.

Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (LV-04-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin livestock farmers need a dependable source of diagnosis for animal sickness and disease, and

WHEREAS the purebred/seedstock industry (beef and dairy) needs a fully accredited laboratory for national and international export, and

WHEREAS the DNR needs a source of disease analysis for wildlife,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports continued full and adequate state funding of the Division of Animal Health at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATPC and funding for the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Brucellosis Testing (LV-05-24)

WHEREAS brucellosis is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans; and

WHEREAS brucellosis can have significant economic consequences for cattle producers because infected animals may experience reduced fertility, abortions, and decreased milk production, leading to financial losses for farmers and brucellosis can result in trade restrictions, which can impact the profitability of the cattle industry; and

WHEREAS brucellosis can become a chronic condition in cattle, persisting in the animal's reproductive tissues and causing repeated cycles of abortion or reproductive failure; and

WHEREAS, in addition to economic losses, brucellosis can also have a significant impact on herd health and productivity because infected animals may suffer from chronic health problems, and the presence of the disease can create stress and management challenges for cattle producers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the continuation of interstate testing for brucellosis of livestock from states that are not “class-free”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WCA recommends stronger action be taken against those who violate animal health laws and regulations.

Neospora Caninum (LV-06-24)

WHEREAS the disease Neospora Caninum is a major cause of abortion, premature birth, and impaired calves in cattle and affects other ruminants including deer, and

WHEREAS domestic dogs and some wild canines have been identified as definitive hosts for the disease, and

WHEREAS wild canines are rapidly increasing their population and range into areas of cattle production,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports further research to determine the prevalence of Neospora Caninum among potential canine host animals in Wisconsin and the development of appropriate protocols to minimize the economic impact of the disease on the Wisconsin cattle industry.

UW-Madison Division of Extension (LV-07-24)

WHEREAS the Division of Extension within the University of Wisconsin-Madison supports Wisconsin farmers through its Agriculture Institute; and

WHEREAS the Agriculture Institute includes the following five program areas - Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports all efforts to maintain a strong UW-Extension research staff and their expertise in animal agriculture, which is critical to WCA members and to the livestock economy in the State of Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA supports the continued full funding of UW-Extension and its agriculture programs in each state biennial budget bill.

Meat Inspection (LV-08-24)

WHEREAS access to local meat processing can enhance food security by reducing dependence on large, centralized processing plants; and

WHEREAS supply chain diversification and shorter supply chains help communities withstand disruptions in the supply chain due to transportation issues or national crises; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports allowing Wisconsin State inspected meat processing plants that meet federal inspection standards to be certified for interstate shipment of processed meat.

Animal Disease Funding (LV-09-24)

WHEREAS the spread of zoonotic disease is a threat to both human and animal health; and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Division of Animal Health is responsible for monitoring animal diseases and responding when animal disease outbreaks occur;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED WCA supports the Wisconsin State Legislature providing adequate funding and staffing for DATCP’s Division of Animal Health.

Veterinarians (LV-10-24)

WHEREAS veterinarians use their professional judgment to diagnose and treat animal health issues; and

WHEREAS veterinarians play a key role in protecting public health by monitoring and controlling diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans; and

WHEREAS in the context of food-producing animals, veterinarians are responsible for ensuring that animals are healthy and free from diseases that could affect food safety; and

WHEREAS veterinarians adhere to ethical principles and regulations that guide their professional conduct;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WCA supports policies that preserve Wisconsin veterinarians' professional judgment and their ability work cooperatively with Wisconsin livestock farmers to make informed decisions about the care and treatment given to livestock on farms.

WILDLIFE (WF)**Gray Wolf Management (WF-01-24) (Revised 2026)**

WHEREAS gray wolves in Wisconsin present a real and substantial threat to Wisconsin livestock; and

WHEREAS predation of livestock by gray wolves in Wisconsin causes direct and indirect economic losses to Wisconsin cattle producers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports effective state and federal management of the gray wolf (*canis lupus*) to prevent the increasing incidence of the destruction of cattle and the spreading of infectious disease to livestock on Wisconsin farms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the WCA supports federal agricultural appropriations to sufficiently fund USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services to investigate wolf complaints and to control destructive wolves that are depredating on livestock; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the WCA supports adequate WDNR funding for reimbursement to livestock producers for direct and indirect losses due to wolves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the WCA supports direct input by cattlemen to the State of Wisconsin and federal agencies regarding present and future wolf management decisions and policy including participation on government committees that regarding wolf management, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the WCA supports the federal delisting of the gray wolf from the federal Endangered Species Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WCA opposes the development of different wolf management policies for tribal lands in the State of Wisconsin, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the WCA supports hunting and trapping in a controlled program to cap Wisconsin's gray wolf population at a manageable number of wolves as provided in the 2023 Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan.

Wildlife Damage (WF-02-24)

WHEREAS wildlife has the potential to cause damage to real and/or personal property in both the private and public sectors and may threaten human health and safety; and

WHEREAS prevention and control of wildlife damage is an essential and responsible part of wildlife management;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA encourages the State of Wisconsin to provide an effective wildlife management program that includes controlled hunting, trapping, compensation to farmers for wildlife damage and educational and research projects.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT (LE)

Right to Farm (LE-01-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin's right-to-farm law is intended to protect lawful farming practices from nuisance lawsuits under certain circumstances,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the preservation of Wisconsin's right-to-farm law and continued efforts to further protect agricultural operations from nuisance suits.

