

## COMMODITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The board reviewed 58 recommendations submitted by 23 AFBF advisory committees. The recommendations were adopted by the committees at meetings held the week of February 15th in National Harbor, Maryland. The following actions were adopted by the board regarding the report recommendations:

### **ROUND 1**

#### **Animal Health**

##### Animal Disease Control

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Baccus, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Animal Health Committee advocates the concept of compartmentalization with respect to animal disease control that diminishes the importance of political boundaries (e.g., state lines, national park boundaries) in drawing risk-based quarantine zones.

##### Johne's Disease

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Lang and carried approving the following amended recommendation:

[The] government should finance continued efforts to develop an effective vaccine for Johne's.

[Board discussion indicated that an effective test for Johne's disease has been developed.]

##### Animal Disposal

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Nieuwenhuis, seconded by Mr. Winkles carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reasons that efforts to accomplish the recommendations should primarily be achieved at the state level, and, that AFBF is working with the renderers association and others towards implementation:

The Animal Health Committee recommends AFBF: (1) compile and maintain a database of disposal regulations and acceptable euthanasia methods, (2) encourage research into new methods of carcass disposal, (3) educate its members on proper carcass disposal and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, (4) educate its members on proper handling of both carcasses and non-ambulatory animals, (5) educate its members on properly euthanizing non-ambulatory animals.

## **Beef Cattle**

### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Nieuwenhuis, seconded by Mr. Wooten and carried to reject the following recommendation in view of the current AFBF budget limitations:

The Beef Committee recommends that AFBF establish an Agriculture Promotion Task Force to proactively promote positive animal agriculture.

### Beef Checkoff

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Villwock and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF has previously considered the Beef Board recommendations and did not adopt a resolution of support:

The Beef Committee recommends that AFBF support the Cattlemen's Beef Board recommendations on improvements to the Beef Checkoff Program (Section A of the CBB Executive Committee Report).

### Food Safety

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Haney and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Beef Committee reemphasizes the importance of following current policy (Biosecurity 175, lines 25-27) to keep food safety authorities within USDA.

## **Dairy**

### Dairy Export Incentive Program

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Mosebar, seconded by Mr. Duvall and carried that AFBF support the following recommendation over the short term for the purpose of increasing use of dairy products, and, to refer the recommendation to Policy Development regarding implementation for future years:

The Dairy Advisory Committee strongly urges immediate implementation of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) for current and future marketing years.

### Dairy Task Force

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Olsen, seconded by Mr. Nieuwenhuis and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is already involved in implementation of the recommendation:

The Dairy Committee urges AFBF staff to review the National Milk Producers' Federation federal order study/task force results, conduct an economic assessment of the plan, and to prepare documents for 2009 AFBF policy development year.

### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. White and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is currently coordinating with agricultural groups to accomplish the recommendation, and, has developed strategic plans to address animal welfare challenges:

The Dairy Advisory Committee urges AFBF to coordinate groups (crops, livestock, check-off programs) to strategize with consumer, health, and food security advocates (such as food banks, etc) to develop a proactive roadmap for addressing animal welfare challenges that ultimately could result in food insecurity and expand information available through alternative media sources.

### Ag Challenges - Food Defense Fund

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded and carried approving the recommendation that AFBF should consider the feasibility of establishing a food defense fund to promote food security.

## **Equine**

### Equine – Unwanted Horses

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Dowse, seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is already working with USDA, the Animal Welfare Coalition and the Animal Ag Alliance regarding issues on unwanted horses:

The Equine Advisory Committee recommends that AFBF become a member of the Unwanted Horse Coalition.

### Equine – Industry Summit

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Dowse, seconded by Mr. Spradling and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Equine Advisory Committee recommends that AFBF host an equine industry summit to develop uniform industry standards and best management practices, which could be accomplished through a seminar at the 2010 AFBF Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

[Discussion indicated that AFBF is currently working to develop an equine industry conference during the 2010 AFBF annual meeting.]

### Equine – Liability Insurance Policy

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Dowse, seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that the recommendation should be considered at the state level:

The Equine Advisory Committee recommends that AFBF support the development of equine/livestock liability and inherent risk policy law in *every* state.

