

Progress Report on 2010 Resolutions

2010 AGM General Session Resolutions:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to retain multiple outlets allowed to sell RFID tags for cattle."

Zone 4

Carried: The delegates recognized the importance of producers being able to purchase RFID tags from a number of locations. CCIA has also postponed its decision on tag distribution until it can gather more information from producers on this issue. CCIA conducted a survey of producers and held a series of focus group meetings across the country. The ABP representatives at an Alberta focus group meeting strongly supported the idea of retaining multiple outlets for distributing RFID tags.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP request the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to lobby the federal government to not issue supplementary import quotas above the present TRQ level of 76400T for 2011 and beyond."

Zone 2, 6

Carried: Though ABP is in favour of free trade, the delegates agreed they wanted rules based trade. This resolution is consistent with Canadian Cattlemen's Association policy and ABP will confirm our support for this policy.

3. "Be it resolved that in the event that our federal government issues TRQ and Supplementary import quotas that ABP will vigorously lobby for traceability standards equal to Canadian standards."

Zone 2

Carried: Delegates agreed that imports should be held at the same standards as Canadian beef. The resolution was discussed at the March meeting of the Board of Directors. The directors recognized that the motion likely was carried because delegates at the AGM agreed that imports should be held to the same standards as Canadian beef. However, when the Board of Directors considered the action to be taken in response to this resolution, there were significant concerns that trying to impose our traceability standards on imported beef could be viewed as a non-tariff trade barrier that is contrary to our position favouring free trade in agricultural products. It also could leave us at risk of facing retaliatory action through reciprocal non-tariff trade barriers being imposed by our trading partners. Directors noted the potential for Europe to use their stringent animal health and welfare standards as a barrier to Canadian beef exports to the EU.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors decided that this resolution should be returned to the delegate body at the Semi-AGM for more consideration. At the Semi-AGM, the delegates agreed with the Board of Directors

position that no action should be taken on this resolution. At ABP, we try very hard to take direction from resolutions that are passed at fall meetings and then carried at the AGM, but in this case, the directors and delegates thought that the trade risks associated with acting on this motion would be greater than any benefits to the industry that would occur.

4. "Be it resolved that ABP publish the names of producers who ask for their check-off to be refunded within 30 days of the refund being processed."

Zone 3

Defeated: The delegates understood and were sympathetic to the rationale for this resolution. They recognize that publishing the names of producers who request refunds would make the organization more transparent and more truly representative of the producers who leave their check-off funds invested in ABP. However, the delegates are also aware that publishing the names of producers who request refunds could cause negative reactions among producers who do leave their money with ABP and producers who are requesting refunds, but possibly could be persuaded to leave their check-off funds with the organization. While respecting the fall meeting position on this matter, the delegates did not think that the benefits of publishing these names would be greater than the costs to the industry.

5. "Be it resolved that ABP make available on request a list of those producers who have requested their check-off back and at what percentage."

Zone 7

Motion amended to read:

"Be it resolved that the ABP Board *consider making* available on request a list of those producers who have requested their check-off back and at what percentage."

Carried: After lengthy debate this resolution was carried at the AGM. The Board of Directors discussed the resolution at the March board meeting and agreed that they would consider each request as they are made. Currently only zone directors can receive a list of producers in their zone who have requested a refund.

6. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enable deadstock removal or composting in a more cost effective manner."

Zone 2

Carried: The Board of Directors sent this motion to the Cattle Feeder Council for further investigation and action. The Cattle Feeder Council will work on this issue, but it is a complicated matter involving both provincial and federal jurisdictions.

7. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the federal and provincial government to financially support the removal of deadstock."

Zone 2

Carried: This motion was similar to a motion passed at the ABP AGM in 2007. The delegates carried the motion to support the commitment of ABP to continue lobbying for government support for dead stock removal. The resolution has been directed to the Cow Calf Council and Cattle Feeder Council for investigation and action.

8. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby Canadian Food Inspection Agency to remove the requirement of newborn calves to have an RFID tag for a rendering truck or for a deadstock removal program."

Zone 2

Carried: The Board of Directors sent this motion the the Cow Calf Committee and they have been working on the issue. At the present time all calves are required to have RFID tags when removed from the farm, even for rendering or deadstock removal.

9. "Be it resolved that ABP determine the issue of who owns producers proprietary information, determine the legality of releasing producer information, and make this determination through definitive legal means."

