

Progress Report on 2009 Resolutions

2009 AGM General Session Resolutions:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP explore the feasibility of entering into an agreement with the Livestock Identification Agency to collect the check-off on their behalf and administer the refund requests."

Zone 2

Defeated: In the past, ABP explored the option of having Livestock Identification Services collect the check-off, but decided that there were not enough benefits to pursue an agreement. ABP is now developing a process for refunding the check-off that will be as cost effective and efficient as possible, while being fair to all producers and those involved in the refund process. ABP has an existing infrastructure to administer the collection and refund of the service charge. As ABP moves forward with implementation of this process, the Commission will continue to evaluate and work to improve the systems for collecting and refunding the service charge. Until the proposed system is operational and can be assessed properly, it would be entirely premature to explore the feasibility of having a third party collect the check-off and administer the refund process.

2. "Be it resolved that if a producer asks for 100% of the refundable part of their check-off, they are then ineligible to be a delegate or voting member at their zone meeting."

Zone 6

Defeated at AGM: Delegates understand the principle that producers who ask for total refunds of service charges should not be allowed to vote or serve as delegates. However, the application of this principle is not possible under our current by-laws, would be difficult to enforce fairly if the by-laws were changed, and likely would not be in the best interests of the organization or the industry. The ABP by-laws allow all producers to vote and allow all producers who have paid the service charge to serve as delegates, regardless of whether they apply for a refund of these service charges. If this rule was implemented, there were concerns that producers might be encouraged to ask for a 99% refund and leave 1% with ABP in order to be eligible to vote or serve. It also might discourage producers from participating in meetings, learning about ABP, and possibly changing their views about service charge refunds.

3. "Be it resolved that ABP publish the names of those producers who elect to take back their check-off dollars to be available to the membership."

Zone 6

Defeated: While delegates understood the intent behind the resolution and agreed in principle, producer information is private and there might be legal impediments to publishing this information.

4. "Be it resolved that ABP change to become a cow/calf organization and check-off be collected at first point of sale."

Zone 8

Defeated: The delegates agreed that it is important for ABP to continue representing all cattle producers in Alberta, not just one sector of the industry. The point of collection for the check-off will be reviewed by ABP, but delegates were not prepared to make a commitment to collection at first point of sale at this time.

5. "Be it resolved that ABP disband the Cattle Industry Council."

Zone 7

Defeated: Delegates felt that Cattle Industry Council provides an important forum for different points of view and allows other industry organizations and stake holders to discuss issues of concern to their sector. ABP is the only organization in Alberta that speaks for the entire industry and delegates thought it was important to maintain our present level of participation.

6. "Be it resolved the ABP move to a single point check-off to be levied at the first point of sale."

Zone 8

Defeated at AGM: ABP has considered the concept of a single point check-off and the idea is worthy of further review and discussion. However, there are many factors that would have to be carefully considered before such a process could be implemented. ABP will be reviewing the check-off collection system, but the delegates are not prepared to make a commitment to the process described in the resolution at this time.

7. "Be it resolved that all check-off dollars generated from calf sales go to the Cow/Calf Council."

Zone 8

Defeated: ABP is a democratic and representative organization that works on behalf of all cattle producers. Based on direction received from producers and delegates, the ABP Board of Directors invest check-off funds in projects and activities that will provide benefits for the majority of producers and the cattle industry in Alberta.

8. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to keep the one dollar national check-off in Alberta non-refundable."

Zone 1

Carried: The delegates recognize the importance and value of the National check-off and the ABP Board of Directors will continue to bring forward this issue to

the Alberta government and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The ABP Executive met with the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Jack Hayden, in February and making the National Check-off non-refundable was one of the topics discussed.

ABP Executive is currently in discussion with ACFA Executive and Minister Hayden and members of his department in an effort to resolve the issue of a non-refundable national check-off.

9. "Be it resolved that ABP decrease their funding of the Canada Beef Export Federation to the levels contributed by the export members."

Zone 6

Defeated: The delegates recognize the substantial value to producers that is provided by the work done by all three of the Canada Beef Export Federation, the Beef Information Centre, and the Beef Cattle Research Council. Currently, \$1.00 of every \$3.00 service charge collected by ABP is passed directly to the National Check-off Agency for investment in the marketing and research activities of these organizations. The funds are distributed among the three organizations based on directions that are provided by the ABP Board of Directors and reviewed annually. ABP believes that this is a very good investment of service charge funds and the delegates were not prepared to reduce out funding to CBEF.

