

# TRADE (2006)

## 1. BEEF INDUSTRY REFORM ('96) amended '08

**WHEREAS:** Perpetual problems facing the beef cattle industry need to be addressed to keep a viable trade balance inside and outside our United States borders.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association recommends the following changes:

1. Make enforceable provisions per hundred weight quotes for live cattle and per pound quotes for beef entering this country to determine dollar values. Pricing will be reported to the National Agricultural Statistics Service upon entry.
2. Source identification will be required of all imported beef and live cattle.
3. In keeping with the spirit of "Free Trade", with all economic costs being equal,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

- A. Canadian feeder cattle entering this nation shall be assessed a fee equaling health requirement cost of United States feeders going north.
- B. Cattle moving both directions shall be subject to the same health requirements. These same regulations would apply to slaughter and breeding cattle with equal economic charges applied.
- C. The "USDA Grade Stamp" will only be used on United States raised, fed and processed cattle and no longer will Canadian, Mexican, or other origin, (live or carcass) imports be allowed to receive an "USDA Quality Grade". Criminal and civil penalties would apply under United States trademark and Copyright laws for the protection of the United States consumer against false advertising and labeling practices.
- D. We also request immediate pre-empowered actions by the USDA and Packers and Stockyards Administration to halt packer concentration and captive supplies. We call for a review of all acts and orders pertaining to anti-trust legislation.
- E. We ask and encourage immediate legislation to freeze the acquisition of additional slaughter facilities by the three largest meatpackers pending review of United States laws.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** Upon passage of any or all of the aforementioned parts let it be known that the western state's stockgrowers enter into this "Contract of Action" to be presented and signed by their Leadership, Governors, Senators, Congressmen, Congresswomen and individual producers and to push for the immediate resolution of these issues.

## 2. FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY (TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY) ('01)

**WHEREAS:** Past trade agreements have been detrimental to the cattle producers income; and

**WHEREAS:** Congress can only vote for or against trade agreements, without the power to change the terms within the trade agreement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association opposes granting Fast Track Trade Authority (also known as Trade Promotion Authority) to the President of the United States of America.

### **3. IMPORTS/DOMESTIC FOOD SUPPLY ('01) amended '08**

**WHEREAS:** On September 11, 2001, this nation was attacked by terrorists, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Americans and the destruction of property in untold proportions; and

**WHEREAS:** America is prepared to engage in a protracted effort to eradicate terrorism on the level of a state of war; and

**WHEREAS:** This great nation's strength lies in the character of its people, its ability to unify in times of crises and the richness of its natural resources; and

**WHEREAS:** One of the greatest threats to America's security is the safety of its food supply; and  
**WHEREAS:** The United States Congress has the power to immediately close our borders to the importation of food products to ensure Americans of a safe, domestically grown food supply.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association will work to limit food imports so as not to infringe on the ability of U.S. domestic farmers and ranchers to continue producing food in an economically viable marketplace that provides a safe, steady food supply necessary for securing our national economic interests and our national defense.

### **4. WITHDRAWAL FROM WTO ('02)**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports immediate withdrawal by the U.S.A. from the WTO.

### **5. LABELING OF IMPORTED LIVESTOCK / IMPORTED CATTLE TO BE HOT BRANDED (15)**

**WHEREAS:** Country of Origin labeling of meat will be mandatory.

**WHEREAS:** The only truly permanent form of animal identification is a hot iron brand and;

**WHEREAS:** Identification of imported cattle is needed for the purpose of food safety and disease detection and prevention.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports policy which states all imported live cattle, sheep and hogs and all imported beef, pork and lamb products shall be permanently identified as to the country they have originated from, with the respective exporting country or exporting firm paying the labeling costs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** All imported live cattle shall be permanently marked with a hot iron brand to determine the country of origin.

### **6. QUOTA AND TARIFF SYSTEM ('03)**

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Cattle Industry produces a supply sensitive, perishable product; and

**WHEREAS:** Increases of supply through imports greatly depress domestic prices.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports a quota and tariff system that will limit the volume of imports into the U.S.