Zone 7, 8

Defeated: ABP had taken strong action in response to the previous resolution, but has not pursued the matter in court.

Currently, the only producer information being shared for marketing purposes is age verification and the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) is the one sharing the information. The delegates did not think it would be responsible to use producers' money to take legal action against our own industry organization (CCIA). ABP is continuing to encourage CCIA to seek producers' consent before releasing age verification information for marketing purposes. We also are strongly encouraging the Government of Alberta to eliminate mandatory age verification and allow the market to set the value and the need for age verification and other producer information.

ABP is continuing to work on addressing the underlying issues that have led to this resolution, but the delegates did not think it would be a responsible use of producer funds or ABP resources to take legal action at this time. We certainly want to resolve this issue, but our delegates don't think that legal action now will lead to a solution or create any benefits for cattle producers.

10. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Financial Services Corporation to use consistent and equal funding models for all agriculture insurance product premiums."

Zone 6

Defeated: The delegates believe that premiums for the Cattle Price Insurance Program and any other new insurance programs should fully support the programs with AFSC providing only administrative support and protection from a disastrous drop in prices. The ABP delegates do not support a funding model for the Cattle Price Insurance Program that is consistent with crop insurance funding.

11. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Minister of Agriculture and the provincial government to reinstate a non-refundable check-off."

Zone 6, 9

Carried: This resolution gives the ABP Board of Directors and the Executive the endorsement and support they need to pursue the issue with the current Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development and the government. However, we recognize that the impetus and pressure for reinstatement of a non-refundable check-off will have to come from grass roots producers.

12. "Be it resolved that ABP enter into discussion with the Fish and Wildlife division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to return to the previous policy of no hunting on Sundays."

Zone 3

Defeated: Delegates understood and empathized with the resolution and the reasoning behind it. However, many Alberta producers have a very real problem with deer and other wildlife destroying crops and feed. They support hunting as one method of controlling wildlife populations and reducing wildlife damage. Since the majority of the hunting is done on the weekends when hunters can be away from work or school, the delegates felt that they could not carry this resolution.

13. "Be it resolved that ABP request and urge the Alberta Minister of Agriculture to attend at least one fall ABP producer meeting in each of its nine zones."

Zone 9

Carried: The ABP Board of Directors decided that a letter will be sent to the Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development with a list of the fall producer meetings and an invitation for him and his staff to attend these meetings. ABP Zones are also encouraged to invite their local MLA's as well.

14. “Be it resolved the ABP lobby Alberta Financial Services Corporation to review the corn heat unit trigger ensure our competitiveness in the feeding industry.”
Zone 2

Carried: Cattle Feeder Council members spoke with AFSC and changes have been made to the Contract of Insurance for Annual crops. If the -2.0° C trigger has not been hit by September 30th, AFSC will automatically shut off the accumulation of CHU’s. More information can be found in the 2011 Canada-Alberta Insurance Protection for Annual Crops booklet.

15. “Be it resolved all cattle producers must be able to chase or transport cattle to land in control of the producer without Canadian Cattle Identification Agency tags.”
Zone 7

Carried: The ABP Board of Directors considered the resolution at its January meeting and has directed the Cow Calf Council and ABP staff to clarify the specific requirements regarding the application of RFID tags. ABP will communicate the results of this investigation to producers and truckers. We will also be supporting policies and legislation that are consistent with this resolution.

The Regulation for cattle movement away from the farm of origin location has been challenged in the past. At present, cattle are allowed to be moved or transported from the location provided they are in the control of the person who owns or has possession of the cattle. Cattle are considered to be on the farm of origin be they chased or transported to another location under the person’s control. However, if cattle are to be commingled with cattle from other farms of origin they are required to have RFID tags.

16. “Be it resolved that ABP approach the government of Alberta on the negative effects of the dictatorial aspect of Bill 19, Bill 36 and Bill 50 and request that these bills be rescinded or amended to give producers back their eroded property rights.”
Zone 5, 7

Carried: The delegates agreed that the impact of these bills could be detrimental to producers in Alberta and could have sweeping repercussions for all Alberta landowners.