10. "Be it resolved that all participants attending the zone meetings register as eligible voting members, and be declared as such prior to being able to vote on resolutions presented at the zone meeting."

Zone 6

Defeated: the delegates understood the reason for the motion, but did not believe that the potential problems caused by non-producers voting at zone meetings were large enough to justify the inconvenience and effort required to have producers register at the meetings.

11. "Be it resolved that ABP educate cattlemen and beef producers on the importance of supporting ABP with their check-off dollars so that the Alberta government or other groups won't have a reason to implement a mandatory check-off to support ALMA.""

Zone 9

Carried: This motion supports ABP's current position and reflects the priorities of our communications and promotion strategies.

ABP has developed a number of approaches to deal with this issue. 'Own Your Industry' brochures; Information sheets on ABP's accomplishments will be sent out with the 2010 Annual Report; information is also displayed on the monitors located in auction marts around Alberta.

12. "Be it resolved that ABP endorse and support the Beef Cattle Youth Development program initiated by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association."

Zone 6

Carried: Delegates agreed that getting young producers more involved in the cattle industry would be a great benefit to the future of the industry. Adam Moseson, a Zone 6 Delegate, won a draw to attend the program this year.

13. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby Sustainable Resource Development and in particular Public Lands to clarify existing policy allowing leaseholders to request that recreational access users of crown grazing lease lands sign a waiver as deemed appropriate by the leaseholder's own legal counsel or at their own personal discretion."

Zone 3

Carried: Delegates agreed that this was an issue that needed to be clarified and ABP will work with SRD on resolving this issue.

14. "Be it resolved that ABP rescind its support of premise id."

Zone 4

Defeated: ABP recognizes the importance of traceability in domestic and export markets. ABP supports animal identification and premise identification as two important pillars of a traceability system.

15. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby both Federal and Provincial governments that all costs incurred by the primary producer for mandatory legislation and/or regulation shall be reimbursed by the legislating body on a yearly basis outside of existing programs."

Zone 7, 8

Defeated: Some delegates were hesitant about asking the government for more money and others questioned providing compensation for just the primary producer when regulatory burden adds cost to the entire industry.

16. "Be it resolved that ABP request the Canadian Cattlemen's Association lobby the federal government so that all meat imported into Canada comply with any mandatory legislation imposed on Canadian producers."

Zone 7

Defeated: While delegates agreed with the motion in principle there was concern about the ramifications to our export industry. Currently we export more cattle and beef than we import.

17. "Be it resolved that ABP ask the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to request a review of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency financials and with that review find the justification of the increase in the RFID tag

surcharge from \$0.20 to \$0.60 as implemented by Canadian Cattle Identification Agency this year.”

Zone 2, 5

Carried: ABP reviewed the CCIA financial statements and saw the information that CCIA used to justify the increase in the surcharge.

18. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal governments to oppose “mandatory” RFID tag tracking.”

Zone 4

Carried: As a result of this motion, ABP will be reviewing its policy with respect to traceability principles.

The Board determined that approval of this motion changed and limited ABP’s mandate on traceability and brought it to the Semi for more debate. A motion was carried that the resolution be changed to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal governments to oppose “mandatory” RFID tag tracking that does not meet the “Guiding Principles for Beef Cattle Traceability.”

19. “Be it resolved that ABP determine legally and definitively the ownership of producer proprietary information and the legality of releasing producer information.”

Zone 7

Carried: ABP investigated this issue in conjunction with CCIA.

Legal counsel for ABP and CCIA jointly engaged a legal research firm to investigate this issue. Producers own their proprietary information, but the results of the research indicated that age verification is not proprietary, confidential or personal information. However, the research also suggests that information, such as age verification, that is collected under the *Animal Health Act* should not be released without the producer’s consent except for the specific purposes and to the specific parties named in the act. The Government of Alberta believes that the sharing of this information for marketing purposes is allowed by the *Animal Health Act*, but a definitive determination of the legality of releasing the information would have to be made by a court of law.

Following the discussion of this report, the Board passed a motion that ABP write a letter to CCIA objecting to the release of producer age verification information, without the producer’s consent, for purposes not directly related to animal health issues.

20. “Be it resolved that the 2008-2009 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 2009-2010 year-end audit.”

Board

Carried: No further action required

2009 Resolutions for Board of Directors:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP explore ways of refunding the check-off to make it more efficient, less burdensome or cleaner by allowing producers to receive refunds monthly, quarterly or yearly based on the number of animals involved.”

