

Progress Report on 2008 Resolutions

2008 AGM General Session Resolutions:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association lobby the Canadian government to launch trade actions in January 2009 due to Country of Origin Labelling contravening World Trade Organization & North America Free Trade Agreement agreements."
Zone 2

Carried: This was already in action before the motion was made. Action was put on hold while new administration discussed COOL and has resumed again.
2. "Be it resolved that this meeting support ABP's principled position on ALMS."
Zone 3

Carried: Supports ABP's current position on ALMS.
3. "Be it resolved that ABP support the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy based on the ABP mission statement."
Zone 2

Defeated at AGM
4. "Be it resolved that ABP participate actively in the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy discussions for the purpose of establishing direction that is equitable and advantageous to all segments of the Alberta beef industry."
Zone 2

Carried: ABP is participating in talks with ALMA board and the Alberta government.
5. "Be it resolved that ABP oppose implementation of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Strategy and the new Animal Health Act."
Zone 4

Motion split:
 - (a) "Be it resolved that ABP oppose implementation of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Strategy."

Defeated at AGM
 - (b) "Be it resolved that ABP oppose the new Animal Health Act."

Motion amended:

"Be it resolved that ABP oppose the new Animal Health Act regulations."

Motion tabled. Board still needs more information before making a final decision.
6. "Be it resolved that ABP publicly oppose the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy as currently presented."
Zone 7

Defeated at AGM
7. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government & Alberta Agricultural Food & Resource Development Department to remove the mandatory portions of the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy and that these portions of the Strategy remain voluntary."
Zone 2, 5, 7, 9

Carried: ABP has taken this position and published position.
8. "Be it resolved ABP lobby the provincial government to put a moratorium on the ALMS program until the program has been fully developed to producer satisfaction."
Zone 3

Carried: Have spoken with government
9. "Be it resolved that ABP executive strongly advise the Minister of Agriculture to shelve the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy and put the Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency Board, appointed by the Minister, on hold until such time as the plan can be revised to the consensus satisfaction of a representative group of cow/calf producers democratically selected from the ABP membership."
Zone 9

Motion amended:

"Be it resolved that ABP Executive strongly advise the Minister of Agriculture to shelve the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy and put the Alberta Livestock & Meat Agency Board, appointed by the Minister, on hold until such time as the plan can be revised to the consensus satisfaction of a representative group of producers democratically selected from the ABP membership."

Defeated at AGM
10. "Be it resolved that ABP recommend to the Alberta Government, they slow the Livestock Meat Strategy down and move forward its implementation on a voluntary basis."
Zone 4

Motion declared redundant at AGM
11. "Be it resolved that ABP initiate an independent cost/benefit analysis on all related costs regarding

Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy and until such a time ask for a delay in implementation of the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy while an accurate assessment has been made on the economic viability.”

Zone 7

Carried: Do not know all aspects of ALMS to be able to do an accurate cost/benefit analysis of the program.

12. “Be it resolved that ABP go forward with their position summary on Livestock Information Systems and Traceability.”
Zone 5, 7

Carried: Position has been published

13. “Be it resolved that ABP and the provincial government lobby the federal government to create a single Trade Directorate responsible for opening access to all countries and to explain the attributes of the Canadian beef industry.”
Zone 1

Carried: the Federal government has created a Market Access Secretariat.

14. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to provide software and hardware to facilitate implementing the mandatory requirements of the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy, at no cost to producers.”
Zone 9

Carried: Darcy Eddleston, Zone 8, is a member of the Traceability Working Group looking into this issue with the government.

15. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to provide high speed internet to rural Alberta via the super net highway.”
Zone 1

Carried: The issue has been raised with the government and they are looking into getting high-speed internet out to rural Alberta.

16. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to develop a continual payment program to the cow/calf producer for age verifying calves in the future.”
Zone 9

Defeated at AGM

17. “Be it resolved that the Alberta Beef Producers support the recommendation by the Cow/Calf Committee, and lobby the provincial government accordingly, for government payments for age verification to cow/calf producers for three years

followed by the implementation of a market based system similar to the ABP Age Verification Information Market proposal.”

Zone 8

Defeated at AGM

18. “Be it resolved that ABP fund a feasibility study to determine the cost of start-up and operation of the former Rancher’s Beef plant at Balzac for the purpose of allowing producers involved in value chains a facility where slaughter costs and access are guaranteed.”

