



ABP Policy Manual

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Table of Contents

Part 1 – Terms and Abbreviations	4
Part 2 – Governance Process	
Global Governance Process	5
Governing Style	5
Focus of Board	6
Role of Chair	7
Board Travel and Expenses	9
Board Committee Principles	9
Board Committee Structure	10
Board Committee Expenses	11
Code of Conduct	11
Investment in Governance	11
Policy Updates	13
Part 3 – Board Management Delegation	
Global Board-GM Relationship	14
Unity of Control	14
Accountability of the GM	14
Delegation to the GM	15
Monitoring and Observing Performance of GM	16
Fiscal Accountability	17
Protection of Assets	17
Staff Resources	17
Personnel Policies and Procedures	17
Reporting and Communications	18
Information Transfer (IT)	18
Compliance	18
Part 4 – Executive Limitations Policy	
Global Executive Limitations	19
Strategic Plan and Operations	19
Financial Operations	19
Fiscal Accountability	19
Internal Communication	19
Emergency Executive Director Succession	19

Part 5 – Policy and Priorities

Interactions with Other Organizations	20
Revenue Recognition and Financial Policy.....	21
Service Charge Refund Policy	21
Business Risk Management Program Policy	21
Environmental Policy	22
Land	22
Resource Extraction.....	22
Crown Land Grazing Dispositions	22
Off Highway Vehicles on Road Allowances	24
Water	24
Wildlife.....	25
Agricultural Plastics	27
Ecological Goods and Services	27
Research Policy	27
Marketing and Education Policy	27
Plant Based Protein Policy	28
Disease Outbreaks Policy	28
Welfare – Transportation of Livestock Policy	29
Welfare – Pollutants Policy	29
Welfare – Animal Care Regulations Policy.....	29
Veterinary Shortage Policy	30
Animal Health Products Policy.....	30
Regulatory Burden Policy.....	30
Traceability and Age Verification Policy.....	31
Biofuels and Bio Energy Policy	31
Trade Disruption and Dispute Policy.....	32
Organization Wrap-Up Policy	32
Rural Security Policy	33
Domestic Trade Policy.....	33
International Trade Policy.....	33
Specified Risk Material Policy.....	33
Access to Labour Policy.....	33
Market Transparency.....	34
Beef Processing	34

Appendices

35

Part 1 – Terms and Abbreviations

1.1 In this policy manual,

- (a) “Board” means the elected Board of Directors for Alberta Beef Producers
- (b) “Board Committee” means a committee delegated by the Board of Directors
- (c) “Chair” means the elected official who leads Alberta Beef Producers’ meetings and the organization.
- (d) “Executive” means the elected officials making up the leadership team, including the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Finance Chair.
- (e) “GM” means the General Manager of Alberta Beef Producers
- (f) “industry” means all members of the beef production supply chain
- (g) “Management” means General Manager and staff the designate for specific roles.
- (h) “Organization” means Alberta Beef Producers
- (i) “Staff” mean employees of Alberta Beef Producers reporting to the General Manager

Part 2 – Governance Process

Global Governance Process

- 1.1** The board serves membership, the beef producers of Alberta, by sound delegation of its authority, and lead's the Alberta Beef Producers organization to achieve appropriate results for the appropriate people at an appropriate cost, as described in Part 5 – Policies and Priorities, while avoiding unacceptable actions and situations as described in Part 4 – Executive Limitations.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Governing Style

- 2.1** The Board will govern,
- (a) with an emphasis on being visionary rather than reactionary,
 - (b) by encouraging and embracing diverse viewpoints and opinion,
 - (c) with clarity in the delegation of authority and expectations,
 - (d) with unity by speaking with one voice.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 2.2** The Board shall,
- (a) cultivate a sense of group responsibility,
 - (b) be responsible for excellence in governing,
 - (c) be an initiator of policy, and,
 - (d) use the expertise of individual members to enhance the ability of the Board to develop fulsome policy, rather than to accept individual judgments over the group's values.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 2.3** The Board shall,
- (a) Direct, control and inspire the organization through written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives.
 - (b) focus policy efforts on the intended long-term impacts on the organization, not on the administrative means of attaining those effects.

Approved: July 10, 2014

2.4 The Board shall enforce discipline as needed to govern itself with excellence in matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policy-making principles, respect of roles, and ensuring continued governance competence.

Approved: July 10, 2014

2.5 The Board shall orient new Board members to the Board's governance process and periodically discuss process improvement.

