

Progress Report on 2013 Resolutions

2013 AGM General Session Resolutions:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Progressive Conservative Government of Alberta to remove or change Section 49(1) of the wildlife act that reads as follows: *‘No person shall directly or indirectly buy or sell, trade or barter, or offer to buy or sell access to any land for the purpose of hunting any big game or any fur-bearing animals on any land’.*”
Zone 2

Carried: The Wildlife Working Group is currently working with AGMAG and the Alberta government to address this issue. The Board send this resolution to the working group for further follow-up.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP emphasize to the Alberta government that approved wildlife predation payments to producers not be allowed to be delayed by the Alberta Conservation Association, but that these approved payments must be delivered to producers on time. Livestock producers must not be used as negotiating pieces by the Alberta Conservation Association.”
Zone 2

Carried: The ABP Wildlife Working Group is determining when the Wildlife Act will be open so that changes can be made; the process to making changes; and the best time to move a particular type of legislation forward for changing an Act or Regulation.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby Alberta Financial Services Corporation to secure recognition of feeding practices of bale, swath corn grazing, and stockpiled forages for loss due to wildlife damage.”
Zone 9

Carried: ABP is working with ESRD to deal with the issue of payment problems.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to increase hunting and harvesting of elk in problem areas.”
Zone 9

Carried: Elk damage is a serious problem in some regions. ABP is working with ESRD Fish and Wildlife to determine where the problem areas are; how threshold levels are set in those areas; and, the process to obtain seasonal permits for number control.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government so that cattle losses due to predators, including coyotes, be generously paid by general funds of the province of Alberta.”
Zone 5

Carried: The process to change the regulations to add coyotes to the Wildlife Act has been initiated.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP oppose the re-introduction of bison to Banff National Park until all the concerns and questions expressed by the cattle and beef industry have been addressed in a satisfactory manner.”
Zone 3

Carried: The Animal Health and Welfare Working Group has been working with ESRD to monitor the population of bison outside the park and doing disease testing. There has been a lot of communication with producer in the area to report bison outside the park to Fish and Wildlife offices. Bison found outside the park are removed from the area. At the recommendation from ABP the federal and provincial governments are forming an intergovernmental committee to work with bison in the park. These are long-term goals and will take time to implement.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP urge the Alberta government to cease issuing licenses for fresh water use in the enhancement of oil and gas recovery.”
Zone 7

Carried: There are other sources of water besides fresh water. Environment Committee will recommend that the Board contact the government and ask that these practices are stopped. When the Executive meets with government officials they will discuss the issue with them.

8. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Provincial Government to encourage voluntary market based payments for Ecological Goods and Services.”
Zone 2

Motion to amend:

“That the resolution be amended to read ‘market based incentives’ instead of ‘market based payments’

Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Provincial Government to encourage voluntary market based incentives for Ecological Goods and Services.”

Carried: ABP is currently working with the government on this issue. This resolution helps strengthen the ABP position on the issue.

9. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government to repeal Bill 43 and to give producers the right to decide if the check-off is refundable or not by producer vote.”

Zone 7, 4

Carried: This issue will be dealt with by the board and will be addressed with producers during this year's Plan Review. Discussion with producers across Alberta on the service charge will be one of the topics discussed during the year and a final decision will be voted on by delegates at the AGM in December.

10. **"Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government to have the \$2.00 service charge returned to non-refundable thereby allowing all producers and all sectors to share equally in the challenges."

Zone 4

Carried: This issue will be dealt with by the board and will be addressed with producers during this year's Plan Review. Discussion with producers across Alberta on the service charge will be one of the topics discussed during the year and a final decision will be voted on by delegates at the AGM in December.

11. **"Be it resolved that** any producer who withdraws any of their check-off should not be kept on as active members of ABP."

Zone 9

Defeated: The delegates understood the principle and intent of the resolution but had to be defeated because ABP is not an archetypal membership organization.

12. **"Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government to have a onetime non-refundable service charge on all animals at time of slaughter."

Zone 4

Motion to amend:

"That the motion be amended to change 'lobby the Alberta government' to 'consider the option'."

Carried

Motion to amend:

"That the motion be amended to add 'or export' after the word 'slaughter'."

Carried

"Be it resolved that ABP consider the option to have a onetime non-refundable service charge on all animals at time of slaughter or export."

Carried: This issue will be dealt with by the Board during this year's Plan Review.

13. **"Be it resolved that** ABP put pressure on our MP's to close the border to US beef until Country of Origin Labeling is removed."

Zone 8

Defeated: ABP understands the frustration among producers at the cost to our industry because of COOL. Canada has a large number of allies in the cattle industry in the US who are also fighting COOL and the delegates agreed that closing the border would only result in making the situation worsen.

14. **"Be it resolved that** ABP fully engage regarding the draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, with particular emphasis on the proposed expansion of off highway vehicles (OHV) use on to grazing leases."

Zone 3

Carried: The Land Use Subcommittee is working on all the proposed regional plans as they are being developed and is in contact with the appropriate government officials voicing their, and producer, concerns.

15. **"Be it resolved that** ABP open a dialogue with the Alberta government so that all movement and sale of livestock within Canada be recorded to protect ownership of transported livestock."