## **7. SEPARATION FROM NCBA ('04)**

**WHEREAS:** the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is the primary contractor for federally mandated beef check-off funds designated to promote demand for beef, support scientific research surrounding the beef industry, and educate consumers about the benefits of beef; and

**WHEREAS:** the NCBA has publicly attacked the largest consumer groups in the world representing millions of U.S. consumers; and

**WHEREAS:** the NCBA has alienated members of consumer alliances and has jeopardized consumer confidence, trust and belief in American cattle producers by projecting an image that is not consumer sensitive; and

**WHEREAS:** the NCBA continues to promote itself as the organization representing American cattle producers; and

**WHEREAS:** the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association finds NCBA's attack on the U.S. consumer groups unwarranted, unfounded and indefensible.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association reaffirms that consumer safety and confidence in U.S. beef is its highest priority and that it views consumers as a cattleman's best asset and supports further development of a working relationship with U.S. consumer groups.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association wishes to clarify in official policy that NCBA does not represent the views of our membership and that NCBA does not speak for the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

## **8. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ('13)**

**WHEREAS:** Mandatory Country of Origin (COOL) defined as born, raised and slaughtered in the USA has enjoyed strong support from Agriculture Organizations; and

**WHEREAS:** Mandatory COOL is necessary to offer consumers in America and throughout the world a full choice to purchase the quality and value of American meat.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports Mandatory COOL which would require that cattle be born, fed and processed in the USA in order to receive the USDA Grade Stamp.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** South Dakota Stockgrowers Association also supports Mandatory COOL for all products to the end consumer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** South Dakota Stockgrowers Association urges USDA and elected officials to work toward implementing Mandatory COOL in the most efficient, most accurate, least expensive and least burdensome way for the benefit of the US producers and consumers. All live cattle imported to the USA must be branded or otherwise permanently identified as to country of origin. As all imports are thus identified, the balance of all cattle slaughtered in the USA will be assumed to be USA product.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports USDA's current proposed amendments to the Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling rules which require identification of meat products as to the location of where each animal is born, where it is raised and where it is slaughtered.

## **9. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS ('04)**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association opposes any Free Trade Agreement that has a detrimental effect on the U.S. live cattle industry and the overall viability and sustainability of the U.S. economy or on the sovereignty of the United States of America.

## **10. INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT ('04)**

**WHEREAS:** South Dakota has signed on to an agreement to be bound by the procurement provisions of any free trade agreements negotiated by the United States Trade Representative including the Australian and Central American Free Trade Agreements; and

**WHEREAS:** This agreement entitles South Dakota to no additional benefits it would not already be entitled to without signing on to the agreement; and

**WHEREAS:** This agreement could prevent South Dakota from implementing laws that could benefit South Dakota businesses and taxpayers and would require any laws that do not conform to the free trade agreements and the WTO rules to be changed by the state legislature; and

**WHEREAS:** Any conflicts resulting from these trade agreements would not be heard in state or federal courts but would be resolved in WTO tribunals; and

**WHEREAS:** These trade agreements are negotiated without any direct participation of South Dakota officials and without any consideration as to their compliance with the constitution of the state.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That South Dakota's participation in international trade agreements occur only upon the approval of the state legislature and only if participation will not conflict with the rights and protections offered by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the state of South Dakota.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That South Dakota shall request removal from the list of states agreeing to be bound to the procurement provisions of all future free trade negotiations and ask to be released from its participation in the procurement provisions of the already ratified Australian Free Trade Agreement.

## **12. NAFTA SUPERHIGHWAY ('06)**

**WHEREAS:** the United States is a sovereign nation comprised of fifty sovereign states with clearly defined borders; and

**WHEREAS:** NAFTA, the NAFTA Super Highway, the Security and Prosperity Partnership, and Ultimately the North American Union, endangers the rights and freedom guaranteed to United States Citizens by the constitution,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports the right of the state of South Dakota to protect the property, infrastructure, commerce and sovereignty of the state of South Dakota and its citizens.

### **13. TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP**

**Whereas**, the proposed TPP Treaty contains provisions for the importation of meat products from countries with substandard and or absolutely no inspection services,

**Whereas**, meat products proposed for import to the United States may have originated from the USA and undergone a lengthy transportation process devoid of US inspection and supervision,

**Whereas** consumer food safety can not be assured under the TPP

**Therefore be it resolved**, SDSGA is opposed to the TPP and any other agreement which creates unsafe food standards for the United States Customer.

#### **TUBERCULOSIS – See ANIMAL HEALTH - Resolution #7**

*PLEASE NOTE: Resolutions passed prior to 2006 were transferred from Animal ID and Marketing Committees to Trade Committee upon its inception.*