



POLICY BOOK

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FEDERAL LAND RESOURCES

Maintenance of Multiple Use:

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association has observed and, for the following reason, opposes increased shifting of rural lands from private ownership into public ownership. Lands acquired by the federal government in such transactions have often been placed in single use status and not into multiple use. These lands have been removed from the county tax rolls to the detriment of local government services. This increases the tax burden on the remaining property owners and puts more pressure on the remaining multiple use lands; and

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association is opposed to any transfer of public land out of multiple use status and its reallocation to single use. If such a transfer causes a taking or cancellation of existing preference directly affecting the integrity of a permittees ranching operation we recommend just compensation for the loss;

If such transfer to single use causes a taking or cancellation of any existing preference and such severance directly affects the integrity of the permittees ranching operation, we recommend just compensation for the damages.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

(9/16/24) (Federal Lands)

We support the simplification and improvement of the NEPA process. Categorical exclusions should be allowed for:

1. Ordinary grazing permit renewals;
2. Projects that improve range health by controlling invasive woody plant species;
3. Prescribed burning on federal lands;
4. Replacement of infrastructure because of destruction by fire, flood, and/or natural disaster; and
5. Replacement of existing improvements.

If there is a significant new disturbance while replacing portions of destroyed infrastructure, only those portions requiring significant new disturbance should require NEPA clearances

Vacant Federal Land:

(9/16/24) (Federal Lands)

Federal land management agencies shall notify local or state livestock organizations of vacant allotments on an annual basis. Vacant allotments with a qualified applicant will be kept on a renewal schedule as a priority.

Vacant allotments for which there is a qualified applicant shall be assigned.

Collaborative Conservation Efforts

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

Voluntary collaborative efforts between livestock producers, private organizations and federal agencies can contribute to the continuation of livestock production, conservation of rural lands, forage productivity, prevention or resolution of conflicts, and the strengthening of traditional rural economies and communities. Such voluntary collaboration may be helpful in the prevention or resolution of conflicts. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association encourages permittees to seek such voluntary collaborative efforts.

Enforcement of Federal Officer Ethics

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

The federal ethics and conflict of interest code applies to employees of the U. S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

ACGA requires that federal officers recuse themselves from decision making in all circumstances where their personal views or their private advocacy group opposes the use they are empowered to regulate.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorization

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

Approximately 87% of land in Arizona is currently owned by either the Federal, Tribal or State government;

The Land and Water Conservation Fund allows the Federal Government to use eminent domain to purchase private land, ranches.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association believes Land and Water Conservation Fund monies should be appropriated to the State Forester for the enhancement of firefighting efforts and the replacement of ranch infrastructure loss from wildfires. These monies should no longer be used to purchase any lands.

Fair Market Compensation

(07-23) (Federal Lands) (State Land)

ACGA supports fair market compensation for producers from the project proponent when a construction project displaces a grazing operation on state or federal lands, including loss of AUMs, relocation or transportation of livestock, and other related expenses

Federal Land Expansion

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

ACGA opposes any addition or acquisition of federal lands within Arizona

ACGA supports the sale of federal lands to the state or private parties. If any land transfers occur those holding allotments and permits should have the right of first refusal.

ACGA opposes shutting down of additional federal lands through including but not limited to:

1. Additional Wilderness designations or Wilderness Study Areas which reduce the appraised value of a grazing allotment with no mitigation measures in place for economic recourse to the Allotment owner.
2. Road closures touted as Travel Management,
3. Avoiding/delaying NEPA on vacant allotments thereby keeping them unavailable for grazing.
4. Creating policy on retiring grazing allotments.
5. Any additional Wild and Scenic River Designations.

Any proposed restrictions to use of or access to federal land should require approval by Congress and passage, by a super majority vote, in a general election by each county(s) and state where the land is located.

Wilderness Areas

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

Existing wilderness areas should be reexamined and only those areas that meet the criteria specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964 should remain wilderness. All other areas should be released back to multiple use management.