Zone 8

Carried: The Board of Directors has a strong desire to follow the direction of the resolutions that are carried, but also is responsible for the prudent use of producer service charge funds. At this time, the ABP Board does not have a proposal for a feasibility study to fund nor does it have the information needed to complete a valid feasibility study. Clearly, a feasibility study on the cost of start-up and operation of the plant would be greatly influenced by the business plan for the operation and ABP has not seen a business plan for such an initiative. In the view of our Board, the actual operations of the former Rancher’s Beef plant provide the most pertinent information on the feasibility of start-up and operation of this plant. With the current ownership of the plant and the limits on the mandate of ABP, the ABP Board did not see how we would be able to gain access to the information that would be required to conduct a more valid feasibility study.

19. “Be it resolved that ABP begin to use a confidential electronic voting device for the Annual General Meeting for all resolutions and election of all positions.”

Zone 9

Defeated at AGM

20. “Be it resolved that the ABP approach the Premier of Alberta, Mr. Ed Stelmach, and demand the removal of George Groenenveld from the position of Agriculture Minister.”

Zone 7, 9

Defeated at AGM

21. “Be it resolved that ABP put pressure on the Alberta Government & the Sustainable Resource Development Department to act in favour of the producer to ensure fair compensation for wildlife damage on animals and farmsteads.”

Zone 2

Carried: The ABP Wildlife Damages Sub-Committee is working with SRD to address this

issue. SRD has requested ABP nominate a committee representative for the Wildlife Predator Compensation and Shot Livestock Compensation programs.

22. “Be it resolved that a non-refundable check-off remain with ABP.”
Zone 7

Carried: No further action is required for this resolution.

23. “That the 2007-2008 Alberta Beef Producers audited financial statement and auditor’s report be accepted.”
Board

Carried: No further action is required for this resolution.

24. “That the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2008/2009 yearend audit.”
Board

Carried: Accounting firm informed of decision

25. “Be it resolved that the Budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year be approved as presented.”
Board

Carried: No further action required for this resolution.

2008 Resolutions for Board of Directors:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP launch legal action to protect producers’ information collected by the Alberta government or government sponsored agencies including ALIS and CCIA under the guise of animal health and food safety, if the information is not kept totally confidential and used for emergency purposes only.”
Zone 7

Defeated: The Board recognized the importance of the motion but made the decision to look into the legality of the government sharing the information and carried a motion to “seek a legal opinion as to the circumstances under which” the information can be shared.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP seek legal council on whether the Alberta government is in contravention of the privacy act by asking producers to sign away rights.”
Zone 7

Carried: Adrienne Waller, ABP Counsel, is currently looking into this issue.

3. “Be it resolved that ABP address, with the Alberta government, the issue with AFRP money being included as allowable income in AgriStability as that was not the original intent.”
Zone 7

Defeated: While ABP recognizes that including AFRP payments as allowable income represents a change in policy for these programs, this change is consistent with our policies on risk management programs and reduces the trade risk associated with the programs.

4. “Be it resolved that ABP obtain a legal opinion regarding the constitutionality of the mandatory requirements of the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy, as the cost is incurred by the primary producer. Is the indenture of a producer’s time and financial contribution constitutional?”
Zone 9

Defeated: The Board did not disagree with the spirit of the motion, but did not believe that there was anything that ABP could legally do about it. They will seek a copy of the regulation impact report for each regulation to review and report back to the Board.

5. “Be it resolved that ABP do a cost/benefit analysis of BSE testing versus total cost of Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy”
Zone 7

Defeated: ABP does not have the information required to do a cost/benefit analysis on the ALMS.

6. “Be it resolved that ABP determine the legality of our automatic inclusion in the BSE class action and publish these findings in an ABP producer publication.”
Zone 4

Carried: Producers are not a part of the class action suit unless they sign up for the suit.

7. “Be it resolved that ABP must confirm the legality of the BSE class action lawsuit inclusion of Alberta producers as class members without their express consent to opt in and report this finding in their publication (Grass Routes) to producer members.”
Zone 4

Redundant: The Board carried a previous motion regarding the legality of the inclusion of Alberta producers in a class action suit (see Resolution 7).

8. “In the view that Alberta Ag and the Federal CFIA have not resolved the BSE issue successfully. Be it resolved that ABP request an external review of AB Agriculture and Federal CFIA BSE surveillance program.”

Zone 8

Defeated: The OIE has already conducted an extensive external review of our BSE surveillance program before giving Canada controlled risk status.

9. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to reinstate regional veterinary diagnostic pathology labs across the province.”
Zone 9

Carried: The provincial vet has voiced his concern that there were no diagnostic labs in Alberta.

10. “Be it resolved that ABP begin to use confidential electronic voting for all board of director meetings and committee meetings.”
Zone 9

Defeated: Directors believe that producers should be able to know how delegates are voting and delegates should be prepared to make their votes public.