Zone 5

Carried: ABP can discuss the issue with the Alberta government and, through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, with other provincial organizations. However, ABP cannot force other provincial governments or organizations to do anything about the problem.

16. **"Be it resolved that** ABP only support the Canadian Cattlemen's Association with the check-off they retain and not on the total sales of cattle in the province."

Zone 8

Defeated: Meetings are planned between ABP and CCA to discuss how the assessments are calculated. ABP has agreed to meet next year's assessment but ABP' representatives on CCA have been given very strongly worded direction for CCA to recognized the funding decreases that ABP is currently dealing with.

17. **"Be it resolved that** ABP continue to meet its Canadian Cattlemen's Association assessment."

Zone 5

Defeated: ABP has agreed to meet next year's assessment but ABP' representatives on CCA have been given very strongly worded direction for CCA to recognized the funding decreases that ABP is currently dealing with.

18. **“Be it resolved that** the 2012-2013 ABP audited financial statements and auditor’s report be accepted.”
Board

Carried: No further action required

19. **“Be it resolved that** the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2013-2014 year-end audit.”
Board

Carried: No further action required

20. **“Be it resolved that** that there be an independent review of the Executive Director of ABP on a bi-annual basis and further that the ABP executive set up a formal process to accomplish this review.”
AGM Floor

Carried: The Board hired Jim Brown to come and assist in developing a review procedure for the Executive Director. Brown spent the day with the board building a structure for future performance reviews involving all of the Directors.

2013 Resolutions for Board of Directors:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP provide a (1-2 page) strategic action plan that outlines the key initiatives which ABP will undertake (on producers behalf) for 2014 and that this plan be circulated to all producers (by January 2014) and be posted on the ABP website.”
Zone 2

Carried: The Board has been creating strategic plans since 2010 and are added to the Semi Annual Report and the AGM report. The plan is approved in April at the beginning of the ABP fiscal year and reported on at the AGM in December. Approved Strategic Plans will now be available on the ABP website as well.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association lobby industry and government to have livestock inspection services in the province of Manitoba as a way to reduce animal theft and improve on tracking animal movement through federal animal identification.”
Zone 1

Carried: Tracking animal movement is a process that will be available with traceability but it will not be able to track single animals. CCA and Alberta cannot enforce brand inspection in Manitoba. The Manitoba beef producers have already defeated a resolution for brand inspection.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP promote fast food and food service industries that use Canadian beef and identify foreign beef users if they feel necessary in the media.”
Zone 1

Defeated: When the new A&W campaign first came out The ABP Board agreed not to comment on it. There is no indication that this campaign will be a success for A&W. Some directors went to producers in their areas and suggested that they go to A&W in their areas and tell them they will not be coming to their restaurant and why. ABP does promote Alberta beef through their Taste Campaign.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP advertise the fact that A&W is bringing beef from out of Canada to the public.”
Zone 8

Defeated: for reasons stated above.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP enter into dialogue with the Livestock Identification Agency to review brand inspection needs throughout the province.”
Zone 5

Carried: ABP will approach LIS about brand inspections and about increasing the number of inspectors in some areas.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP enter into dialogue with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to target the ability to process animals that are owned by you but not processed on your own land.”
Zone 5

Carried: ABP is looking into the possibility of having the current laws updated to allow for the processing of animals on private land.

2013 Resolutions for Cow Calf Council:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to move toward a safer temporary identification for mature bulls and cows. The Australian solution is a zip tag that goes around the top of the tail, an RFID chip could easily be added to it as well.
Zone 8

Carried: Most operators do not have the facilities to tag bulls. A minor change to the regulations would allow producers to add the tag to the bulls’ tail without risk to anyone. Fred Hays, ABP Policy Analyst, was

asked to research the issue and will report back to the working group at their next meeting.

Zones also hold the occasional coffee shop meetings. We will try to do a better job of communicating with producers.

2013 Resolutions for Wildlife Working Group:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP petition the Alberta government to likewise provide prompt, straight-forward and timely resolution to producer claims for stock losses caused by wildlife predation.”

Zone 9

Carried: Fred Hays, ABP Policy Analyst, will write to ESRD requesting that compensation problems be dealt with in a timely manner.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government so that losses to stored livestock cattle feed by wildlife be assessed and paid according to crop adjuster advice and funded by the province of Alberta.”

Zone 5

Carried/Defeated: This resolution was postponed until staff could speak to the mover for clarification.

2013 Resolutions for Communications Committee:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP engages the younger generation through social media, events and other venues to enhance understanding and promote the beef industry.”

Zone 8

Carried: ABP is already on a number of social media sites, the Communications Committee holds the ‘*Young Guns*’ contest every year for 8 to 21 year olds who are a part of the cattle industry. The entrants have the opportunity to win one of three prizes. The Communications Committee works closely with the Marketing and Education Committee to promote the value of beef to consumers.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP does a better job at communications with their producers.”

Zone 8

Carried: Currently ABP is on Twitter, sends out weekly updates to everyone interested, publishes Grass Routes and an Annual Report; does Cattle Country, posts information on our website, hosts fall meetings, puts on Webinars, and places ads in Alberta Beef Magazine and Alberta Farmer Magazine. The

2013 Resolutions for Land Use Subcommittee:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government to limit the amount of agricultural land destroyed by urban sprawl and development.”

Zone 9

Carried/Defeated: