

EDUCATION - TAXATION - LEGISLATION

EDUCATION

1. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM (revised'08)

WHEREAS: Local Control is a basic policy of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED: The State Legislature should take the responsibility for restoring basic education in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary state institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Our legislature should conduct a systematic review with local school administrators, of the impact of state and federal mandates upon local school budgets and curriculum development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: All public school expenditures should be financed by the lever of government by which they are mandated without affecting current funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports individual school autonomy and incentives to meet student needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association also supports power being restored to local elected officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That parents are ultimately responsible for the education and upbringing of their children and South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports the parents' right to determine the method in which they nurture and educate their children.

2. ANIMAL RIGHTS ISSUE

WHEREAS: There is developing pressure proclaiming animal rights; and

WHEREAS: Drastic changes in existing humane, efficient livestock and poultry production systems would greatly increase production costs; and

WHEREAS: The dissemination of misleading animal rights organization material can be detrimental to an expanding South Dakota livestock economy; and

WHEREAS: The need for continued education is eminent in animal welfare; and

WHEREAS: The Ag Unity Group has established an Animal Welfare Committee to address the many areas of animal rights/welfare.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association support and encourage the efforts of Ag Unity's Animal Welfare Committee to educate producers, educators, legislators, the media and the general public about the animal rights/welfare issue.

3. SPARSITY FACTOR LEGISLATION ('04)

WHEREAS: The method used to fund public education in South Dakota places an unfair burden on property owners; and

WHEREAS: Unfunded federal and state mandates, such as No Child Left Behind, force local school districts to fund these types of programs, often to the detriment of basic educational programs; and

WHEREAS: Declining enrollments in many school districts impacts the amount of state aid to education these districts receive; and

(continued)

WHEREAS: School districts which do not receive federal impact aid or title funds are having a difficult time funding education for our young people; and

WHEREAS: The limits the state has imposed on how much money a school district can have in its reserve fund, and the resulting fines imposed for having over 20% in reserve, punishes school districts which are trying to manage their money wisely; and

WHEREAS: The so-called Sparsity Factor would help some of our most rural and hard pressed school districts maintain a sound educational system for our children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association urges the South Dakota State Legislature and the Governor to enact Sparsity Factor Legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association urges the South Dakota State Legislature and the Governor to remove or raise the limits on fund reserves that a school district can maintain.