11. “Be it resolved that all age verification and Meat Strategy information be strictly confidential, available only to the producer who has submitted it. This information will be available for sale with the animals in question for additional monies, if requested by the purchaser only.”
Zone 8

Defeated: ABP agrees with the idea that the information has value and producers should have control over access to this information, but the motion is overly restrictive in the compensation area. Some producers may be willing to share their information in exchange for information from other participants in the supply chain.

12. “Be it resolved that ABP send a letter to inform the original mover of any resolution that passes at the zone level as to the direction and status of that resolution.”
Zone 6

Carried: Letters have been sent to the Zone Directors with the results on the motions that have been discussed at the AGM and the Board of Directors meetings. Information on resolutions that have gone to committees will be sent to the zones as they are dealt with.

13. “Be it resolved that ABP conduct studies and negotiations with the federal and provincial governments so as to develop a combined tax deferral and young farmer loans program so as to facilitate both, a more manageable exit opportunity for senior producers wishing to do so and a financing program for young and new entrants into

agriculture so as to create new producers and leaders for a successful industry in the future.”
Zone 3

Defeated: The Board recognizes that there are already programs that address this issue and maybe we could provide advice for people who want to take these actions.

14. “Be it resolved that ABP take steps to eliminate interprovincial brand inspection for cattle where ownership doesn’t change.”
Zone 4

Carried: The Board agreed that producers have a legitimate concern, and felt that this was something that should be brought to the LIS table for discussion.

15. “Be it resolved that ABP address, with the Alberta government, the issue with AFRP money being included as allowable income in AgriStability as that was not the original intent.”
Zone 7

Redundant: The Board felt they had addressed this concern in a previous motion (see Resolution 4).

16. “Be it resolved that ABP oppose any legislation requiring producers obtain “unique premise identification numbers”.”
Zone 4

Defeated: ABP supports premise identification, along with animal identification, as pillars of a traceability system that protects animal health and food safety.

17. “Be it resolved that ABP start a public discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy through a series of radio interviews and newspaper publications.”
Zone 7

Carried: The Board felt that this motion reaffirmed the actions that ABP is currently doing in regards to ALMA.

18. “Be it resolved ABP lobby the provincial government to have agriculture put on a priority basis for fuel supply during times of shortage.”
Zone 3

Defeated: This is a free market and ABP has no more right to tell gas companies who to sell their diesel to than they could tell us who to sell our beef to.

2008 Resolutions for Board of Directors and CCA:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP, through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, lobby the federal government to challenge the USDA on COOL legislations as an unfair trade barrier."
Zone 7

Carried: ABP is already taking this position and passing the motion reconfirmed their position.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP, through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, lobby the Canadian Government to stop the importation of USA beef into the Canadian beef market."
Zone 2

Defeated: The Board believes that our industry benefits more from an open border policy. We also export more to the U.S. than we import and closing our borders would impact Canada more than it would affect the U.S.

3. "Be it resolved that ABP through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association ask the Canadian Government and the Canadian Department of Agriculture to refrain from launching major media releases and announcements on any further BSE cases found in Canada."
Zone 2

Defeated: The Board felt that if the media perceived any indication that we were not being open it could negatively impact our industry.

2008 Resolutions for the Communications Committee:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP conduct a province wide survey amongst beef producers to clarify support for or against the Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy."
Zone 7

A decision on this motion was postponed until it was determined what was happening with the check-off challenge.

2008 Resolutions for Cow/Calf Committee:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the CCIA for a more durable tag with at least a 10 year retention life span."
Zone 8

Carried: the committee agreed that this was an important resolution and though it was carried they did not feel it covered exactly what they were looking for as a result another motion was made to address this.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP invest and facilitate an alternative and improved method of animal identification."
Zone 1

Amended to read:

"Be it resolved that ABP lobby and facilitate an alternative and improved method of animal identification."

Carried: the committee agreed that this was an important resolution and though it was carried they did not feel it covered exactly what they were looking for as a result another motion was made to address this.

3. "Be it resolved that ABP work with the livestock identification industry to seek an affordable, practical and permanent solutions to cattle identification."
Zone 2

Carried: the committee agreed that this was an important resolution and though it was carried they did not feel it covered exactly what they were looking for as a result another motion was made to address this.

Motion by Olson/Bob Lowe:

"Be it resolved that ABP lobby for an affordable, practical method of animal identification with at least a ten year retention life span."