ABP has been following and participating in the development of the Land-use Framework (LUF) for the past four years. While all of these bills are causing concern among land owners, the primary focus for ABP was on Bill 36 because we thought that this bill could have the greatest impact on the largest number of cattle producers. Recognizing that there are producers with strong views on all sides of Bill 36 and the LUF issue, ABP has tried to take a position that will be best for the

industry overall. We have taken forward the concerns of producers and worked with government for improvements to the legislation. After the Board of Directors met with Minister Ted Morton and Parliamentary Assistant Evan Berger in January and held extensive discussions with producers, delegates and directors, ABP developed four recommendations for changes to Bill 36 that were published in a news release, posted on our website and presented to key cabinet ministers. With the introduction and passing of Bill 10, the *Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act*, the government acknowledged that the amendments in Bill 10 were the result of what they had heard from land owners and organizations across the province, including the recommendations made by ABP. ABP is encouraged, but not completely satisfied, by the amendments to Bill 36 that are in Bill 10. We will continue working on behalf of producers to make the Land-use Framework and all bills dealing the use and value of property more acceptable for cattle producers.

17. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government in defence of agriculture in the Alberta Land Use Framework Regional Planning process to secure property rights eroded by Bill 36.”
Zone 1

Carried: ABP has been following the Land-use Framework closely and has established a Land-use Framework sub-committee that submitted a response to the Vision for the Lower Athabasca Region. ABP will continue to take the concerns of producers forward to the government and will participate in Land-use Framework discussions to the fullest extent possible.

18. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to put pressure on utility companies, specifically transmission line corporations, to bring compensation levels up to oil and gas industry standards. Also, having an appeal procedure along with it.”
Zone 1

Carried: Delegates agreed that landowners should be better compensated for the inconvenience that occurs when any transmission lines are run across their land. ABP has consistently worked for better levels of compensation for producers and the Board of Directors set up an ad hoc committee to investigate this specific issue.

19. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to halt the transfer or sale of crown lands to private individuals or corporations without public consultation.”
Zone 1, 8

Carried: A number of ranches in Alberta have lease land and delegates agreed that the future possibility of losing land required to sustain their livelihood infringes on their

need to plan for their own future. The Board of Directors will look at the policy as it exists and make recommendations on process changes to ensure that the rights of leaseholders and the interests of Albertans are protected.

20. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to have age verification returned to voluntary from mandatory."
Zone 4

Carried: The resolution is consistent with ABP policy and we have been working with the Alberta government to have age verification returned to voluntary from mandatory. This resolution ratifies that policy and the Board of Directors will continue to pursue voluntary age verification with the government.

21. "Be it resolved that ABP support Age Verification and a functional traceability system."
Zone 2

Motion amended to read:

"Be it resolved that ABP support voluntary age verification and a functional trace back system as outlined in the *'Guiding Principles for Beef Cattle Traceability'*."

Carried: The amended motion is consistent with the current ABP position on age verification and traceability. ABP will continue to support voluntary age verification and a functional trace back system.

20. "Be it resolved that the 2009-2010 ABP audited financial statements and auditor's report be accepted."
Board

Carried: No further action required

21. "Be it resolved that the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2010-2011 year-end audit."
Board

Carried: No further action required

2010 Resolutions for Board of Directors:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP no longer support mandatory age verification and should be used as a marketing tool for producers."
Zone 5

Defeated: The ABP board could not carry this motion because ABP has never supported mandatory age

verification. ABP agrees that age verification should be voluntary and driven by market demand. That is the position we are continuing to take with provincial and federal governments.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP through Canadian Cattlemen's Association lobby the federal government to allow us input into animal health regulations administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency."
Zone 4

Carried: The Canadian Cattlemen's Association has open dialogue with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and is actively engaged in discussions regarding animal health regulations. ABP has eight members on the CCA board and three of these members are also on the CCA Executive.

3. "Be it resolved that the Canadian Cattlemen's Association lobby the federal government to impose the same safety criteria for import food products as domestic products."
Zone 1

Motion amended to read:

"Be it resolved that *ABP through the* Canadian Cattlemen's Association lobby the federal government to impose the same safety criteria for import food products as domestic products."

Defeated: ABP board directors understood the reasoning behind the resolution but cautioned that imposing such conditions on imported products could lead to reciprocal action on Canadian exported products by countries with more demanding standards.

4. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal government to ensure the industry accrues more benefit over cost incurred on traceability."
Zone 1

Carried: ABP, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, developed the *'Guiding Principles for Beef Cattle Traceability'* which was signed by a number of industry organizations in October 2010. The principles touched on five key points:

1. Traceability will support industry standards for commerce;
2. The Traceability system for the beef cattle industry will enhance the competitive position of the industry;
3. Traceability will expand as the appropriate technology to support initiatives is available;
4. Industry standards will drive tolerance ranges for tag readability and retention; and

5. Producer information must remain confidential.

This motion reinforced the path that ABP is currently taking and will continue to work for in all future discussions with the federal and provincial governments regarding traceability.

5. “Be it resolved that ABP investigate with all other commodity groups with a levy or a check-off in Alberta on presenting a policy to the provincial government on how we would like to deal with our money being refunded or not.”

Zone 7

Carried: Four other commodity groups were affected by the implementation of Bill 43. Directors agreed that opening discussion with the other commodity groups to discuss the implications of a refundable check-off could be beneficial to everyone. ABP will be pursuing these discussions this year.

6. “Be it resolved that ABP fall producer meetings be restricted to elections, resolutions, and time to discuss issues that relate to producer level concerns.”

Zone 6

Defeated: Though the directors understand the reasoning behind the motion they agreed that it was not the role of the board to determine the content and structure of zone fall meetings.

7. “Be it resolved that ABP investigate the existence of baseline information regarding salt percentages in differentiated cattle production systems, throughout the production chain (producer through retailer). And if this information is not available then facilitate the initiation of this benchmarking research.”

Zone 3

Defeated: The Beef Information Centre has compiled a large volume of nutritional information on beef and there has been a substantial amount of work done on salt content in various foods. If consumers or producers are interested in this type of information; they can find it themselves or encourage further research. Based on the priorities of the cattle industry, the board did not think that it would be a good investment of producer funds to investigate the existence of this baseline information or support research on this topic.

8. “Be it resolved no beef producer shall be fined for missing Canadian Cattle Identification Agency tags.”

Zone 7

Defeated: The directors felt the motion had some merit, but ABP does not administer fines. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for compliance and enforcement activities related to the requirement for

cattle to have an RFID tag. The board was concerned that the resolution could be interpreted to mean that producers do not have to tag cattle. It is our position that producers who tag cattle should not be fined if the tag is lost. Most CFIA inspectors understand that tags can be lost and a producer should not be fined when this occurs. There needs to be a reasonable approach to enforcement of this tagging regulation and ABP will be drafting a letter to CFIA explaining our policy.

9. “Be it resolved that ABP urge government to do more research on the control of moles (pocket gophers).”

Zone 5

Carried: The Board sent this motion to the Research Committee. The committee agreed that moles and gophers are a universal problem across Alberta. Gilbert Proulx is the Director of Science at Alpha Wildlife Research and Management Ltd. Dr. Proulx has done considerable research into the problem of gophers, moles and ground squirrels. Some background and contact information can be found at www.alphawildlife.ca. The committee is currently looking for research proposals in this and a number of other areas.

10. “Be it resolved that ABP check into why it is that the retail stores got 19% in 1979 and 2010 they receive 50% of the pie.”

Zone 5

Carried: ABP will review the information currently available on the share of food revenue that is taken by retail stores to see if these figures are accurate. There has been a significant amount of consolidation in both the processing and retail sectors and this may have affected the distribution of revenue among the sectors in the food chain.

11. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the various government bodies necessary to make Canadian Cattle Identification Agency more accountable to producers.”

Zone 9

Carried: ABP has a director sitting on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency board who will address this issue with CCIA and underline the importance of consistent policy across the industry and the country.

12. “Be it resolved that traceability be limited only to home quarter of producer and not to pasture to pasture movement.”

Zone 5

Carried: This motion supports ABP current policy opposing pasture-to-pasture movement traceability. *The Guiding Principles for Beef Cattle Traceability* developed by ABP, the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association and Alberta Agriculture & Rural

Development, clearly state that tracking of pasture to pasture movement would not be required when the producer is moving cattle within the producer's own operation.

13. "Be it resolved that in the 2011/2012 fiscal year budget ABP support Canadian Cattlemen's Association operations, trade advocacy and National Policy Initiatives at least to the level indicated in the prior years, 2010/2011 and 2009/2010."
Zone 5

Carried: With the final approval of the 2011/2012 fiscal budget, ABP has funded the Canadian Cattlemen's Association operations at the same level as in the 2010/2011 year. The directors discussed this issue in length and agreed that, while CCA is an important organization, it could not take priority over the financial viability of ABP and the disposition of the ABP budget needs to stay in the hands of the ABP Board of Directors.