Approved: July 10, 2014

2.6 The Board shall not allow any member or committee of the Board to prevent the Board from fulfilling its commitments.

Approved: July 10, 2014

2.7 The Board reserves the right to alter its governance process policies at any time, however, it will adhere to them scrupulously while in force.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Focus of Board

3.1 To ensure accountability to its membership and its effectiveness, the Board will emphasize work in specific areas to optimize organizational performance.

Approved: July 10, 2014

3.2 The Board will concentrate its efforts on the following areas,

- (a) the link between the organization and the members,
- (b) written governing policies and priorities,
- (c) monitoring and observing the performance of the organization as outlined in policies on Board-GM Relationship.

Approved: July 10, 2014

3.3 Policy and priority documents should address,

- (a) the benefits the organization is to achieve, for which people, at what cost,

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- (b) Constraints on executive authority that establish the boundaries of prudence and ethics within which all executive activity and decisions must take place,
 - (c) Describes how the Board conceives, performs, and monitors its own tasks, and,
 - (d) how power is delegated and its proper use monitored, the GM role, authority, and accountability.

Approved: July 10, 2014

3.4 The Board will be mindful of succession by

- (a) retaining enough experienced directors, while providing opportunity for new directions, and,
- (b) ensuring the director elected as Chair should have experience on the Executive and the most appropriate length of time in the Chair position is two years.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Role of Chair

4.1 The Chair shall

- (a) assure the integrity of the Board's process, and,
- (b) represents the Board to outside parties.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.2 The Chair is the only Board member authorized to speak for the Board unless

- (a) the delegate is simply reporting Board decisions, or,
- (b) specifically authorized instances.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.3 The Chair will be responsible for,

- (a) guiding the Board to behave consistently with its own rules, and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization,
- (b) ensuring meeting content will only include those issues, which, according to Board policy, clearly belong to the Board to decide or monitor.

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- (c) avoiding information which is outside the focus of the Board as established in Section 4 or minimize this content to an information note.
 - (d) ensuring deliberation is timely, fair, orderly, and thorough, but also efficient and on topic.
 - (e) following Robert's Rules of Order as the procedural authority in case of dispute.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 4.4 The Chair has authority to interpret Board policies on Governance Process and Board-GM Relationship, except for,
 - (a) employment or termination of a GM, and,
 - (b) instances where the Board specifically delegates portions of this authority to others.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 4.5 The Chair is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted power of that position, such as, ruling and recognizing.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 4.6 The Chair has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the Board within Policy and Priorities and Executive Limitations policy areas. The Chair has no authority to supervise or direct the GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 4.7 The Chair may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating the Chair's interpretations within the area delegated to the Chair pursuant to policies in Global Governance Process and Board-GM Relationship.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 4.8 The Chair may delegate these authorities and responsibilities but remains accountable for its use.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Board Travel and Expenses

- 5.1** Legitimate expenses incurred during performance of Board duties will be reimbursed as per the appropriate rules and guidelines established by the organization.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Board Committee Principles

- 6.1** Board Committees will be assigned to help the Board fulfill its duties, and never to interfere with delegation from Board to the GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 6.2** Committees will assist the Board by providing policy advice and implications for Board deliberation.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 6.3** Board Committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and/or time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 6.4** In relation to the staff Board Committees,

(a) are never to help or advise the staff unless otherwise approved by the Board.

(b) in keeping with the Board's broader focus, Board Committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations.

(c) cannot exercise authority over staff.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 6.5** As the GM works for the full Board, they will not be required to obtain approval from a Board Committee before taking any action, except where the Committee has been delegated specific authority to act on behalf of the Board.

Approved: July 10, 2014

6.6 A Board Committee must not monitor organizational performance in a given area that the same Committee has assisted the Board in policy development in order to prevent a Committee from identifying with a part of the organization rather than the whole. The Board retains all responsibility and authority to monitor organizational performance.

Approved: July 10, 2014

6.7 All Committee members shall abide by the same Code of Conduct that governs the Board.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Board Committee Structure

7.1 A committee is a Board Committee only if its existence and charge come from the Board, regardless of whether Board members sit on the Committee.

Approved: July 10, 2014

7.2 Unless otherwise stated, a Board Committee ceases to exist as soon as its task is complete.

Approved: July 10, 2014

7.3 Board Committees and their mandates are as follows:

(a) GM Annual Performance Review Committee

(i) Membership shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Chair, and Governance Committee Chair.