Forest Management

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

We recommend the return of our western forests to their pre-settlement era tree and shrub densities. The unnaturally high tree and shrub densities caused by bans on logging, and grazing, as well as restrictions placed on controlled burns, have led to the reduction of herbaceous grass in our forest. This change in the forest has led to decreased feed for herbivores, decreased water runoff in times of normal precipitation,

severe flooding in years that have above normal precipitation, the destruction of riparian habitat, and the loss of valuable water in the arid west. It has contributed to raging wildfires, disease and insect infestations killing millions of trees in the western states. The practices of logging, thinning, and grazing should be expedited to reverse the devastation this has caused.

Using existing current, peer-reviewed scientific studies, the management of our forestlands needs to be reviewed to identify the barriers to proper management of our western forest. Immediate action needs to be taken to remove these barriers

Allotment Management Plans

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

ACGA supports grazing management plans that are drafted in coordination with the permittee. We recommend the use of adaptive management to allow changing environmental factors to be considered in the management of allotments.

We further insist that the permittee be consulted and his/her knowledge and experience is used at all stages in developing and implementing these plans.

Public Land Improvements

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

We support permittee ownership of improvements on all public lands. If it becomes public policy to remove grazing from public lands, compensation to lease holders or permittees should cover improvements, including wells, and lease purchase cost. The compensation of lease purchase cost should be based on the value of the lease at the time of purchase or at the time of the public policy change, whichever is highest.

Stock Waters

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

We support the lessee's right to water developed by the lessee on public lands. We support a rancher's right to the water they own on their property (base waters) and all water they own the rights to on state and federal lands.

Allocation of Adequate Funding for Federal Range Management Programs

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

Appropriate monitoring activity on the ground is not being done on all allotment leases;

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association supports-line-item funding and increased allocation of funds in the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets from existing budgets specifically for rangeland monitoring with and achievable targets that are reported back to Congress annually

ACGA urges increased allocation of funds in the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets for this foremost concern.

Range Professionals In Agency Positions

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association firmly requests that all employees hired into governmental rangeland management positions have at a minimum a bachelor's degree, from an accredited university, in the field of rangeland management, with preference given to local individuals with practical livestock work related training and experience.

We support requiring any government employee or contract employee assigned to develop or implement regulations that impact livestock grazing management be certified as land management/environmental science professionals, by having formal training and a minimal level of experience in range monitoring and utilization management.

Federal Lands Riparian Areas

(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association will work toward the adoption by the agencies of the various state and federal governments of a uniform definition of a 'riparian area' by the agencies of the various state and federal

governments, excluding from that definition any areas created or enhanced by man-made water or spring development; and

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association opposes proposals of the Federal land management agencies for mandatory fencing of riparian areas along streams or springs on the federal lands except in those cases in which the federal lands allotment owner agrees that fencing a riparian area is a reasonable and satisfactory solution to his or her riparian management concerns, and if:

1. Alternate sources of livestock water are identified, satisfactorily developed, and made available for livestock use; and
2. Privately owned state water rights in federal riparian areas are fully recognized and protected, including the right of access across federal lands to those waters and the use thereof; and
3. The proposed sites are studied in full cooperation, coordination, and consultation with the livestock operator and, where appropriate, local District Grazing Advisory Board, Natural Resource Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and/ or University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; and
4. A comprehensive cooperative agreement, including a termination date, adequate monitoring provisions, and an assignment of construction and maintenance responsibilities to the benefiting function, is voluntarily entered into between the agency and the livestock operator.

Prescribed Burns
(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

We support the use of controlled and prescribed burns as management tools where applicable.-We propose that in the interest of economy, and for the betterment of our public lands, that the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management return to a let burn policy on public lands except where human lives, homes, investment or commercial timber is at stake

Each fire must be prescribed, managed, or controlled based on local economy, resource concerns and potential benefits, and local owner input.