14. "Be it resolved that ABP continues to support raising the allowable age limit for Japan to 30 months."
Zone 8 – From AGM

Carried: This motion supports policy for ABP and the Canadian Cattlemen's Associations as well as the federal government. ABP and CCA agree that it is vital to open the Japanese market to under 30 months.

2010 Resolutions for Cow Calf Council:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP suggest to Canadian Cattle Identification Agency look into color coding tags to correlate with the year."
Zone 2

Defeated: The council members agreed that colour coding the tags to specify different years may make things easier for the producer in the short term but would eventually cause more problems in a system that is already imperfect.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to pay producers for wild life damage on crops grown on grazing leases."
Zone 9

Defeated: Fred Hays, ABP Policy Analyst, has researched the government policy on compensation for wildlife damage on grazing leases and was able to determine that producers can receive compensation already. Further information can be found at the following website:

<http://srd.alberta.ca/FishWildlife/FishWildlifeOfficers/UnregulateDamagePreventionCompensation.aspx>

3. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government for better compensation for wildlife damages to fodder and for kills."
Zone 9

Carried: This motion mirrors a similar motion that was made in Zone 8 in 2009 and that the Wildlife Subcommittee is currently working on. The Wildlife Subcommittee will also be addressing this motion with Sustainable Resource Development and the Alberta government.

4. "Be it resolved cow/calf producers need an option other than AgriStability to prove current inventories in order to qualify for the \$100,000 interest free loan through the Advanced Payment Program administered by Feeder Association of Alberta."
Zone 7

Carried: This motion supported work the council has already started on the Advanced Payment Program. Fred Hays, ABP Policy Analyst, and Chris Simpson, Chair of the Safety Net Sub-committee have investigated this issue and found that all producers are required to enrol in some business risk management program in order to qualify for the Advanced Payments Program. The matter was referred to the ABP Board of Directors and has been forwarded to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association for their consideration.

5. "Be it resolved that ABP in Alberta be able to supply a break even in the fall for a cow/calf operation like a Feedlot on an annual basis."
Zone 7

Defeated: The council members understood the logic behind the resolution but felt that there were too many variables that needed to be taken into consideration for them to be able to give one definitive number. There are, however, resources that producers can use to determine for themselves what the breakeven point would be for their operation. CanFax is developing a generic model that can be used for this purpose. The other ongoing cost of production information for cow calf producers available in Alberta is through AgriProfit\$ from Alberta Agriculture. The contact there is Dale Kaliel (780) 427-5390.

6. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to redo Agriculture Financial Services Corporation Farm Loans so that they are not front loaded with interest to help young people get started."
Zone 9

Defeated: Fred Hays, ABP Policy Analyst, and Chris Simpson, the Chair of the Safety Net Sub-Committee for the council, reviewed this issue and found that producers who pay the regularly amortized loans pay the same or less in total than those who pay the principle first. As a result, they thought that the current interest policy does not place any undue hardship on young producers. More information on the interest policy can be obtained from the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC).

2010 Resolutions for Governance Committee:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP Executive and staff conduct a review of all delegate remuneration in the agriculture industry to set a fair rate for the beef industry delegates.
Zone 3

Carried: Regular reviews of delegate remuneration are conducted by the ABP Controller and reported to the Governance Committee and the Board of Directors. The Controller found that the remuneration received by ABP delegates and directors is generally consistent with the amounts paid by comparable industry organizations. This year, the Board of Directors carried a motion that sets the mileage rate paid by ABP at the same level as the rate paid by the Government of Alberta as of April 1st of each year.

2010 Resolutions for Research Committee:

1. “Be it resolved that research funds be directed toward determining the science behind the occurrence of dark cutters and measures that livestock producers might take to mitigate the occurrence of same.”
Zone 5

Carried: As far as researchers can determine dark cutters seem to be the result of some stress on the animals. Studies have been done on this issue and a number of reports have been written on it. Currently, ABP is funding Dr. Heather Bruce from the University of Alberta in conducting research into the causes and characteristics of dark cutting meat. The Research Committee also has received a letter of intent from Dr. Bruce to conduct further research into the issue of dark cutters. The committee requested a full proposal for this and three other projects and will make a funding decision once the proposals have been submitted.