

## Progress Report on 2012 Resolutions

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### **2012 AGM General Session Resolutions:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** the \$1.00 National Check-off that is presently non-refundable be continued beyond 2013.”  
Zone 5

Carried: The ABP Executive and Executive Director are working towards a non-refundable check-off. They have met with Marketing Council and government officials to discuss the National Check-off and will be submitting a recommendation this month to the Marketing Council that the non-refundable status be renewed for five years.

The non-refundable levy was renewed in March 2013 until June 30, 2015.

2. **“Be it resolved that** the \$2.00 Check-off that is presently refundable be made non-refundable.”  
Zone 5, 6

Motion to amend:

**“That the resolution be amended to read ‘Be it resolved that ABP lobby to have the \$2.00 check-off that is presently refundable be made non-refundable.’”**

Carried

**“Be it resolved that ABP lobby to have the \$2.00 check-off that is presently refundable be made non-refundable.”**

Carried: Similar resolutions have been carried at previous AGM's. The ABP board is working to address the issue once the \$1.00 non-refundable check-off has been successfully addressed.

ABP is exploring various options towards re-instating a non-refundable check-off.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP approach Fish and Wildlife to put coyotes on the predator list, as coyotes are killing calves (presently with no compensation).”  
Zone 9

Carried: The Wildlife Working Group is already working on getting the coyote added to the predator list. The request to have coyotes declared as predators has been submitted to Alberta Game Management Advisory Group for regulation change recommendations. If passed, this would allow producers to be compensated for livestock claims.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby Sustainable Resources and Fish & Wildlife to put an end to Sunday hunting.”  
Zone 3

Defeated: Similar resolutions have been debated in the past and defeated. Delegates understand your frustration and the reasoning behind the resolution. Nevertheless, many producers have a very real problem with deer and other wildlife destroying crops and feed. Producers support hunting as one means to controlling wildlife populations and damage. The delegates could not carry this motion since the majority of hunting is done on the weekends. Producers in your area can go directly to Ann Hubbs (403) 845-8235, to discuss the possibility of having the hunting policy in your area changed.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP approaches the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to bring forward to any national government bodies the Tuberculosis – Brucellosis issue of the bison herd residing in the Wood Buffalo National Park and that a plan be developed to insure the health safety of our cattle herds with regards to this issue.”  
Zone 9

Carried: The Animal Health and Welfare Working Group has been dealing with this issue for a few years now and are working with both the federal and provincial governments to get this issue resolved.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP strongly lobby the Alberta government to eradicate all bison herds in the province that pose a threat to the health status of the Alberta cattle herd.”  
Zone 9

Carried: The Animal Health and Welfare Working Group has been dealing with this issue for a few years now and are working with both the federal and provincial governments to get this issue resolved.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP encourage government to consider financial banking initiatives from Canadian and/or producer owned packing facilities.”  
Zone 3

Defeated: There has been government support of existing packing plants but delegates did not believe that ABP should be supporting one packing plant over another.

8. **“Be it resolved that** ABP through their representation on Livestock Identification Services, investigate as to whether or not it is essential that livestock producers retain (pay) for special RCMP officers with matters pertaining to the livestock business.”  
Zone 4

Carried: ABP has made arrangements with LIS to have the officers speak at the Semi Annual General meeting.

Cpl. Dave Heaslip and Christian Reister spoke to the assembly about their role and duties as RCMP officers with the Livestock Identification Services.

9. **“Be it resolved that** ABP request that the Alberta provincial government reinstate large animal veterinary diagnostic pathology laboratory services at the regional veterinary laboratories on a provincial wide basis.”

Zone 9

Carried: The Board of Directors sent this resolution to the Animal Health & Welfare Advisory Working Group. While the delegates agree that the government needs to re-open the diagnostic clinics in Alberta, the only recourse ABP has is to lobby the government. To that end a letter has been drafted and sent to the Alberta government explaining the need for these clinics.

Dr. Hauer, Chief Provincial Vet, has received funding to open one diagnostic clinic in Alberta.

10. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government and the federal government through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association for producers to be reimbursed for the cost of Canadian Cattle Identification Agency RFID tags as well as for replacement tags from birth to slaughter.”

Zone 4

Defeated:

11. **“Be it resolved that** ABP fund the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association as it first priority.”

Zone 7

Defeated: This issue was highly debated by the directors and a majority agreed that while funding the CCA is important it cannot be more important than ensuring ABP has the necessary funds to operate. With falling marketings and refunds ABP approved funding for CCA while still allowing ABP to fund important research projects, marketing campaigns and communications.

12. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government to ensure that Bill 2 does not in any way lessen the rights of land owners to have independent hearings and appeals when energy development occurs on their property.”

Zone 8

Carried: We have heard widely varying opinions about the degree to which the Bill will remove or protect the

rights and interests of landowners. As is the case with most legislation, the real impact of the Bill will not be known until the regulations have been written and passed. Smith will speak with Bernard Roth, the lawyer who gave a presentation on Bill 36 to the 2011 Semi-Annual General Meeting. The board agreed that learning more about this Bill was a high priority for ABP. The overall impact of the bill on landowners will not be known until the regulations have been developed this year. The bill and ABP’s position on it will be topics of discussion at future Board meetings.

13. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government that annual and perennial crop insurance premiums be 100% producer funded.”

Zone 9

Defeated: Without government funding the premiums for crop insurance would be too high for producers to afford. How insurance premiums are funded may need to be re-examined but delegates agreed that eliminating all government funding would be a hardship on all producers.

14. **“Be it resolved that** ABP join with other commodity groups and farm groups and search for a way to produce a television program to give our industry a positive and true view of how we operate.”

Zone 9

Carried: ABP currently works with other commodities to present ‘*Classroom Agriculture Program*’ to grade 4 students across Alberta and *Beef in the Classroom* for high school students. The Communications Committee discussed this resolution at their June meeting. This is a long term project and the committee will be setting up guidelines on how best to approach the project.

15. **“Be it resolved that** ABP formally request more co-operation, communication, consultation and transparency with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on issues pertaining to our industry”

Zone 4

Carried:

16. **“Be it resolved that** ABP and Canadian Cattlemen’s Association formally request a thorough and independent inquiry into the XL Foods E.Coli investigation and recall.”

Zone 2, 9

Carried: The investigation is already happening. CCA has been asked to speak to the advisory committee dealing with the issue. The investigation is happening federally and the scope of the investigation has expanded beyond a internal CFIA assessment. Once

the results have been released ABP will work to ensure that action is taken on the recommendations.

17. **“Be it resolved that** the 2011-2012 ABP audited financial statements and auditor’s report be accepted.”  
Board

Carried: No further action required

18. **“Be it resolved that** the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2012-2013 year-end audit.”  
Board

Carried: No further action required

19. **“Be it resolved that** the ABP Draft Budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year be approved as presented.”  
Board

Carried: No further action required

**2012 Resolutions for Board of Directors:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association lobby the government to ensure that the XL Beef ecoli issue be thoroughly investigated and results be publicized and acted upon aggressively.”  
Zone 8

Carried: The federal government has set up a panel of independent experts to look into the XL Beef E.coli outbreak. It will focus on the contributing factors as well as the performance of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The review panel includes recognized scientific, public health and meat industry experts.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP fund 50% of the verified Beef Program to a maximum of \$50,000 to enable them to leverage matching funds.”  
Zone 4

Declared redundant: ABP Board of Directors had already approved \$30,000 funding towards the Verified Beef Program. While the directors understood the importance of the program they agreed that Ms. Leslie should also explore other alternatives for funding besides ABP.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP direct the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to request that the federal government conduct an independent audit on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency within the next 6

months to address the credibility concerns related to meat inspections in Canada.”

Zone 6

Carried: An independent federal advisory council has been created to look into the XL Beef ecoli issue giving it a broader scope of enquiry.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP request the mandatory check-off be reinstated in the province within the year.”  
Zone 6

Carried: This resolution has been carried at a number of fall meetings over the last few years. Now that the National Levy has been resolved the board has created a working group to look into this issue and the steps ABP needs to make to address the wishes of Alberta beef producers.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby both federal and provincial governments for a more comprehensive and viable Agri-Food policy to address the lack of sustainability of rural economics.”  
Zone 6

Carried: Directors agreed that as an organization we need to look at this. This is starting to happen with Ecosystem Services and the CCA sustainability roundtable. ABP is already involved in the process. This is a reaffirmation of ABP’s mission statement.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the federal government through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association for producers to be fairly compensated for total costs and the responsibility for liability when tagging for Canadian Cattle Identification Agency identification.”  
Zone 4

Defeated: As producers the board understands the dangers of tagging cattle. When ABP was discussing traceability with other industry associations and government all agreed that tagging was an important step and as an industry we agreed to tag cattle.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP influence the appropriate authorities in order to legalize the installation of remote cameras on the back of hay trailers to take the place of extended rear view mirrors.”  
Zone 9

Defeated: Current legislation requires a vehicle pulling a hay trailer to have external side mirrors. Remote cameras are allowed but cannot be used in place of mirrors as a safety device. ABP would need to get the legislation itself changed in order to respect the intent of the resolution.

8. **“Be it resolved that** ABP restore the Trade Advocacy Reserve Fund to \$5 million by the end of 2013-2014 fiscal period and that the fund may not be used for anything other than trade advocacy.”  
Zone 7

Defeated: The directors support having \$5 million in the fund but cannot commit to this finite period due to the decline in marketings and because of the refundable check-off. This fund has not and will never be used for anything but Trade Advocacy. The board is committed to maintaining the fund at the highest amount possible.

9. **“Be it resolved that** the ABP Board compliment Zone 8 for having an election and that it strongly admonish all the other zones for not doing the work to ensure that they have a full slate of candidates plus one to ensure an election and thereby create interest in the ABP.”  
Zone 8

Carried: A letter will go out to each zone complimenting Zone 8.

