

# 2016-2017 NIAA Resolutions

## Animal Care Council

**Mission:** To identify and monitor issues surrounding the care and handling of livestock and to develop resources and educational materials for distribution to industry, producers, educators and other individuals interested in livestock care issues.

**At 2017 Council Meeting:** Review mission statement to clarify if Council is responsible for developing materials.

### **ACC1 Care of Newborn Dairy Calves**

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends that newborn dairy calves be fed colostrum or colostrum replacer consistent with industry standards, as outlined in the National Dairy FARM Animal Care Manual. Before shipment from the premises where they are born, they must possess a dry hair coat and be able to stand and walk easily without assistance from a person.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009 | Amended: 2012

### **ACC2 Needed Research in Animal Transportation**

**BACKGROUND:** Reports exist of the detrimental aspects of inadequate transportation including a high incidence of bruising, disease and death. These reports are especially associated with very young animals. The subject of transportation guidelines cannot be addressed with simple “one size fits all” recommendations.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends research be directed at the specific needs of various ages and sizes of animals under specific transport situations so that a broad range of guidelines that address the needs of transported livestock and poultry can be developed.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014

### **ACC3 Need for Objective Guidelines for Animal Welfare**

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA supports continued development and implementation of animal care guidelines by livestock and poultry organizations that are verifiable, responsible, science-based, workable and affordable. NIAA supports the use of these species-specific materials to educate consumers regarding farm animal care practices.

Adopted: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014

#### **ACC4 Support for Fact-Based Animal Welfare**

BACKGROUND: Animal rights (AR) groups led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), PETA and the Institute of Humane Education (IHE) are campaigning across the US to implement what they refer to as “humane education,” a program of extreme ideological material they aspire to teach in our school systems. They have been successful in a few cities, but up to now have not been successful at the state or federal levels, despite repeated efforts to introduce legislation.

One such effort briefly succeeded in a California school system and some of this “education” did take place. The approach was to show a movie involving animals, such as *Finding Nemo*, immediately followed by a discussion focused on how cruel it is to eat fish. Parents were angered when their children came home declaring they could no longer eat meat or fish.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved, NIAA believes in animal welfare, not animal rights. Animal welfare concerns the prevention of suffering and cruelty to animals; whereas the animal rights philosophy advocates an end to all “human use of animals,” considering such use “exploitation” of animals.

Further resolved, NIAA believes human societies require and accept the use of animals as sources of food and fiber, as well as for scientific research, sport, companionship, entertainment, and clothing. NIAA considers it is the obligation of animal caretakers to provide the best care possible of animals throughout their lifetime. By doing so, we need not be ashamed of, nor have to justify, human use of animals.

Further resolved, NIAA supports future generations learning the importance of respecting and caring for animals, both wild and domesticated, and extremist animal rights groups should not be allowed to dictate information children will be exposed to. Emotional, subliminal vegan messages replacing animal care based on accepted, proven animal husbandry practices is not education, but indoctrination.

Adopted: 2013

#### **ACC5 Long-term Animal Care Awareness and Education Strategy**

BACKGROUND: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has a long history of providing leadership around difficult and sometimes controversial issues within the industry. NIAA recognizes that animal care and livestock welfare is of paramount concern and an issue which is becoming increasingly important to the public. As such, NIAA is committed to engage with all stakeholders – including industry members, producers, administrators and consumer groups - to consider hosting a series of symposiums around the issue of animal care in agriculture, assisting in the development of an educational curriculum, and speaking at other meetings where livestock welfare or care are key topics. The meetings will be strategically planned to ensure a comprehensive approach and planned according to NIAA’s mission to build consensus and advance solutions. In addition, NIAA should be actively engaged in developing a reasonable, transparent approach to create awareness among state animal health officials, state animal care administrators, livestock organizations and industry members, and producers. Mistreatment of livestock is not condoned by livestock producers, livestock marketers, livestock handlers, livestock veterinarians, and other livestock professionals.

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*Reprinting of resolutions is encouraged.*

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) should seek venues and potential partners to increase the awareness of the need to ensure investigators involving animal care issues are fully trained and are knowledgeable of accepted animal care practices in the food animal industry. This effort could include, but is not limited to, speaking at meetings of like-minded organizations, developing a training curriculum, or hosting a series of symposiums. The outcome of this effort is to actively engage industry members, producers, administrators, and investigators of the nuances of raising and caring for livestock, and whose charge it is to oversee potential deviations from proper animal care practices.

Adopted: 2014