(ii) The committee shall collaborate with the current GM to develop a process of performance review and bring recommendation(s) back to the Board regarding GM evaluation and associated remuneration.

(b) Governance Committee

(c) Audit Committee

Approved: November 22, 2023

Board Committee Expenses

- 8.1** Legitimate expenses incurred during performance of duties for Committees and working groups that have been formed by the Board, will be reimbursed as per the appropriate rules and guidelines established by the organization.

Approved: April 21, 2016

Code of Conduct

- 9.1** All Board members, delegates, and anyone designated to represent the organization will be required to follow the organization's Code of Conduct.

Approved: (existing)

- 9.2** To be eligible to serve as a Board Member or serve on one of the Board's Committees, delegates will review and execute the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Protocols on an annual basis.

Approved: (existing)

Investment in Governance

- 10.1** The Board will invest in its governance capacity to avoid any losses contributed to poor governance by providing,

- (a) candidates for the Board with information that defines the role of the Board, the necessary qualifications, and the expectations of Board members,
- (b) new Board members a complete orientation to ensure familiarity with the organization's issues and structure, and the Board's process of governance.
- (c) Existing board members with opportunities for continued education, skill development, and new perspectives on issues to enhance their governance capabilities.

Approved: February 18, 2015

- 10.2** The Board will hire outside monitoring assistance to allow the Board to exercise sufficient control over organizational performance. This includes, but is not limited to, fiscal audit.

Approved: February 18, 2015

10.3 The Board will establish and be accountable for an annual budget for its own governance functions, which shall include, in addition to the costs of Board and Board Committee meetings, funds for:

- (a) Board Member attendance at conferences and conventions.
- (b) Improvement of its governance function.
- (c) Costs of fiscal audit and any other outside monitoring assistance required.
- (d) Costs of methods such as focus groups and surveys to ensure the ability of the Board to listen to member viewpoints and values.

Approved: February 18, 2015

10.4 The Board will establish a governance action plan that will serve as measurable standards against which the Board's performance can be evaluated.

Approved: February 18, 2015

10.5 A least once per year, the Chair will lead the Board to conduct a self-evaluation. As a result of this evaluation, the Board will include in its governance action plan specific goals and objectives for improvement of identified areas.

Approved: February 18, 2015

10. 6 The Board, through its Governance Committee, will monitor its adherence to its own governance policies regularly. However,

(a) Upon the choice of the Board, any policy can be monitored at any time, and,

(b) at minimum, the Board will review the policies, and monitor its own adherence, according to the following schedule:

S. 2-1	Global Governance Process Policy	Annual
S. 2-2	Governing Style	Annual
S. 2-3	Focus of the Board	Annual
S. 2-4	Chairman's Role	Annual
S. 2-5	Board Travel and Expenses	Annual
S. 2-6	Board Committee Principles	Annual
S. 2-7	Board Committee Structure	Annual
S. 2-5	Board and Committee Expenses	Annual
S. 2-8	Code of Conduct	Annual
S. 2-10	Investment in Governance	Annual

Board Delegation of Authority

S. 3-1	Global Board-GM Relationship	Annual
S. 3-2	Unity of Control	Annual
S. 3-3	Accountability of the GM	Annual
S. 3-4	Delegation to the GM	Annual
S. 3-5	Monitoring and Observing Performance of GM	Annual

Policy Updates

11.1 To update the Alberta Beef Producers' Policy Manual,

(a) The board will provide approval for any policy to be added to, removed from, or amended in the manual,

(b) The Governance Committee will review any policy changes to ensure they are developed and ready for board approval, and,

(c) Policy shifts can be drafted at the Committee or board level, however, policy drafted by a committee shall be submitted to the Governance Committee for review.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Part 3 – Board Management Delegation

Global Board-GM Relationship

- 1.1** The sole connection of the board to the operational organization, its achievements and conduct will be through a General Manager, titled GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Unity of Control

- 2.1** Only decisions of the Board acting as a body are binding on the GM. Accordingly:
- (a) direction by individual Board members, Executive, or Committees are not binding on the GM unless the Board has specifically authorized such authority.
 - (b) The GM may refuse requests from board members or Committees if they do not have Board authorization.
 - (c) Only the board acting as a body can employ, terminate, discipline, or change the conditions of employment of the GM.
 - (d) Following a resolution of the full Board, any changes in compensation to the GM shall be communicated through a letter documented and signed by the Chair and placed in the GM's personnel file.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Accountability of the GM