### **Hay and Forage**

#### Biotech – Roundup Ready Alfalfa

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Haney, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Hay and Forage Committee recommends AFBF work to make sure that all states are aware of the Roundup Ready Alfalfa issue in order to provide widespread participation during the comment period.

#### Disaster Payments

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation in view of existing Farm Bureau policy:

The Hay and Forage Committee recommends AFBF urge USDA to streamline disaster assistance payments so that the producer can make a crop in the year immediately following the disaster.

### Renewable Energy

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Hay and Forage Committee urges AFBF to support the research and development of technologies to use various crops, including hay and forage, in the production of cellulosic ethanol (renewable energy).

### **Poultry**

#### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Veach and carried to receive and file the following recommendation in view of the current AFBF budget limitations:

The Poultry Committee recommends that AFBF **increase** funding, despite tightening budgets, for member training programs along with efforts to build/strengthen coalitions in the animal well-being area committed to educating the public, administration and congressional policy makers and media.

#### Ag Education

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Upchurch, seconded by Mr. Duvall and carried to accept the following recommendation in view of current AFBF efforts:

The Poultry Committee recommends that the AFBF increase partnership support for efforts to collect information and document animal agriculture's environmental performance record for use in educating the public, state and national legislators, and clean air and clean water program managers.

#### Risk Management

Action No. : Motion was duly made by Mr. Rogers, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Poultry Committee recommends that AFBF increase its emphasis on expanding existing risk management tools and disaster assistance programs to livestock producers.

## **Sheep and Goat**

### Predator Control

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Dierschke and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Sheep and Goat Committee recommends that AFBF reaffirm its position on Wildlife Pest and Predator Control policy.

### Grazing

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Villwock, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Sheep and Goat Committee recommends that AFBF support funding for research to determine the impact of species that currently exist, have been reintroduced, or are planning to be introduced for the first time on grazing herds on public/private lands.

### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Upchurch and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is currently coordinating with agricultural groups to accomplish the recommendation, and, has developed strategic plans to address animal welfare challenges:

The Sheep and Goat Committee recommends that AFBF continue developing a national program that would facilitate the use of appropriate resources to help deliver the message of the American farmer.

## **Swine**

### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Winkles, seconded by Mr. VanderWal and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is currently coordinating with agricultural groups to accomplish the recommendation, and, has developed strategic plans to address animal welfare challenges:

The Swine Committee recommends AFBF take a lead in bringing together a unified, well-funded campaign to address the animal care debate.

### Labor - Shortages

Action No. : Motion was duly made by Mr. Winkles, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Swine Committee recommends AFBF take initiative to help producers of all commodities to solve the problem of the farm labor shortage.

### Economic Research – Pork

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Winkles, seconded by Mr. Upchurch and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Swine Committee requests AFBF complete research into the following issues: (1) what would additional Section 32 purchases do for the pork sector; (2) what would elimination of the 51 cents/gallon ethanol subsidy do for the pork sector; and (3) what would reduction or elimination of the ethanol import tariff do for the pork sector.

## **ROUND 2**

### **Ag Nursery & Greenhouse**

#### Labor – Ag Jobs

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Kruse, seconded by Mr. Winkles and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is currently working on legislative efforts to assure an adequate labor force:

The Ag Nursery Committee recommends that AFBF support to the extent possible the Ag Jobs legislation. We further encourage AFBF to cooperate and collaborate with other industry groups that support the development of a year round, long-term labor force.

#### USDA/ARS Floriculture & Nursery Research

Action No. : Motion was duly made by Mr. Winkles, seconded by Mr. Nieuwenhuis and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Ag Nursery Committee recommends that AFBF support research efforts for the nursery, greenhouse and sod/turf industry by: Supporting an increase in funding for the USDA-ARS Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative and “regionalization” of research throughout the land grant system.

### Insurance

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Direschke, seconded by Mr. White and carried to reject the following recommendation for the reason that the development of the recommended insurance product is not likely:

The Ag Nursery Committee recommends that AFBF assist in the development of insurance products that provide nursery, greenhouse and sod producers with credit insurance that provides protection to producers from non-collection of debt.

