

Policy Advisory Group Report

Members

- Sara Anderson
- Scott Dawes
- Keith Day
- John Erickson
- Orville Haney
- Brian Houin
- Shawna Humphrey
- Bryan Johnson
- Kristy Kikly
- James Lucas
- Steve Obert
- Jeremy Russell
- Stephen Shepard
- Doug Smith
- Greg Smoker
- Kari Steele
- William Tempel
- Beth Tharp
- LuAnn Troxel

Livestock & Animal Care Policy Advisory Group

Members of the Livestock & Animal Care Policy Advisory Group met on June 18 to review policy recommendations submitted by county Farm Bureaus in the areas of livestock and animal care and make recommendations to the 2015 policy resolutions committee.

The group discussed existing policy language and offered 13 modifications to the policy resolutions committee, focusing primarily on:

- Deleting outdated language.
- Removing livestock references from the companion animal section so as to clearly delineate the two sections - Animal Care §208.01 and Companion Animal §208.13, because they are inherently different.

The group recommended the format of the policy book be changed to a “we support” and “we oppose” format, making it easier to understand. The group also expressed concern regarding the inconsistent grouping of information relating to specific sections, e.g. there was marketing and processing recommendations in multiple species sections, as well as in some general ag sections. Those types of references could be consolidated for one-stop shopping consistency.

The group discussed additional topics surfaced by staff for their consideration; however, no policy positions were offered.

- Pig mud wrestling.
- Organizational support of controversial livestock building sites.
- Federal disaster assistance beyond indemnification from HPAI.
- Dairy construction guidance.

CALL TO ACTION

As part of the ongoing public discussion of animal care issues, land use and regulatory oversight of animal agriculture.

County Farm Bureaus can:

- Invite fair board representatives, animal care experts and Farm Bureau staff to board meetings to discuss the merits of pig mud wrestling and its impact on the impression of animal care.
- Talk and work with local elected and appointed officials to voice their concerns regarding local land use ordinances' role in siting livestock barns.
- Invite county poultry farmers to discuss the long term implications of reoccurring highly pathogenic avian influenza and its financial impact on poultry farmers, in order to explore need for federal support programs to cover financial obligations incurred by time lag associated with repopulating barns.
- Discuss whether the county Farm Bureau should develop a policy for taking positions of support on local livestock expansion projects. INFB staff will assist in the discussion.
- Ask dairy farmers to identify needs related to construction compliance/guidance.

Questions regarding the activities of the Livestock & Animal Care PAG can be directed to one of the group members or to [Greg Slipher](#), 317-432-3816, the Farm Bureau staff member facilitating the group.