- 3.1** The GM is responsible for,
- (a) maintaining the sole link with the Board,
 - (b) management of staff, and,
 - (c) upholding accountability to the Board for policy and strategic achievements of the organization while conforming to the provisions of Part 4 – Executive Limitations.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 3.2** The staff of the organization are solely accountable to the GM. Accordingly, the Board will,
- (a) not give instructions to persons who report directly or indirectly to the GM, or,

(b) refrain from evaluating, either formally or informally, any staff other than the GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Delegation to the GM

4.1 To allow the GM to be successful, the Board will provide written instruction on,

(a) policies and priorities, and,

(b) situations and actions to be avoided.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.2 The Board will systematically develop a document titled Policies and Priorities from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, that allow the GM to achieve measurable results, at a specified cost.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.3 The board will develop Executive Limitations policies that describe the limitations and restrictions the GM must follow to achieve the organization's policies and priorities.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.4 The GM is authorized to establish all further policies, make all decisions, take all actions, establish all practices, and develop all activities, if, the GM adheres to the Board's Policies and Priorities and Executive Limitations policies.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.5 The Board may change the Policies and Priorities and Executive Limitations policies, changing the instructions and directions to the GM.

Approved: July 10, 2014

4.6 The Board will respect and support the GM's choice if policies are in place.

Approved: July 10, 2014

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- 4.7 The Board may obtain information from the GM to better understand policy implementation, except for confidential data.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Monitoring and Observing Performance of GM

- 5.1 Observation of the job performance of GM will be assessed based on expected job outputs, including, accomplishing the Policies and Priorities.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 5.2 The time the Board spends on assessment of the GM shall be intentionally minimized to allow the Board to be forward facing.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 5.3 The success of the GM executing a specific policy will be presented in one or more of three ways:

(a) the GM providing an internal report to the Board.

(b) an external report by a Board-selected external auditor, inspector, or judge, which only assesses policies of the Board, not of the external party, unless stated otherwise.

(c) After proper notification has been given to the GM, the Board may inspect documents, activities or circumstances that determines compliance.

- 5.4 The GM will not be deemed non-compliant with a policy simply due to a difference of interpretation between the GM and the Board regarding the policy. The Board will consider any logical and justifiable interpretation of policy by the GM as compliant.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 5.5 Conflicts of interpretation of policy between the GM and the Board shall be resolved first by good faith discussions and. If need be, by amendment to the policy in question clarifying the intention of the Board for the policy.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 5.6 Any policy can be observed or monitored by the Board by any of the above methods at any time.

Approved: July 10, 2014

5.7 The Board shall determine the frequency and method to consistently monitor Board Policies and Priorities and each Executive Limitations policy.

Approved: July 10, 2014

5.8 The Board will formally evaluate the GM,

- (a) during the first meeting of the fiscal year;
- (b) based on the achievement of the Board's Policies and Priorities while adhering to the Executive Limitations policies;
- (c) by assessing the regular monitoring data provided during the year, the Board's recorded acceptance of the reports described in S. 16.3 and identifying performance trends evidenced by that data.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Fiscal Accountability

6.1 Management will ensure that processes and procedures are in place to collect, receive, disburse, and track funds that are remitted to the organization.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Protection of Assets

7.1 Management will ensure that processes and procedures are in place to protect the capital assets, records, and documents of the organization.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Staff Resources

8.1 Management will ensure that the organization has sufficient staff resources to meet the operational requirements established by the strategic plan and Board policies.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Personnel Policies and Procedures

9.1 Management will ensure that the organization has prepared and documented appropriate policies and procedures dealing with staff job descriptions, contracts, compensation, benefits, performance reviews, health and safety, and professional development.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Reporting and Communications

10.1 Management will ensure that the organization has policies and programs that enable the organization to communicate effectively with producers, strategic partners, and the public.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Information Transfer (IT)

11.1 Management will ensure that processes and procedures are in place to provide a secure IT environment under which the organization's business may be conducted.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Compliance

12.1 Management will ensure that the operations of the organization are in compliance with the policies, procedures, and practices established by the Board of Directors

Approved: July 10, 2014

Part 4 – Executive Limitations Policy

Global Executive Limitations

- 1.1 Management will ensure that the organization operates within applicable laws, regulations, and abides by the ethical and moral standards as outlined by the Board.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Strategic Plan and Operations