**2012 Resolutions for Cow Calf Council:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the government of Alberta and direct the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the federal government to have AgriStability provide 80% coverage on the portion of the Production Margin below 70% of the Reference Margin and the new calculation using allowable expenses be dropped meaning that the calculation only compares the Production Margin to the Reference Margin.”  
Zone 7

Carried: See comments below

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the government of Alberta and lobby the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the federal government to re-instate the funding for AgriInvest to the same level as it was with the 1.5% of Allowable Net Sales and change the calculation to be based allowable sales which would redistribute a greater portion of the funding to the livestock sector.”  
Zone 6

Carried: See comments below

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the federal government to eliminate the requirement that

producers must be enrolled in AgriStability to qualify for the Advance Payments Program.”

Zone 7

Carried: The Cow Calf Council sent these resolutions to the Safety Net Subcommittee for discussion. The subcommittee presented these recommendations in a paper to Minister Olson, Agriculture and Rural Development in the summer of 2012. The subcommittee will continue to lobby for changes to AgriStability.

**2012 Resolutions for Wildlife Working Group:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the government for the extension of waterfowl hunting season on the surrounding lands around artificially open water bodies such as power plants.”  
Zone 4

Carried: Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG) is discussing the possibility of looking into changing the regulations to extend the hunting season until nesting season. ABP has a representative on the group and will bring forward this resolution.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP look for a solution to compensate farmers and ranchers for their loss of crop, swath grazing, hay, pasture production and the cost of fence repair due to the damages occurring as the result of the abundance of wildlife that inhabits our lands.”  
Zone 4

Carried: EG&S would compensate the producer and cover the cost of damage wildlife causes to crops and infrastructure without having to go to government for money. There are a few different programs in effect to assist producers with wildlife.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP work with Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Fish and Wildlife Management and both the provincial and federal governments to get the Elk population under control on the Canadian Forces Bases.”  
Zone 4

Carried: SRD is already working on this problem. There was a special hunting season on the base last year that was a success and may be copied this year. SRD has opened elk season in another 12 WMU’s across Alberta. This has happened and was successful ABP will continue to work with SRD to ensure this continues to happen and that producers are made aware of what is happening.

**2012 Resolutions for Marketing & Education:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP develop a program to raise educational funds for development and preservation of renewable and sustainable agriculture.”  
Zone 4

Defeated: The committee discussed this resolution thoroughly but had to defeat it because ABP is a non profit organization and therefore cannot raise funds for educational programming or for anything else without losing its status.

**2012 Resolutions for Communications Committee:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP support education about the threat of brucellosis and tuberculosis in wild bison populations and how this poses a threat to the Canadian food security.”  
Zone 5

Carried: This motion was sent to the Board of Directors by the committee. The problems posed by infected bison have been around for a number of years. The Animal Health & Welfare Working Group has been working on eliminating the problem in the Wood Buffalo National Park. Rural and Urban households in the area affected have received mail outs asking that any bison sighted be reported and detailing the issues and problems caused by bison moving south from the park. To bring forward an acceptable solution the federal and provincial governments and aboriginal groups need to come to an agreement on how the situation will be handled. ABP is committed to finding a solution to the problem.

**2011 Resolutions for Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Working Group:**

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP ask the government to assert the right of the democratic process to enact laws and regulations that affect the general population by prohibiting veterinarians from both prescribing and selling drugs, and that included in the legislation is that practicing (actively writing prescriptions) veterinarians be prohibited from participating in ownership and enjoying the profits from drug dispensing outlets.”  
Zone 3

Defeated: Duane Landels, Registrar AVMA, spoke to the group about the resolution. Vet’s have a guideline of the best interpretation of legislation

affecting the prescribing and dispensing of drugs. In order to prescribe the vet must be registered in Alberta. To be able to dispense a clinic must be registered as a dispensing practice. A prescribing vet is not necessarily able to dispense drugs. Producers do have the option to have their prescription filled at any legal dispenser in Alberta.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the government to have any animal tested positive for Trichomoniasis “Permanently” identified thereby preventing further spreading of the disease.”  
Zone 8

Carried: Dr. Gerald Hauer, Chief Provincial Vet, Dr. Jagdish Patel and Dr. Colleen Pollock, ARD, joined the meeting to discuss Trichomoniasis and having cattle with the disease permanently identified and not allow them to be used for breeding. The PCR test is being used on cattle in the south. One test is \$40 and most producers are doing only one test. It is not an on farm test yet. Infected cattle can be mandated as diseased and suggested that it go for slaughter. If regulations can be made that are not onerous and agreeable to a large group of producers then the government could look into it. When bulls are semen tested they are tested for Trichomoniasis at the same time. Hauer suggested that people from his office and people from our committee meet to develop a plan. Trichomoniasis is a relatively low prevalence disease. Producers who are members of a community pasture should all be testing for Trichomoniasis before they are released into the pasture. This is more of an education issue and people who do not want to be educated will not care if it is branded or tagged.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP request the Alberta government to harvest immediately any diseased (tuberculosis or brucellosis) bison outside of the Wood Buffalo National Park boundary.”  
Zone 9

Carried: This motion re-enforces current ABP policy to eradicate diseased bison. Animal Health & Welfare is working closely with Agriculture & Rural Development and Environment & Sustainable Resource Development to eradicate the problem that diseased bison poses and the beef industry.