Carried

4. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby for a change in the Canadian Beef Carcass regulations regarding the minimum muscling requirements for D grade cows from "must have excellent muscling" to the same muscling requirements as the Canada A Grades of "good to excellent with some deficiencies", to properly reflect the value of that carcass."
Zone 9

Carried: Grading cows has almost completely stopped in the packing plants. The committee felt that if it began again then this motion would be on the books showing ABP's Cow/Calf Committees position.

5. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby for changes or addition to the grading system that would recognize the value of heiferettes and young cows."
Zone 7

Carried: given the current position on grading this was a difficult motion to carry through with but the

committee felt it was important to make their position known.

6. "Be it resolved that ABP engaged in talks with the Alberta Government and the Surface Rights Board to pursue the objective of "Annual Payments" for pipelines across Alberta lands."

Zone 2

Carried: there can be a definite cost to producers to have pipelines crossing their land and the committee felt it was important to pursue this.

2008 Resolutions for Cow/Calf Committee– Wildlife Sub-Committee:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to increase payments due to wildlife damage for crops of all types, hay, swath and bale grazing, pasture and silage. Payments should also cover damages to fences, property and livestock as well as labour costs to replace or repair these damages. All lobby efforts to be reported in the ABP Grass Routes to allow producers to follow progress or lack thereof to enable them to facilitate an outcome."

Zone 9

Carried: the committee agreed that wildlife damage to property, structures and livestock need to be increased and a better method of culling wildlife is needed.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to put in place an annual per acre payment for land that cannot be used for any type of agricultural use due to damage from wildlife grazing and fecal and urine contamination."

Zone 9

Defeated: the committee considered this resolution was covered with the previous resolution and felt that it would be difficult to define the damage.

3. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to reduce the proof required to obtain compensation for when poachers kill a beef animal."

Zone 9

Defeated: the committee understood the sentiment behind the motion by felt that proving it would be nearly impossible.

4. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to have big game hunting restricted to five days a week to allow ranches to have consecutive days for safe movement of livestock."

Zone 4

Carried: though this motion was carried the committee was divided on it. Some zones have such a problem with wildlife they felt that stopping for even two days was too much.

5. Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government & the SRD Department to keep the Grizzly Bear on the threatened species list and keep them off the endangered species list.

Zone 2

Carried: in some areas of Alberta producers are having a lot of problems with the large numbers of grizzlies in that area and felt that having grizzlies labelled as endangered would only acerbate the problem.

6. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government & the Sustainable Resource Development Department that they remove the right to hunt on Sundays."

Zone 2

Defeated: the committee understood the reasoning behind the resolution but agreed that Sunday hunting was beneficial and did not want to ban specific days.

7. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government & the Sustainable Resource Development Department to include horses in the compensation of predation damage."

Zone 2

Carried: the committee agreed that a number of producers still use horses to move and work cattle and that they should be considered a part of their operation.

2008 Resolutions for Cow/Calf Committee– Safety-Net Sub-Committee:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP request an independent external board outside of government sponsored agencies for the appeal process of any and all programs that Agricultural Financial Services Corporation administers."

Zone 7

Carried: the committee agreed that having AFSC listening to appeals to their decisions defeated the purpose of the appeal process.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP check with the government of Canada if Alberta Financial Services Corporation has the legal right to change the AgriStability participation declaration from the one Alberta Financial Services Corporation is requiring producers to sign as compared to the one that the government of Canada has in the AgriStability and AgriInvest programs guide 2007

for participants in Alberta, Ontario and Prince Edward Island and if so, lobby for declaration to be the one as put out by the government of Canada.”
Zone 7

Carried: the committee will speak with Counsel to determine the legality of AFSC’s participation declaration.

3. “Be it resolved that ABP request the removal of sections 12 and 13 of the Agristability Declaration of Applicant.”
Zone 4

Postponed: the motion was postponed until the committee could get a better understanding of the sections in question.

4. “Be it resolved that ABP demand that section 12 of the “AgriStability” declaration form be deleted, and section 13 and 14 of said document be mitigated to confine audits to an allowable time similar to that of the existing tax laws or other such reasonable termination date.”
Zone 4

Postponed: the motion was postponed until the committee could get a better understanding of the sections in question.

2008 Resolutions for Competitiveness/Value Creation Working Group:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to waive the fee for the Verified Beef Program (Audit) site inspections.”
Zone 7, 9

Amended to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to reimburse the fee to the producer for the Verified Beef Program (Audit) site inspections.”

Carried: The fee is not paid to the Alberta government and they do not have the ability to ‘waive’ the fee for the audit.

2. “Be it resolved that the ABP use all available funds to improve markets, whether that be lobbying the government to access US markets or to work with others to improve overseas markets.”
Zone 5

Amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the ABP use available funds to improve markets, whether that be lobbying the government to access US markets or to work with others to improve overseas markets.”

