

# **INDEPENDENT CATTLEMEN OF NEBRASKA -** **Resolutions - 2019**

## **Resolution 1 for 2019 – Property Tax Relief, Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska (ICON)**

### **Title: Balance taxation, provide property tax relief**

**Whereas:** ICON is a membership organization made up of ranching families, feedlot owners, and stockers and

**Whereas:** The Cattle industry is the leading contributor to the wealth of the state's residents and

**Whereas:** Nebraska leads the nation in cattle feeding, resulting in higher grain prices for our farming friends and

**Whereas:** Nebraska's farmers and ranchers lead the nation in per capita property taxes paid and

**Whereas:** The Cattle industry is a commodity industry with little control over the price received and

**Whereas:** Confiscatory property taxes place Nebraska's ranchers and farmers at a competitive disadvantage to those industries in other states and

**Whereas:** High property taxes reduce the amount of capital available to reinvest in the business to improve efficiency and remain on the cutting edge of technology and

**Whereas:** The exodus of young people from rural Nebraska is connected to the meager profits on the farm and ranch and

**Whereas:** The exodus of young people has resulted in the depopulation of many of rural Nebraska's communities and the closing of main street business, healthcare facilities, and support services, and

**Whereas:** Nebraska's property tax problem is largely linked to the lack of adequate school funding and

**Whereas:** Two-thirds of Nebraska's school districts receive no equalization funding and

**Whereas:** Sales and income taxes generated in unequalized districts are subsidizing education in equalized districts and

**Whereas:** Nebraska's farmers and ranchers are in a period of economic crisis due to low commodity prices

**Therefore Be It Resolved:** That ICON supports a broadening of the sales tax base, the elimination of tax-increment financing, the restructuring of income tax incentives, the elimination of in an adequate manner without an over-reliance on property taxes.

*---Al Davis/gl/mkc*

## **Resolution 2 for 2019- Fake Meat, Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska (ICON)**

### **Title: Accurate retail labels on beef**

**Whereas:** Major meat processors are striving to develop food products that resemble meat, including beef burgers and steaks, but special capital gains consideration, and an outside study to determine how Nebraska can fund all schools instead come from plants, or from cells grown in laboratories and/or other ingredients;

**Whereas:** "Clean meat," also referred to as lab-grown meat, is derived from a single cell;

**Whereas:** A food product must *not* be labeled in a false, deceptive, or misleading manner that intentionally misrepresents the product;

**Whereas:** It is misleading for a cultured food product to take the form of burgers, steaks or other cuts of beef;

**Whereas:** Meat comes from livestock and the livestock industry is paramount to the fiscal success of Nebraska, and Nebraska's single largest industry is cattle.

**Therefore:** The word meat should not be used in a label of a cultured or plant-based food product. If it is used in the label, *it is a Deceptive Trade Practice*, and such practices are prohibited by state and federal regulations.

**Therefore Be It Resolved:** ICON demands that state and federal regulations be updated to reflect the development of "non-meat" products and prohibit those products from claiming to be meat, or even looking like a beef burger, steak or other cut of beef.

### **Resolution 3 for 2019- Animal Identification, Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska (ICON)**

**Title: Support for maintenance of official metal tags and/or hot-iron brand as official and primary means of identification (ID) by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) for disease control and animal disease traceability.**

**Whereas:** USDA and NDA has announced a plan and timeline when by only radiofrequency identification (RFID) tags will be approved and required as official identification for cattle, and:

**Whereas:** As of January 1, 2021 Veterinarians and producers will be required to start using official RFID tags. The production and authorization of official metal tags will be stopped, and:

**Whereas:** As of January 1, 2023 USDA and NDA will require all animals with metal tags to be retagged with official RFID tags for interstate movement or official purposes, and:

**Whereas:** As of January 1, 2023 only official RFID tags will be accepted for cattle and bison moving interstate. This will retroactively include all cattle and bison born after March 11, 2013, and:

**Whereas:** Currently other states have exercised their authority to accept hot-iron brands and or official metal tags as acceptable animal identification, and:

**Whereas:** No form of identification other than hot-iron brand can be considered permanent with current technologies, since willful removal of RFID tags could be possibly accomplished without leaving a visible mark on the animal, and:

**Whereas:** All forms of tags are especially prone to loss due to cattle rubbing on trees, bale feeders, posts, bunks, buildings, fences or other, and:

**Whereas:** Significant burden, hardship and expense will be unfairly imposed on all cow/calf producers in an effort to conform to USDA and NDA's proposed rules when, in fact, this will not enhance the prevention of disease more than the current requirements, and:

**Whereas:** Under the current official ID requirements a host of native and foreign animal diseases have been eradicated or controlled. The use of official metal tags and hot-iron brands

have been effective and cost efficient in animal disease traceability, and:

**Whereas:** Cattle and cattle carcasses into the United States are NOT required to conform to this

RFID or disease traceability mandate, and:

**Whereas:** Risk of foreign animal disease is exponentially greater from imported cattle and cattle

carcasses than from cattle born and raised in the United States of America (USA), and:

**Whereas:** This imposes numerous unintended potential negative consequences for the independent cattlemen. Issues include infringement of property owner rights, database corruption

or disclosure, personal privacy infringement, market discrimination and false liability exposure.

**Therefore be it Resolved:** ICON supports the maintenance of official metal ear tags and/or hot-

iron brand as official and primary forms of ID of cattle and their traceability and opposes USDA

and NDA's efforts to make RFID tagging of cattle mandatory for any purposes.

*---Jim Dinklage/gl/mkc*

*---Updated 5.25.2019/mkc*