- 2.1 Management will ensure that the operations of the organization occur within the limits of the strategic plan established by the Board.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Financial Operations

- 3.1 Management will ensure that the financial transactions of the organization, including recognition of revenue, disbursement of expenditures, and investments, occur within the limits of the financial policies and budget approved by the Board of Directors.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Fiscal Accountability

- 4.1 Management will ensure that accounting practices adhere to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) Standard

Approved: July 10, 2014

Internal Communication

- 5.1 Management will ensure that processes and procedures are in place to enable effective communication of the organization's actions, performance, and financial status to the Board.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Emergency Executive Director Succession

- 6.1 Management will ensure that a plan for continued operations in a sudden and unexpected absence of the GM is prepared, documented, and safely stored.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Part 5 – Policy and Priorities

Interactions with Other Organizations

- 1.1** ABP will work collaboratively with other organizations of common interest while pursuing solutions to industry issues consistent with ABP's mission and vision. There are two (2) distinct types of organizations that may be engaged:

Approved: April 21, 2016

1.2 NGO Membership Organizations

- (a) Organizations or groups in which ABP is a member and as an organization pays a membership fee or levy. Including but not limited to the organizations listed in Appendix 1.
- (b) Individual zones may purchase membership in a local NGO, such as a Local Chamber of Commerce, as long as,
 - (i) the purchase of the membership achieves ABP's mission and objective,
 - (ii) the purchase has the consensus of sitting delegates,
 - (iii) was reported to the Board of Directors, and,
 - (iv) A non-voting or associate membership is determined not available before regular membership

Approved: April 21, 2016

1.3 NGOs Non-Membership Organizations

- (a) Organizations or groups with which ABP works, but as an organization does not pay a membership or levy. Including but not limited to the organizations listed in Appendix 2.

Approved: April 21, 2016

1.4 Government Groups or Organizations

- (a) Advisory groups and Crown Corporations that ABP works with to better regulatory frameworks, research, program development or issues management. Including but not limited to the organizations listed in Appendix 3.

Approved: April 21, 2016

Revenue Recognition and Financial Policy

- 2.1** The service charge revenue collected in one year, less refunds, will be used to provide funding for the operations of ABP during the following year.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 2.2** ABP shall continually assess the value offered to producers by programs funded by check-off dollars, as well as, communication of those benefit to producers.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Service Charge Refund Policy

- 3.1** Refunds of service charge will be processed with appropriate documentation at prescribed times of the year.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 3.2** Any refund requests that do not provide appropriate documentation or fail to meet the deadline for filing will be rejected.

Approved: July 10, 2014

- 3.3** Any information regarding service charge refunds will be kept confidential, except to the individuals directly involved with administering refund requests.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Business Risk Management Program Policy

- 4.1** ABP shall support programming that facilitates risk management for all types of producers, including, but not limited to, programs for

(a) Price Risk that is permanently available to producers and available year around,

(b) Margin Risk that successfully protects producers against shifts in their actual margin,

(c) Production risk, including calf mortality and unforeseen losses, and

(d) Disasters, that reliably triggers in extreme scenarios.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Environmental Policy

- 5.1** In order to protect beef producers' access to essential land and water resources, ABP will endeavor to retain consumer acceptance and public support by supporting good stewardship of soil, water, air, and biodiversity.

Approved: November 18, 2015

Land

- 6.1** Any planning decision, such as,

- (a) Policy development,
- (b) Regulations or legislation, or,
- (c) Any processes for land use planning,

that may impact the rights of owners or manager to use their land, or impact the value of the land, requires consultation for adequate mitigation and compensation for the landowner.

Approved: November 18, 2015

- 6.2** Any of the planning decision mentioned in (1) must have an appeal process for impacted producers.

Approved: November 18, 2015

Resource Extraction

- 7.1** Extraction, such as coal mining, must include consultation with local landowners in a manner,

- (a) that allows the landowners to understand potential impacts, and,
- (b) the company can gain more awareness for concerns to aid in mitigation and reclamation.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Crown Land Grazing Dispositions

- 8.1** Crown Land Grazing dispositions shall be kept a fundamental component of protecting rangelands and maintaining them in perpetuity for all Albertans.

Approved: November 18, 2015

8.2 The renewal, and other administrative process associated with a disposition, shall have prompt processing to not impede stewardship or the success of the producer's operation.