### **Aquaculture**

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Mosebar and carried to refer the following recommendation to Policy Development:

The Aquaculture Committee recommends AFBF work to ensure that the National Advisory Committee for Aquatic Animal Health at USDA be established in a timely manner.

### Emergency Livestock Assistance Program

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Waide, seconded by Mr. Newby and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Aquaculture Committee recommends AFBF work to ensure the threshold for payment under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) is set as low as possible.

### **Citrus**

#### Citrus Greening Disease

Action No. : Motion was duly made by Mr. Newby, seconded and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Citrus Committee recommends that American Farm Bureau support state Farm Bureaus and Citrus Mutuals in their efforts to control, prevent and eradicate Citrus Greening Disease.

## **Forestry**

### Clean Water /Pesticide Litigation

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Lang and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Forestry Committee recommends that AFBF actively seek to overturn the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Cotton Council v. EPA, and to be vigilant to protect the interests of agriculture and forestry in any legislative, regulatory or judicial action arising there from.

### Water Supply

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Foutz and carried to refer the following recommendation to Policy Development:

The Forestry Committee recommends that AFBF urge land management agencies to employ silvicultural practices and vegetation management techniques to increase water supplies on public lands.

### Crop Insurance

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Nieuwenhuis and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Forestry Committee recommends that the Board of Directors conduct an analysis of the relative advantages and disadvantages of timber being classified as a commodity crop for purposes of disaster assistance, crop insurance and other programs (e.g. labor wage rates).

## **Honey/Apiculture**

### Farm Bill – Honeybee Pest Survey

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Haney, seconded by Mr. Upchurch and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Honey Committee strongly recommends that AFBF support the appropriation of \$2.25 million, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, to conduct a National Honeybee Pest Survey.

### Farm Bill – Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Honey Committee strongly recommends that AFBF establish a priority to secure the appropriation of funding to conduct research on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, which includes research on the affects of pesticides, viruses, parasitic mites and other distress management issues.

### **Horticulture**

#### Policy Book

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Villwock, seconded by Mr. Nieuwenhuis and carried to reject the following recommendation for the reason that the AFBF policy book has been recently reorganized:

The Horticulture Committee would like to emphasize the importance of the specialty crop sector by adding in a “specialty crop” sub-section under Commodities in the AFBF policy book.

#### Income Basis

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Shaffer, seconded by Mr. Kruse and carried to approve the following recommendation:

The Horticulture Committee recommends that AFBF support the determining factor for eligibility for farm programs be changed from a gross income basis to a net income basis.

#### Farm Credit

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Mosebar and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Horticulture Committee recommends AFBF support the Farm Credit GSE status and urge that the Farm Credit System remain under the legislative jurisdiction of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

## **Labor**

### Labor – Seasonal / Non-Seasonal

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Winkles, seconded by Mr. Upchurch and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Labor Committee recommends that AFBF prepare and disseminate a brief paper that summarizes the critical need to resolve the seasonal and non-seasonal agricultural labor issue.

### Labor – Economic Analysis

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Upchurch, seconded by Mr. Meals and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Labor Committee recommends that AFBF provide additional economic analysis and data that supports the need for legal, non-domestic sources of seasonal and non-seasonal agricultural labor.

### Health Care

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Livingston and carried to accept the following recommendation with the understanding that national health care reform must reflect the needs all U.S. employers:

The Labor Committee recommends AFBF take an active role in discussions over national health care reform to assure that any legislation best reflects the needs of agricultural employers.

## **ROUND 3**

## **Cotton**

### Cotton Imports

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Kruse, seconded by Mr. Veach and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Cotton Committee recommends AFBF work with USDA, USTR and U.S. Department of Commerce to address China's new requirements for U.S. exporter registration and new inspection system for cotton imports.

## **Feed Grains**

### Anti-trust Laws – Consolidation Thresholds

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Waide, seconded by Mr. Nelson and carried to amend the recommendation of the Feed Grains Committee that AFBF research anti-trust laws to establish current thresholds for consolidation and to measure those thresholds against current market conditions.

The recommendation, as amended, authorizes AFBF to file comments with the Department of Justice on the subject of agricultural industry consolidation / merger standards (thresholds) and regional issues and to request available information on the subject as it develops in place of AFBF conducting a full study.