-The agency should be able to use wild fire funds if a burn goes out of control.

We support the addition of legislation that supports a land manager's right to burn, conditional to regulatory requirements.

We support the use of grazing as a fire prevention tool on public lands.

Travel Management
(7/25/25) (Federal Lands)

The BLM AND USFS are currently in the process of implementing a travel management plan on roads that have historically been used by ranchers to access deeded ground, maintain fences, and other Bonafide day-to-day ranch activities.

ACGA strongly recommends that the BLM and USFS do so in a manner that will not limit a rancher's ability to maintain permits, access deeded ground, or limit historic use of the land even when livestock are not grazed on the permits.

Ditches and irrigation on BLM and USFS grounds, as well as private ditches that cross BLM and USFS grounds, should be allowed historic use. The travel plan should include the use of new management tools and goals such as motorcycles and ATVs; as well as travel, maintenance, and new construction of roads and ditches.

Access must be maintained in order to manage wildlife and mitigate game damage on BLM and USFS permits, as well as private ground accessed by these roads.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire Management Coordination with State Forester

(9/9/22) (State and Private Lands)

ACGA recommends the Incident Command Team work closely with local landowners, ranchers, and state forestry departments to better manage fire, suppression, and resources. When fire moves onto non-federal land, State forestry departments and local landowner priorities should take precedence. The State Forester must be consulted during the entire process regardless of level of incidence.

Grazing Permits and Wildfires:

(9/16/24) (State and Private Lands)

In many instances, wildfires do not burn an entire forest management unit uniformly. We support permit specific analysis for grazing deferment following wildfires.

WILDLIFE

Recovery Plan Considerations

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

Range livestock production is the most sustainable, least energy consumptive food production in the United States. Arizona Cattle Growers' Association members are committed to applying the best science regarding genetically valid and genuinely threatened Arizona native species to long term range management.

The conservation of native Southwestern warm water fish, frogs and other listed species have been advanced by rancher's range management and water development.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association supports the application of peer reviewed research in developing range management, water development and recovery plan policy as related to listed species.

Predator Hunts

(9/9/22) (Wildlife)

All wildlife in Arizona belongs to the State, and by statute, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is charged with and has the expertise to manage wildlife.

Arizona Cattle Growers opposes any legislation or ballot initiative that would put any limits on the Department's ability to manage wildlife by prohibiting the hunting of big game predators such as mountain lions or bears.

Wildlife Manager's Education Requirements

(9/9/22) (Wildlife)(Education)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association realizes the high priority the Game and Fish Department of Arizona places on education;

Diversity, vitality and numbers of wildlife populations are largely dependent on the quality and condition of rangeland resources we believe it is imperative that wildlife managers have a working understanding of rangeland ecosystems that wildlife are a part of.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association believes it would enhance the high quality of education and skill Arizona Game and Fish Department supports and demands of its wildlife managers to include in its education requirements a minor in range management and rangeland ecology.

Mexican Wolf

(9/9/22) (Wildlife)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association has examined the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf and has determined the following:

1. Questions still have not been answered with scientific rigor regarding the genetic purity of the released wolves or wolves being raised for possible future release;
2. The existing release program places disproportionate economic and security burdens upon already depressed rural communities;
3. The current wolf population--to say nothing of an increased population-- endangers the survival of the unique, valuable and irreplaceable American cultural heritage of western family ranching dating to the settlement of the West by early Hispanic explorer-ranchers of the southwest Mission period in the 16th-17th-18th centuries and by American pioneer settler families dating to the 1860's, constituting a historic resource that pre-dates the American Revolution;
4. Wolves have compounded predation upon game wildlife and domestic stock, which are already being seriously affected by bears, mountain lions and coyotes;
5. Wolves straying out of the recovery area in Arizona and New Mexico need to be captured and returned to the recovery area and that those engaging in predation on livestock must be promptly and permanently eliminated;