Approved: November 22, 2023

8.3 Holding the right to a lease contract makes the lease a real property asset with real value. The money paid for transfer of leases reflects the market value of the rights to a lease.

Approved: November 18, 2015

8.4 Providing disposition holders with security of tenure encourages outstanding stewardship of the land and increases the value of the land (and the associated lease contract) through investments made by the leaseholder in structures and improvements.

Approved: November 22, 2023

8.5 Any grazing lease rental rate and assignment fee framework shall be fair, defensible from a trade perspective, comparable to rental rates or royalties paid by other resource sectors, while encouraging stewardship of the land.

Approved: November 18, 2015

8.6 As established under the Surface Rights Act,

(a) a grazing leaseholder, as the occupant of the Crown land under agricultural disposition, is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of the land, initial nuisance, inconvenience, noise, and adverse effects on the land around the disturbed area.

(b) a leaseholder is not entitled to compensation for land value as the land is owned by the Crown. Compensation payments related to ownership of the land is to be paid to the Government of Alberta.

Approved: November 18, 2015

8.7 As maintenance of forage, disposition land, and water resources are key to the objective of environmental sustainability, any multiple use demands, such as resource extraction, recreation, forestry, etc., must not impede long-term outcomes.

Approved: November 22, 2023

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- 8.8** Any other uses, including recreation, allowed on disposed agricultural land should not compromise,
- (a) the grazing value,
 - (b) the long-term sustainability, and,
 - (c) the holder's ability to steward the land in the way of added cost or time.
- Approved: November 22, 2023**

Off Highway Vehicles on Road Allowances

- 9.1** Off Highway Vehicles should be prohibited on undeveloped road allowances for reactional purposes as it,
- (a) burdens adjacent landowners with weeds and erosion,
 - (b) increases biosecurity risk, and,
 - (c) increases linear disturbance on the landscape.
- Approved: November 22, 2023**

Water

- 10.1** ABP supports the sound management and protection of water as the continued growth and development of Alberta's agriculture industry is dependant on a clean water supply.
- Approved: November 18, 2015**
- 10.2** The clear benefit of protecting surface water and groundwater quality must be balanced with considerations for the economic and social interest of Albertans.
- Approved: November 18, 2015**
- 10.3** Water legislation, regulations and policies must include consideration of
- (a) priorities and economics,
 - (b) protection of historical water uses and users,
 - (c) development of a flexible, transparent, and efficient system for water allocation transfers,
 - (d) increased flexibility of agriculture uses, and,
 - (e) exploration of all possible solutions to water supply challenges.
- Approved: November 18, 2015**

Wildlife

11.1 In order for wildlife management to be successful,

- (a) approaches should be varied across the province to account for regional differences in populations and agricultural production,
- (b) Governing bodies must work closely with producers and landowners to identify and rectify specific problems,
- (c) Individual producer problems need to be recognized as concerns and tools are needed to mitigate them,
- (d) Enforcement by Fish and Wildlife Officers is essential for issues management and therefore, Officers need to be within reasonable distance of farms, and,
- (e) consultation with stakeholders for allocation of the resources.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.2 Landowners, specifically beef producers, should be compensated

- (a) for the goods and services, they provide to maintain wildlife and habitat,
- (b) any livestock mistakenly killed by known or unknown persons, and/or,
- (c) the financial losses caused by wildlife to crops, stored feed, and livestock.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.3 Although education and avoidance should be a first step, problem predators, such as grizzly bear, may require damage permits to livestock producers in cases of human safety risk, continuous property damage, or confirmed livestock kills.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.4 Biosecurity risks from wildlife need to be accounted for in wildlife management to limit impacts on industry, landowners, and rural communities. Wildlife and free-roaming bison should be managed to limit the disease risk of,

- (a) liver flukes,
- (b) chronic wasting disease,
- (c) tuberculosis, and,
- (d) brucellosis.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.5 Bison are not seen as a true endangered species as they are commonly farmed livestock.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.6 Wild boar are an introduced species that require rapid and swift action from all levels of government.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.7 Alberta Beef Producers recognizes the inconvenience, biosecurity, fire risk, added time and financial expenses of allowing hunting, recreational access, or activities on the land.