Trespass (LE-02-24)

WHEREAS trespassers can damage crops, harm livestock, and threaten biosecurity; and
WHEREAS unauthorized access to farms can lead to theft and vandalism causing financial and operational setbacks; and

WHEREAS farms are working environments with heavy machinery, chemicals, and potentially hazardous animals and unauthorized individuals on the property may not be aware of the dangers, risking injury to themselves and potential liability issues for the farmer; and

WHEREAS ensuring that no unauthorized persons enter the farm can be important for compliance with local laws and insurance policies;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports recognition and enforcement of landowners' rights to prohibit unwanted trespass, access, and activities on private property, including by government agencies.

Recreational Access to Land (LE-03-24)

WHEREAS allowing recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, or hiking can provide farmers with a supplementary source of income; and

WHEREAS activities like hunting can help manage wildlife populations, preventing overpopulation that might otherwise damage crops and natural habitats; and

WHEREAS by opening their land for recreational use, farmers can strengthen ties with the local community and build goodwill; and

WHEREAS farmers can use recreational access to educate visitors about sustainable practices and the importance of preserving natural resources, fostering a sense of stewardship among the public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports allowing voluntary, controlled recreational access to farmland and agricultural support lands.

Livestock Facility Siting (LE-04-24)

WHEREAS the State of Wisconsin has a comprehensive livestock facility siting law that applies to both new and expanding livestock operations; and

WHEREAS Wisconsin's livestock facility siting law is intended to provide a predictable and consistent regulation for siting livestock farms statewide;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports Wisconsin's livestock siting statute and regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA supports all efforts to maintain and expand statewide uniform standards for siting livestock operations.

Environmental Standards or Requirements Based on Science (LE-05-24)

WHEREAS environmental standards that are based on science ensures that they are accurate, objective, effective, and consistent, which is crucial for protecting public health, fostering cooperation, encouraging innovation, ensuring legal compliance, and promoting economic efficiency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the adoption of environmental standards and requirements only if they are based on sound science; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA opposes any attempt to misuse any environmental standard or requirement to regulate an activity it was never intended to regulate.

Sustainability (LE-06-24)

WHEREAS economic sustainability is crucial for livestock farmers primarily because it determines their ability to continue operating, innovate and adapt to changing conditions, and thrive over the long term; and

WHEREAS social sustainability is important for livestock farmers because it helps create a resilient, equitable, and supportive environment, contributing to the long-term success and well-being of the farming community; and

WHEREAS environmental sustainability helps livestock farmers create a stable, resilient, and productive farming system that balances the need for efficient production with the preservation of natural resources, ultimately contributing to the overall sustainability and success of the agricultural sector,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the efforts of Wisconsin farmers and agriculture to be sustainable in a three-prong approach: economic for all parties involved; socially sustainable for our rural communities; and environmentally sustainability for livestock farmers.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (LE-07-24)

WHEREAS the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland; and

WHEREAS EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the continuation and expansion of the EQIP program.

Grazing (LE-08-24)

WHEREAS livestock grazing can support the natural behavior and health of animals, enhance soil and ecosystem health, reduce environmental impacts, and contribute to the economic sustainability of farms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED WCA supports state policies to support and promote livestock grazing practices for both new and existing grazing operations.

Nutrient Management Planning (LE-09-24)

WHEREAS Nutrient Management Planning manages the amount, form, placement, timing and application of animal manure, commercial fertilizer, biosolids, and other plant nutrients used in production of agricultural products;

WHEREAS Nutrient Management Planning can help maintain soil productivity, achieve optimum yield goals, reduce fertilizer costs and reduce the risk of nutrient runoff;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED WCA supports the use of Nutrient Management planning as an approach to optimize nutrient use in farming.

Fencing (LE-10-24)

WHEREAS Wisconsin's fence law, generally requires adjoining landowners to share the responsibility for maintaining a fence between their properties when either owner uses land for farming or grazing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED WCA supports the maintenance of Wisconsin's fence law.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (LE-01-26)

WHEREAS, there are currently 3 types of CRP: general, continuous, and grasslands, all with the intent to convert highly erodible and marginally productive lands and waterways to vegetative cover like perennial grasses, and

WHEREAS, cattle can be an essential management tool for maintaining healthy grasslands, improving plant diversity, and achieving conservation outcomes, and

WHEREAS, acres returning to crop production after CRP contract expiration can result in soil loss and diminished wildlife habitat, while maintaining pasture and grass cover supports long-term environmental and economic stability,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports reforms that prioritize cattle grazing as a primary conservation tool through the 3 types of CRP with preference for young and beginning farmers access.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CRP should be actively managed with the health of the plant community in mind recognizing that grazing and noxious weed and insect control be included.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA encourages USDA to structure CRP contracts to remain in perennial grass or pasture whenever possible, maintaining the environmental and economic benefits of established forage systems for pasture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports allowing EQIP and other USDA working lands programs to provide technical assistance and infrastructure cost-share assistance for fencing structures (exterior and temporary), water conveyance, insect and weed control, seeding for forage, and new technologies related to grazing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, managed grazing on CRP land should be permitted during the primary wildlife nesting and brood rearing season where allowed under an approved plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, haying and grazing should be allowed with minimal restrictions during D2 and D3 drought designations to support farming and ranching operations during times of drought.

ENERGY (EG)

Renewable Energy (EG-01-24)

WHEREAS state and federal governments are seeking expansion of energy generation from renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS there are a finite number of acres in Wisconsin that can be used for production agriculture;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports energy policies that include energy conservation, increased domestic production and marketing of renewable fuels and energy, including ethanol, biodiesel, crop-based fuels, methane, water, wind and solar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WCA supports renewable energy policies that also preserve Wisconsin's agricultural lands for agricultural production.

FARM FINANCE (FF)**Beginning Farmers (FF-01-24)**

WHEREAS to maintain the family farm and to encourage the generational transfer of farms, young and beginning farmers need assistance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA urges lending institutions, tax incentives, individual assistance, and government agencies to adopt policies and to develop programs that support beginning and young farmers.