Carried: This is an activity that ABP is already doing. Carrying the resolution reinforces ABP’s stand with the government.

3. “Be it resolved that ABP continue to strongly support marketing and export for our beef and investigate expanding these efforts.”
Zone 4

Carried: This is an activity that ABP is already heavily involved in.

4. “Be it resolved that ABP support, encourage and assist any and all producer beef marketing initiatives which are actively pursuing domestic and export markets to raise the price and consumption of Alberta beef.”
Zone 6

Amended to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP widely support, encourage and assist producer beef marketing initiatives which are actively pursuing domestic and export markets to raise the price and consumption of Alberta beef provided the applicant meets the guidelines of BIC and CBEF.”

Carried

5. “Be it resolved that ABP encourage Beef Information Centre & Canadian Beef Export Federation to increase funding to specific private branded beef initiatives.”
Zone 2

Amended to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP encourage Beef Information Centre & Canadian Beef Export Federation to increase funding to specific private branded beef initiatives provided funding is available.”

Carried

2008 Resolutions for Animal Health & Welfare Working Group:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP pressure CFIA to make provision for the brucellosis vaccination of heifers to facilitate the marketing of seedstock in the US market.”
Zone 4

Carried: Information regarding how to approach this issue while avoiding potential trade implications is being gathered and prepared

2. "Be it resolved that Alberta Beef Producer approach the Government of Alberta to review and deal with the discussion paper (Dec/2005) regarding the bison in Northern Alberta which have brucellosis and tuberculosis."

Zone 9

Carried: Efforts to obtain and review a copy of this paper are underway

3. "Be it resolved ABP investigate a new mechanism to settle animal health disputes between the oil and gas industry and the beef producers of Alberta."

Zone 3

Carried: Ways to accomplish this within the scope of the new Alberta Animal Health Act are being explored

2008 Resolutions for Research Committee:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby provincial and federal government to support and fund forage research and that ABP support and fund forage research as well."

Zone 7

Carried: Reynold Bergen will work with Harvey Hagman to develop a logical approach to identifying which areas need research and which need tech. transfer.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP should reinforce its commitments to research and development as a means of maintaining and increasing market development."

Zone 6

Carried: Because the Board allocates research funds the committee is re-directing this resolution back to them. The Research Committee and Cattle Feeder Council project budgets increased by 11% from 2007/08 to 2008/09. As of 2009, ABP has doubled its contribution to the Beef Cattle Research Council from 5 to 10 cents of every national check-off dollar. In 2009, the ABP board also made long term commitments to a large feed grains and forage breeding project (\$1.5 million over five years) as well as an additional contribution of provincial check-off funds to support the national Beef Cattle Research Council (\$500,000 over 4 years).

2008 Resolutions for Promotion Committee:

1. "Be it resolved, that ABP and CCA report to producers as to ABP's plans of involvement at the Olympics 2010, a world show case."

Zone 6

Carried: Currently ABP supports the University of Calgary's Fuel for Gold initiative which is a program that ensures potential Olympic athletes are provided with good nutritious food (beef for zinc, iron and protein) to help fuel their bodies during pre Olympic training. Given that Olympic sponsorship opportunities start in the millions of dollars, this tag-along sponsorship is a great way to achieve recognition on limited promotions dollars.

2. "Be it resolved that we become more Canadian in our product for export."

Zone 6

Carried: The Promotion Committee agrees with this resolution, which essentially suggests beef producers need to have more Canadian identifiers on their product and be more heavily involved in selling our beef's unique and valuable attributes to the world. Committee members suggest that it is something which is currently addressed by BIC initiatives, not the least amongst them being the Canadian Beef Advantage program.

3. "Be it resolved that ABP challenge the retailers of this Province to stop using beef products as a loss leader in their stores."

Zone 6

Defeated: BIC's expert in this area, Duane Ellard, suggested that it is not possible to dictate or even influence local grocers about what to advertise or not advertise as loss leaders. The Promotion Committee decided that endeavouring to do so would not only be likely to fail, it might also create bad feelings with grocery store managers with whom ABP has traditionally had good relationships. That situation might then shut doors to future beef promotional endeavours such as beef cooking demos, campaign in-store presence, consumer contests etc. and therefore would not serve our long term interests very well.

2008 Resolutions for Cattle Feeder Council:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP conduct a study considering the negative effects of packer ownership of producer offered fat cattle."

Zone 6

Defeated: Discussion regarding this motion included the current economic reality that the industry is now facing; the fact that CCA conducted this study a few years ago; that there is now one less packer than when the CCA study was conducted; and that the issue will remain an ongoing concern.