Approved: November 22, 2023

11.8 To allow for sufficient wildlife management opportunities the following is required,

- (a) an increase in the number of antlerless big game hunting tags in areas with highly dense populations,
- (b) extended hunting seasons in areas of highly dense populations,
- (c) landowners' special licenses for antlered mule deer, and,
- (d) not withholding of Firearms Discharge Permits on legal hunting days.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Agricultural Plastics

12.1 Alberta needs an agricultural plastics recycling program and further recycling research to embrace the environmental benefits and minimize the increasing danger to livestock.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Ecological Goods and Services

13.1 Mechanism where producers can financially or otherwise benefit from the management of their rangelands and ecosystem is encouraged. Benefits may include,

- (a) Carbon sequestration and storage,
- (b) Wildlife habitat and management, and,
- (c) Water purification and management.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Research Policy

14.1 Research is continuously needed to strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of the beef industry.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Marketing and Education Policy

15.1 The long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the beef industry is reliant on Alberta Beef Producers' ongoing promotion of Alberta Beef, the Alberta beef producers, and the Alberta Beef brand. ABP shall focus on:

- (a) Education on the many aspects of beef attributes, beef production, and beef safety.
- (b) Partnering with other organizations to ensure best use of producer's service charge money.
- (c) Effective communication about marketing and promotion efforts to beef producers and partners.
- (d) Continued promotion of the Alberta Beef brand.
- (e) Collaboration with other food organizations and commodity groups to educate and promote Alberta Beef with a larger and more diverse audience.

Approved: July 10, 2014

15.2 Provincial governments should include agriculture and agricultural information, particularly related to the beef industry, in the junior and senior high education curriculum. Material should include:

- (a) nutritional benefits of beef,
- (b) knowledge of animal husbandry, and,
- (c) environmental benefits.

Approved: July 10, 2014

15.3 Alberta Open Farm Days and Calgary Stampede are important to participate in and promote to drive greater public education about the beef industry.

Approved: November 22, 2023

15.4 Digital marketing and high-profile social media influencers shall be part of communication strategy to target specific consumers like millennials.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Plant Based Protein Policy

16.1 Plant-based, lab grown and synthetic meats are not to be labelled as beef or meat.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Disease Outbreaks Policy

17.1 Proactive approaches are to be emphasized to mitigate risk to animal welfare and trade.

Approved: November 22, 2023

17.2 ABP will work with CFIA and associated stakeholders to provide clear and efficient emergency response protocols for producers.

Approved: November 22, 2023

17.3 In the case of foot-and-mouth disease, Canada needs the development of a well-defined plan with clear processes to follow.

Approved: November 22, 2023

17.4 In cases of outbreak, there must be bridge financing options for producers under quarantine to operational and animal welfare costs.

Approved: November 22, 2023

17.5 Although salvage should be first pursued, compensation is required for stock that are culled to meet regulatory requirements, and for producers whose businesses were interrupted due to the quarantining process.

Approved: November 22, 2023

17.6 Alberta needs additional lab process capacity and veterinary supports to be able to react promptly to an outbreak.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Welfare – Transportation of Livestock Policy

18.1 Any transportation policy should be informed by science and consider animal health and welfare.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Welfare – Pollutants Policy

19.1 Air pollutants, regardless of how remote the location is, can be a severe impact to animal welfare. Therefore, governing bodies need to respond timely to implement corrective measures whenever air pollutants exceed approved safety measures.

Approved: November 22, 2023

19.2 Oil and gas sites, specifically orphan wells and abandoned wells, must be expediently reclaimed to minimize the threat of livestock poisoning, and prevent the landowner having to maintain infrastructure to avoid animal health issues.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Welfare – Animal Care Regulations Policy

20.1 Development of regulations or guidelines concerning animal health and welfare must involve extensive industry consultation and collaboration for proper context.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Veterinary Shortage Policy

21.1 A shortage in veterinarians threatens the long-term sustainability of the beef industry and therefore must be addressed through:

- (a) Allowing veterinary assistants to do more duties, and,
- (b) Increasing the number of veterinary positions for livestock focus on veterinary colleges available for Alberta residents.
- (c) Supporting opportunities for creative ways to qualify veterinarians (ie. internationally trained).

Approved: November 22, 2023

Animal Health Products Policy

22.1 Regulations around access to animal health products should not impede the competitiveness of the Canadian beef industry in global markets.

