

# 2019-2020 NIAA Resolutions

## Animal Care Council

**Mission: To identify challenges, opportunities for collaboration and provide a forum for continuous improvement of the care and handling of livestock**

### **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 | Reaffirmed: 2017

### **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 adoption of a broad range of guidelines that address the needs of transported livestock and poultry.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Amended 2019

### **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 | Reaffirmed: 2019

### **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.

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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. 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.

Adopted: 2013 | Amended: 2017

#### **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.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) should seek venues to engage industry members, producers, administrators, educators, investigators and other 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, presentation of accepted animal care practices and hosting a series of symposiums on this topic.

Adopted: 2014 | Amended: 2019

### **ACC6 Producing Wholesome and Safe Sheep Products**

BACKGROUND: Supplying wholesome and safe products is critical to maintain consumer confidence. Further, the implementation of educational programs promoting best management practices will enhance the sheep industry's competitiveness.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the implementation of the national sheep safety and quality assurance program for production of wholesome and safe products. Further, NIAA supports an on-going partnership with the sheep industry in producer Quality Assurance efforts.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011 | Reaffirmed 2016 | Reaffirmed: 2018

### **ACC7 Johne's Disease Research in Small Ruminants**

BACKGROUND: While the prevalence of Johne's disease in the United States (U.S.) sheep and goat population is not known, preliminary U.S. Department of Agriculture/Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health surveys of sheep and goat research from the University of Wisconsin, has recognized Johne's disease to be an important problem in both species. Federally funded Johne's disease research efforts have been proven to be valuable to the bovine industry.

RESOLUTION: In light of the needed progress for existing small ruminant-based Johne's research, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages expanded financial support for diagnostic, surveillance, and immunologic research programs.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2007 | Reaffirmed 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2017 | Reaffirmed: 2018

### **ACC8 Producing Wholesome and Safe Goat Products**

BACKGROUND: Supplying wholesome and safe products are critical to maintaining consumer confidence. Further, the implementation of educational programs promoting best management practices will enhance the goat industry's competitiveness.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the development and implementation of science-based dairy, meat, and fiber goat quality assurance programs.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

### **ACC9 Diseases in Sheep and Goats**

BACKGROUND: Local, state and federal governments are often required to react to public concerns related to zoonotic diseases in an expedited manner. It is critical to have a science-based program and plan in place to respond to a disease outbreak.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports science-based USDA programs that objectively evaluate zoonotic diseases in sheep and goats and develop action plans (e.g., prevention, control, eradication).

Adopted: 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2017 | Reaffirmed: 2018

### **ACC10 Johne's Disease Uniform Programs Standards**

BACKGROUND: Johne's disease is a chronic, progressive intestinal disease caused by an infection with *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis. It is an insidious wasting away disease affecting cattle and other livestock species. Knowledge of the pathogenesis, diagnosis, management, treatment and control is increasing. Johne's disease adversely affects the intrastate and interstate movement of cattle and the international export market, causing an excess of \$1 billion annually in lost revenue to our livestock industry.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the United States Department of Agriculture Uniform Program Standards for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program and recognizes the contributions of the National Johne's Working Group, a subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association Johne's Committee, in developing the various program elements, procedures and infrastructure necessary to support implementation of the Uniform Program Standards.

NIAA encourages each state to implement a voluntary program of Johne's disease control based on the Uniform Program Standards and encourages producers and veterinarians to implement recommended best management practices to reduce the incidence of Johne's disease in U.S. cattle herds.

NIAA continues to support annual program funding to United States Department of Agriculture/ Agricultural Research Service and Johne's Disease Integrated Program.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2010 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Reaffirmed: 2018

### **ACC11 The National Equine Health Plan and the Equine Disease Communication Center is important to the health, welfare and economic viability of the U.S. equine industry.**

BACKGROUND: Outbreaks of contagious diseases such as Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) at equine events with high number of attendees has prompted the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the American Horse Council (AHC) to acknowledge the need for a National Equine Health Plan (NEHP) and Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) in order to facilitate in the education and optimal dissemination of information amongst the equine community in a timely manner.

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The NEHP will focus on the role of industry, state and federal animal health officials and tribal leaders in protecting the health and welfare of the horse, facilitation in equine movement and ensuring the diagnostic, inspection, and certification services through an electronic identification database to protect the economic viability of the equine industry.

Contained within the NEHP is the EDCC which will provide accurate information about disease outbreaks in a timely fashion, information about diseases for those involved in the equine industry and other information used for proper health and welfare practices.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), AAEP and AHC have all passed resolutions supporting the development of the NEHP including the EDCC.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the establishment of a National Equine Health Plan and an Equine Disease Communication Center in order to protect the health, welfare and economic viability of the U.S. equine industry.

Adopted: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Reaffirmed: 2018

#### **ACC12 Animal Welfare Research**

BACKGROUND: Scientific research on animal welfare is needed in North America to help guide the establishment of animal welfare standards as they are being adopted by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), private entities, associations and national governments. Because much of the current animal welfare research is being conducted in Europe, North American animal agriculture runs the risk of in the future having to follow standards developed under conditions not found in North America. Research based on North American food production systems are helping and will continue to ensure the establishment of more balanced animal welfare standards in the future.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the need for an expansion of animal welfare/care/well-being research conducted on North American animal production systems. The NIAA encourages the United States Department of Agriculture and private industry to provide additional resources for the funding of peer-reviewed animal welfare/care/well-being research.

Adopted: 2008 | Amended: 2013 | Amended: 2016 | Reaffirmed: 2018