### Crop Insurance

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Lang and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Feed Grains Committee recommends that staff research the viability of tax deferred accounts for crop insurance premiums.

## **Peanut**

### Conservation Security Program - Peanuts

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Newby and carried to refer the following recommendation to Policy Development with the explanation that AFBF is monitoring developments regarding supplemental payments for peanuts:

The Peanut Committee urges the implementation of the Conservation Security Program (CSP), Supplemental Payments for Resource Crop Conserving Program (RCCP) for peanuts.

### Renewable Energy – Early Release of Peanuts

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duval, seconded by Mr. Newby and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that further study is needed regarding issues on the early release of peanuts:

The Peanut Committee encourages the release of peanuts before the loan maturity to be sold at crushed prices to encourage these peanuts to be used as biofuels.

### Grading

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Newby and carried to refer the following recommendation to Policy Development:

The Peanut Committee supports the continuation of the Federal/ State grading system.

### **Rice**

#### Wetlands Conservation

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Veach and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Rice Committee recommends that AFBF support the Working Wetlands Conservation Initiative pilot program.

### **Soybean**

#### Ag Challenges

Action No. : Motion was mad by Mr. Kruse, seconded by Mr. Dierschke and carried to receive and file the following recommendation for the reason that AFBF is currently coordinating with agricultural groups to accomplish the recommendation, and, has developed strategic plans to address animal welfare challenges:

The Soybean Committee recommends that AFBF organize all commodity groups to aggressively promote the benefits of animal agriculture against misinformation generated and disseminated by animal rights groups.

#### Anti-trust – Fertilizer / Seed Industries

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Villwock, seconded by Mr. Veach and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Soybean Committee recommends that AFBF investigate and address the effects of consolidation of the fertilizer and seed industries on price and availability of agricultural inputs and possible anti-trust violations.

#### Soybean Diseases

Action No. Motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Winkles and carried to accept the following recommendation:

The Soybean Committee recommends that AFBF push USDA to increase or continue current funding levels for conducting current research for soybean diseases using sentinel plots and mapping after 2009.

## **Sugar**

### Renewable Energy

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Villwock, seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried to accept the following recommendation with the understanding that AFBF will contact rural electric cooperatives to obtain needed information and not conduct a full scale investigation:

The Sugar Committee recommends the AFBF Board ask staff to conduct a study or review current studies on electric co-generation to see if electric company rate inequities can be identified.

### Farm Bill

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Nieuwenhuis and carried to refer the following recommendation to Policy Development in view of conflicting Farm Bureau policies:

The Sugar Committee recommends AFBF work to maintain the Overall Allotment Quantity (OAQ) level.

### Trade Negotiation

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Baccus and carried to reject the following recommendation for the reason that maintaining an 85 percent OAQ level may be an impediment to trade negotiations for other commodities:

The Sugar Committee urges AFBF to work with the United States Trade representative to maintain the 85 percent Overall Allotment Quantity (OAQ) level in future trade negotiations.

## **Tobacco**

### Tobacco – Export Promotion

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Wooten, seconded by Mr. Haney and carried to approve the following recommendation:

The Tobacco Committee recognizes that the national export promotion effort has evolved beyond the point of “exploring the possibility” and urges AFBF to work towards bringing the concept to a producer referendum as soon as possible.

Tobacco – FDA Restrictions

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Wooten, seconded by Mr. Haney and carried to receive and file the following recommendation in view of current legislative efforts:

The Tobacco Committee recommends that any restrictions from FDA or other government agencies should apply to both domestic and imported tobacco in a way that does not put U.S. leaf at a competitive disadvantage.

**Wheat**

Climate Change

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Villwock, seconded by Mr. Kruse and carried to receive and file the following recommendation in view of past and ongoing AFBF efforts:

The Wheat Committee recommends that AFBF facilitate the coordination of commodity groups and industry to create a pro-active plan to deal with climate change legislation.

Farm Programs – Opposition to “Green” Payments

Action No. : Motion was made by Mr. Olsen, seconded and carried to reject the following recommendation in view of previous AFBF efforts in opposition to substitution of greenhouse gas sequestration or reduction payments for farm program payments:

The Wheat Committee recommends that AFBF monitor increasing pressure to move toward “green” payments for farm programs.