Zone 8

Redundant: The matter of check-off refunds was considered carefully at the recent Annual General Meeting and the delegates decided that the most simple, efficient, and cost-effective way to provide refunds was on a semi-annual basis. As a result, producers can apply during the month of July for partial or full refunds of service charges paid between January 1 and June 30 of that year and during the month of January for service charges paid between July 1 and December 31 of the previous year. Since the refundable service charge did not come into effect until April 1, 2010, producers will be able to apply during July, 2010 for partial or full refunds of service charges paid between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP substantially amend their proposed refundable levy structure to ensure a simpler, less bureaucratic process that is easier for producers to use.”

Zone 6

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3. “Be it resolved that ABP, as part of its restructuring to meet a refundable check-off, reduce its Board of Directors and eliminate the various councils that sit at the board table.”

Zone 8

Defeated: As a result of the most recent plan review, ABP has already reduced the size of the Board of Directors from 19 to 16 directors and reduced the

council representation to one director from each council. The Board believes that the councils provide valuable and important sector representation and the councils should have some representation on the Board.

4. "Be it resolved that ABP, at the semi-annual meeting in 2010, have a facilitator (hired) to spend a day with delegates to review and find new direction for ABP as the refundable check-off will greatly change its course and actions in the future. This is imperative as status quo cannot be maintained."

Zone 6

Defeated: ABP is in the process of finding a new direction and this certainly will be a key topic for discussion at the Semi-AGM. We will be looking for input from delegates on our priorities and objectives at both the Semi-AGM and the AGM, but the directors did not believe that we needed to spend producer funds on a facilitator to accomplish this task.

5. "Be it resolved that ABP works in conjunction with other agricultural producer organizations to the benefit of the primary cattle producer."

Zone 6

Defeated: We have in the past and will continue to work with organizations to the benefit of the entire cattle industry. We do work with organizations whose mandates and objectives align with those of ABP and the cattle producers of Alberta. The Board made and carried the following motion:

"Be it resolved that ABP works in conjunction with other agricultural industry organizations with common objectives to the benefit of all cattle producers and the cattle industry."

6. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government for cost of production program."

Zone 8

Defeated: In the view of ABP, the roles of government and our organization are to foster a policy, regulatory, and business environment in which good businesses can be competitive and profitable. ABP believes in free market values, the ideals of fair, open and competitive markets. We do not believe that the government should be providing cost of production payments to producers. Payments to producers should come from a fair and competitive market. A cost of producers program would not be consistent with the values and mission of ABP. Furthermore, a cost of production program would create a substantial risk of trade actions that could cause enormous harm to our industry.

7. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to remove Mr. Groeneveld as Minister of Agriculture and demote the deputy Minister John Knapp and house

clean through the bureaucrats in the Department of Agriculture."

Zone 8

Defeated: Since the motion was passed at your fall meeting, Minister Groeneveld has been replaced by the Honourable Jack Hayden as the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. ABP is working to build a good and productive relationship with Minister Hayden and the staff in Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. While the directors understand the frustration and anger that some producers have toward the previous Minister and his staff, it is not the mandate of ABP to try to influence decisions about the people who fill the government cabinet or staff positions, just as it is not the role of government to influence who becomes delegates, directors and staff of ABP.

8. "Be it resolved that ABP inform the producer of who is importing Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) beef and where it is being sold to consumers."

Zone 5

Defeated: ABP does not have access to this information and given the limited impact of TRQ beef on our industry, the directors did not see the benefits of expending scarce resources on an almost impossible effort to acquire the information. The amount of beef imported under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) represents only 6% of the beef consumed in Canada and most of the TRQ beef is low value trim or specialty products. By contrast, our beef exports are more than six times greater than the volume of TRQ being imported. ABP does not support the issuance of supplementary quotas for TRQ beef, but the volume of TRQ has been below the quota limit since 2004 and does not show any signs of reaching it this year.

9. "Be it resolved that ABP request the Federal government launch immediately an inquiry into the profitability of the beef processing and retailing sectors in Canada."

Zone 6

Defeated: ABP is very concerned about the concentration of market power in both the processing and retail sectors. However, the Board of Directors believes that it is this concentration of market power, not the profitability, in these sectors that creates the biggest challenges for our industry. ABGP provided some of the funding for a recently completed study of the *Market and Regulatory Factors Affecting the Canadian-U.S. Fed Cattle Basis* and CanFax Research did not think that a federal government inquiry into the profitability of the beef processing and retail sectors would provide significant benefits for cattle producers or the cattle industry. It is not the mandate or role of Alberta Beef Producers to request an inquiry into the profitability of any business or industry sector.