Approved: November 22, 2023

22.2 Producers require efficient access to medically important animal health products, whether in the scope of manufacturing capacity, regulatory approval, or oversight.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Regulatory Burden Policy

23.1 As Regulatory burden is a direct and indirect cost to industry, unnecessary government regulation that impedes the cattle business should be eliminated. Examples are,

- (a) timely or expensive regulatory requirements
- (b) taxes, and,
- (c) information demands.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Traceability and Age Verification Policy

24.1 Traceability is important for the beef industry as it,

- (a) will support industry standards for commerce.
- (b) Enhances the competitive position of the industry,
- (c) Will expand as the appropriate technology to support initiatives is available, and,
- (d) will drive tolerance ranges for tag readability and retention.

Approved: July 10, 2014

24.2 To protect each individual producer's property, their information associated with any traceability must be kept private.

Approved: July 10, 2014

24.3 Continued development of indicator technology is required as tag retention and efficiency must continually increase.

Approved: July 10, 2014

24.4 Incorporating digital technology and functionality is required for traceability and manifests.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Biofuels and Bio Energy Policy

25.1 Renewable resources, such as but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal, and biogas generation, require robust regulation to protect beef producers and agricultural communities while providing renewable energy, specifically:

- (a) In instances where the landowner is not the renewable developer, a regulatory requirement for:
 - (i) the disposition of renewable infrastructure at end of life and any associated land disturbance(s) to ensure adequate responsibility and/or penalties for failing to adequately restore land from renewable energy purposes.
 - (ii) clear and transparent processes for appropriate contractual procedures and conflict resolution measures, including fair and timely compensation where the diminution of property rights or property value has occurred.

-
- (b) Government policy should prioritize renewable initiatives that partner with compatible industries to prevent,
 - (i) land use conversion of agricultural land, and
 - (ii) undermining the ecosystem stewardship beef producers have with conserving rangelands.
 - (c) Government policy should prioritize renewable initiatives that recognize property rights so that affected parties and communities shall not be deprived of the ownership, use, economic value, or enjoyment of property, or of any right attached to property except by due process of law.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Trade Disruption and Dispute Policy

26.1 ABP will retain funds restricted for use in beef trade disruption and beef trade dispute situations.

Approved: November 22, 2023

26.2 Restricted funds will be in term investment accounts.

Approved: November 22, 2023

26.3 Funds will only be available during national efforts to reverse unfair beef trade disruptions and disputes.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Organization Wrap-Up Policy

27.1 ABP will retain funds restricted for use if the organization is required to cease operations.

Approved: July 10, 2014

27.2 Funds will be sufficient to terminate operations, including fulfilling any contract obligations and terminating employment contracts with sufficient notice and compensation.

Approved: July 10, 2014

27.3 Restricted funds will be located in term investment accounts and will be available in the situation stated in 27.1.

Approved: July 10, 2014

Rural Security Policy

28.1 As response times for illegal activity on farms is slow, sufficient penalty to deter trespass and any rural crime.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Domestic Trade Policy

29.1 The regulations limiting interprovincial beef trade in Canada limit economic opportunities for producers and must be removed.

Approved: November 22, 2023

International Trade Policy

30.1 Anti-dumping and countervail duties are an essential component of trade agreements as they ensure fair marketing of beef and livestock.

Approved: November 22, 2023

30.2 To allow efficient export of goods, export inspection for product shipped to the U.S. should take place at the federally inspected processing facilities, eliminating the need for re-inspection at border crossings.

Specified Risk Material Policy

31.1 All Specified Risk Material regulations should be harmonized with other jurisdiction, such as the USA to not disadvantage Canadian processors or producers.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Access to Labour Policy

32.1 To address labour shortages incurred by beef producers, the industry requires access to foreign workers and support policies that,

- (a) expedite employment, and,
- (b) facilitate retention of skilled labourers.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Market Transparency

33.1 Transparent access to accurate livestock and feed market information is essential to government and producer decision making.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Beef Processing

34.1 The economic viability of small abattoirs should be promoted by decreasing the burden of excessive regulations.

34.2 Producers require access to options for lawfully processing non-ambulatory animals to retain the market value of the animal while respecting animal welfare.

Approved: November 22, 2023

Appendix 1

Canadian Cattle Association (CCA)

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC)

Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB)

Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Marketing Council)

Approved: November 22, 2023

Appendix 2

Western Stock Growers Association (WSGA)

Canadian Young Cattle Council (YCC)

Canadian Cattle Youth Council

Alberta Cattle Feeders Association (ACFA)

Approved: November 22, 2023

Appendix 3

Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR)

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)

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