10. “Be it resolved that the Competitiveness and Value Creation committee initiate and undertake research with the purpose of identifying successful value added programs including information based programs already existing in other parts of the world in order to recommend similar programs which could add value and increase the competitiveness of Alberta producers.”

Zone 5

Defeated: The directors did not see that there is a shortage of information available on value added and information based programs. Information on these programs has been compiled and reviewed by CCMDC, the Beef InfoXchange System (BIXS), Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, and a number of private companies. Any producers wanting to start or participate in a value added or information based program would have access to a wide range of information and assistance on developing such a program. For this reason, the ABP Board of Directors did not support more research on these programs.

11. “Be it resolved that ABP complete a feasibility study, if not completed as of this date, into moving live cattle from western Canada to Asian and/or European markets.”

Zone 5

Defeated: Canada already ships live cattle into these markets and the feasibility has been assessed by the producers and businesses engaged in this activity. The directors did not think it would be prudent to use producer funds to complete a feasibility study. We can ship live cattle if the market demand exists and the price is high enough to cover the transportation costs, but our focus is on adding value to the products by processing the cattle here and exporting the product as beef.

2009 Resolutions for Board of Directors and CCA:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP strenuously lobby Canadian Cattlemen’ Association to act to have interprovincial trade barriers reduced and eventually eliminated to facilitate enhanced interprovincial trade in beef.”

Zone 6

Carried: Both ABP and CCA have committees working on the reduction of barriers to the interprovincial trade in beef.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Federal and Provincial governments to introduce parallel legislation in Canada to the “Marketing Fairness Act” in the United States.”

Zone 6

Carried: The CCA is currently monitoring the development of the GIPSA rules in the United States

and the impact these rules could have on the cattle industry.

2009 Resolutions for Cow/Calf Council:

1. Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to pay for RFID tags.”

Zone 9

Defeated: Delegates agreed in theory with the motion but were concerned with the ramifications of the motion. Delegates reasoned that if the RFID tags were paid for by the government that the government would be able to argue that they own the information associated with the tags. Members also expressed concern about possible countervail suits if Alberta were the only government paying for tags.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal governments to promote hide branding (hot or freeze) as an effective and economical method of livestock identification.”

Zone 1, 4

Motion amended to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal governments **to continue** to promote hide branding (hot or freeze) as an effective and economical method of livestock identification.”

Carried: The Council will continue to promote the merits of branding livestock with the government and LIS.

3. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance to increase the dollar per acre coverage for the “Pasture Lack of Moisture” program.”

Zone 6

Carried: Delegates are aware that producers will receive less for their pasture insurance than it would cost to cover renting grass or buying a bale of hay. The Cow/Calf Council is working closely with AFSC to address the problems caused by insufficient crop insurance coverage. The Council is currently lobbying ARD to implement AgriRecovery and will be lobbying AFSC to make changes to their suite of programs to improve the current insurance programs and develop triggers above those that would set AgriRecovery into affect.

4. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to ensure in future that Alberta Financial Services Corporation Crop Insurance be held accountable for prompt assessment and release of insured crops to be utilized in any manner the producers feels viable.”

Zone 4

Carried: Delegates agreed that AFSC was inconsistent in their approach to producer requests and will lobby

them to make changes that will make producer claims more timely and efficient.

5. "Be it resolved that due to losses of livestock to predators and cattle feed to wild animals ABP lobby the government to bring equality throughout the province and that fair market compensation be given to producers."

Zone 8

Carried: The Wildlife Sub-committee is addressing this problem with SRD and ARD. Damages caused by wildlife are a problem that producers are facing all over Alberta and the Cow/Calf Council and their Wildlife Sub-committee are working on solutions to address it. The delegates would like to see the motion strengthened as they felt that some areas had more difficulty receiving compensation than others.

6. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to allow landowners to charge a recovery fee for anyone wishing to access wildlife on their property."

Zone 4

Carried: Delegates agreed that producers should be able to charge hunters for accessing private land to hunt. Currently there is a law against charging people access to and the Wildlife Sub-Committee is working with SRD to get producers compensation for allowing the access. Some concerns that were raised by allowing producers to charge an access fee were how this would change the scope of their insurance and whether the charge could be considered a business fee.

7. "Be it resolved that ABP pressure the Alberta government to enlarge the scope of the tax deferral for basic herds due to the drought to include all classes of cattle, with a cap of \$500,000."

Zone 9

Carried: This resolution was reviewed in context to information "Understanding the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral" provided by Revenue Canada. Also, Merle Goode, Tax Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, has proposed to the Federal Government to defer the tax to the following year but not to eliminate the tax. There was also requested from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to the Federal Government to defer the tax; ABP would support this direction.

Motion by Kinnee/Moseson:

"That ABP support the CCA effort to have the federal tax deferred to the next year to include all classes of cattle."

Carried

8. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to revoke Sunday hunting north of Highway 12 to allow landowners at least one day per week to access their property safely."

Zone 4

Defeated: Delegates understood and agreed with the motion but were divided in their experiences. The hunting access is different for various areas of Alberta. As landowners we need to make sure that the effort is made to keep track of who is on the land and when. The producers in the area affected can go to SRD to have the hunting changed in their wildlife area.

9. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial and federal governments to achieve a higher retention in Canadian Cattle Identification Agency tags or other alternatives."

Zone 1

Carried: This issue is important to ABP and the Cow/Calf Council and has been discussed with CCIA. CCIA is always evaluating new technologies that will advance the current state of tracking and traceability, without causing producers to start over with a new technology. They are currently reviewing their Tag Standards with the intention of ensuring that only technically superior products are available for producers participating in the CCIA program.

2009 Resolutions for Cow/Calf Committee- Cattle Feeder Council:

1. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to work towards removing the over 30 month discount on fed cattle."

Zone 7

Carried: The issue was investigated by CFC members and it was discovered that some packers use dentition over age verification in cases where the fifth molar has erupted. If the animal has not been age verified it is considered over thirty months in cases where the third molar has erupted. This issue is on-going and CFC is continuing to deal with it.

2. "Be it resolved that ABP lobby to ensure that cattle age verification data takes precedence on every occasion over mouthing at slaughter plants to establish an animal's age."

Zone 6

Motion to amend by Solverson/Evans:

"That Cattle Feeder Council and Alberta Beef Producers pursue the issue of finding an appropriate process for establishing the age of an animal and reducing the incidence of cattle under 30 months of age being discounted as Over Thirty Month cattle."

Carried: The issue is ongoing and CFC and ABP continue to work on establishing a process that will reduce the number of under 30 month cattle being wrongly categorized.

2009 Resolutions for Cattle Feeder Council:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to initiate the process of limiting the ownership of cattle by packing plants.”

Zone 5

Defeated: The most recent study of packer ownership conducted for the Cattle Feeder Council (CFC) concluded that ownership of cattle by packing plants has no significant influence on market prices. The council is concerned about the concentration of market power in the processing sector and CanFax Research Services is currently managing a study investigating this situation. The impact of packer ownership of cattle will be considered as part of this study. However, CFC does not wish to lobby for restrictions on the ownership of cattle at this time.

Packers use ownership of some cattle as a tool to help ensure that they have a consistent supply of cattle for their plants. This and other contractual arrangements are also used by cattle producers and cattle feeders as a business risk management tool. When packers are purchasing cattle, they become additional bidders in the market that increases its competitiveness. Limitations on the ownership of cattle by packing plants would restrict the ability of producers to participate in the processing sector through ownership of a packing plant. CFC has not seen any evidence that limiting packer ownership of cattle or placing restrictions on other business and risk management arrangements would provide significant benefits to cattle producers of the cattle industry.

2009 Resolutions for Cattle Industry Council:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP should ask for monetary help to assist the small packing plants to maintain or update their facilities. We should help producers market the older cows and be prepared to slaughter animals if another time our borders are closed.”

Zone 6

Carried/Defeated: Debate on the motion is ongoing and CIC are currently waiting for feedback from the mover of the resolution before voting.

2009 Resolutions for Environment Committee:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP continue to lobby the Alberta government in support of on-farm agriculture water projects.”

Zone 4

Carried: This project is available under Growing Forward but will expire on March 30th. The committee agreed that lobbying for the continuation of this program would benefit the industry.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby government that no landfills be built on or over known aquifers that they look at or for alternative means to dispose of garbage.”

Zone 8

Defeated: The delegates did not disagree with the intent of the motion but its scope. They believe that it would be almost impossible to find land in Alberta that did not have water under it.

3. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to ensure that landowners be fairly compensated for wildlife habitat maintenance and improvements to wildlife habitat.”

Zone 4

Carried: Delegates agreed that this was an issue that needs to be dealt with and that producers could be compensated through wildlife easements or conservation easements.

4. “Be it resolved that ABP investigate the carbon sequestration as related to improved pasture and native grasslands in Alberta and establish a value for it.”

Zone 1

Motion amended to read:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to investigate the carbon sequestration as related to improved pasture and native grasslands in Alberta and establish a value for it.”

Carried: Delegates agreed that this is an important issue but felt that ABP did not have the financial means or the requisite qualifications to complete the motion.

5. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to provide funding to producers who have well water that is contaminated. Also that funding would be available to restore the ground waters to suitable safety levels or provide equipment that would be available to keep the water at safe levels or bring in alternative water that isn’t contaminated.”

Zone 8

Carried: Delegates agreed that the government should be responsible for maintaining water safety and will bring producer concerns forward.

2009 Resolutions for Communications Committee:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP find a way to work on the apathy of the voters as rural representation has been lost to the urban voter. The way government is acting, rural voters are not heard.”

Zone 6

Carried: ABP Board and Executive continue to open dialogue with elected government officials and their staff.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP provide daily American cow prices.”

Zone 8

Carried: Creech investigated the possibility of providing the daily American cow prices with CanFax and was informed that this was feasible. The American cow prices were added as information appearing on the auction mart monitors in June.

3. “Be it resolved that all resolutions made in the previous year be brought to the fall producer meetings for accountability.”

Zone 7, 8

4. “Be it resolved that the resolutions passed at the fall producer meetings be listed in the first ‘Grass Routes’ mail out to producers and published in each subsequent mail out as the ABP passes or defeats them.”

Zone 5

5. “Be it resolved that the resolution committee handle the resolution process from start to finish for preparing for the AGM.”

Zone 7

Resolutions 3, 4 & 5 were Carried: All resolutions that are passed at fall meetings are sent to the Executive Assistant at ABP who creates a preliminary chart containing the resolutions. The Executive Assistant arranges the Resolutions Committee meeting and keeps track of all decisions the committee makes in regards to the resolutions. Following the recommendations of the committee the Executive Assistant then creates the resolution document that goes to the AGM. The Executive Assistant is the recording secretary for the board and every committee and council at ABP, and as such she is responsible for keeping track of all decisions in regards to the resolutions. The Executive Assistant contacts the producer who moved the resolution(s) at the fall meetings with the results of their resolutions debate. She also keeps track of any progress on the resolutions which are detailed in the Resolutions Report produced for the Semi-Annual Meeting and the AGM as well as on the ABP website.

6. “Be it resolved that ABP undertake more local advertising and that grassroots producers be made aware of major regulations through mail outs and the media.”

Zone 6

Carried: ABP Communications will advertise in more local papers as funds are available. ABP has used large mailouts in the past to inform producers of any major changes and will continue to do so in the future.

2009 Resolutions for Promotion Committee:

1. “Be it resolved that the ABP utilize funds to educate and promote the Alberta beef industry to urbanites of

the value of the industry to the economic diversification of the province.”

Zone 9

Carried: Delegates felt the motion reinforced the mandate of the Promotion Committee. Funds are already allocated for tradeshow, beef education and school programs for the purpose of demonstrating and talking about the importance of agriculture in the everyday life of the typical urban Albertan.

2. “Be it resolved that ABP remain active on issues concerning us as agriculture producers (i.e. land, water)

Zone 4

Carried: This reaffirms efforts that ABP already does through the communications committee. The Raised Right campaign will also be promoting this through the Stewards of the Land.

2009 Resolutions for Animal Health & Welfare Working Group:

1. “Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to change regulations to allow ultrasound technicians to determine pregnancy status.”

Zone 6

Carried: The Veterinarian Act is under review and the delegates agreed that Adrienne Waller, Legal Counsel, go through the act to see what other areas should be addressed.

The Veterinary Professional Act was opened briefly to change a regulation and then closed again. To get the act open again and this regulation changed would be very expensive and time consuming. Currently, you can have an ultrasound technician determine pregnancy, but if the result is challenged, it would have no authority unless it was signed off by a certified vet. In our view, nothing has been changed in the act that will adversely affect producers and producers can still perform castrations, de-horning, branding, vaccination and the many other small procedures that producers have performed in the past