6. Reimbursement for livestock losses from wolf predation needs to come from federal moneys appropriated to an Agency of the United States;
7. The wolf reintroduction area should not be expanded nor should new wolf releases occur in any area without local approval;
8. ACGA should protect its members from harmful effects created by the Mexican Wolf
9. The Mexican wolf population reestablished in the Mexican wolf Experimental Population Area (MWEPA) is one nonessential experimental population. Critical habitat cannot be designated under the nonessential experimental classification, 16 U.S.C. 1539 (J)(2)(C)(ii)
10. ACGA should cooperate with neighboring states of New Mexico and Colorado, and continue interdepartmental cooperation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-APHIS, and Arizona Game and Fish Department;
11. The program is socially and economically indefensible and unsustainable. The harmful effects of the existing Mexican Wolf Program support termination of the existing program rather than its expansion.

The Mexican Wolf Program in Arizona and New Mexico has more than achieved the 1982 Recovery Plan goal of 100 individuals in the wild, wolf introductions across the United States have reached or exceeded recovery goal numbers identified to the public at the time of initial federal actions to list the species. Arizona Cattle Growers' Association advocates the delisting and defunding by the Congress of the United States and Fish and Wildlife Service of all listed wolves throughout the nation, including subspecies and listed hybrid wolves. If the existing Mexican wolf Program is not terminated, the expansion should no longer be supported or encouraged.

Endangered Species

(7/25/25) (Wildlife)

We support legislation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that would require judicial review to be completed within "190 days" of actual filing of an injunction.

The burden of proof shall be placed on the entity seeking the injunction.

Judicial review should only be based on best available science and not on unsubstantiated opinion.

All appeals are subject to the same legislation as the original filing.

ACGA believes funding for Multi Species Conservation Plans (MSCP) should be equitably shared by the water users that have created the habitat problem A MSCP addresses.

Any agency, organization or person petitioning that a listing classification be determined for any species in this state should be required to conduct DNA analysis on the petitioned species, at their cost, to ensure it is a unique, genetically pure species.

The Endangered Species Act should not disrupt historical uses of the land and it should respect a county's land use plan. The Act needs to give consideration to economic, social, cultural and historical impacts.

We support updating and modernizing the ESA to include the following major points:

1. All agency actions in the listing process must be judicially reviewable;
2. There must be more realistic timelines for determinations;
3. The scientific data used must be reliable, replicable and verifiable;
4. The ESA must not focus on single species management when that approach is counter to natural processes, making recovery of certain species dependent on killing other species (example: spotted and barred owls);
5. Listing petitions must have scientific integrity to pass the initial review by the agencies;
6. More transparency of listing decision subject matter is necessary;

7. We must replace coercive incentive programs with truly incentive based compensatory programs;
8. The cost of the ESA and its implementation should be borne by the general public and fully accountable on an annual basis;
9. The ESA must recognize that the costs of recovery should be borne by society at large, instead of by the landowner where a species is found;
10. Species that are listed and afforded the protections of the ESA should be limited to those species with a majority range within the borders of the United States. We have no control over management in other countries;
11. Ambiguous and subjective language must be eliminated within the ESA;
12. The term *conservation* is used throughout the ESA and is overly inclusive. It refers to all actions, programs, and efforts towards the wise use of natural resources and should not be used in the context of the ESA; and
13. Decision makers must be allowed to adapt and adjust the management of an ecosystem based upon new information.
14. Critical habitat designations should not be required at the time of listing but left to the discretion of the director during the recovery planning process.

Our efforts must be more focused on those species that are most in danger of extinction due to the direct measurable effects of human activity, and only when the modification of those activities will have a significant measurable effect on species survival.

When regulations or legislation regarding rare, threatened or endangered species, or environmental restrictions, alter agricultural practices, agricultural producers should be compensated for the cost of these altered agricultural practices. The need for listing distinct populations or arbitrary subspecies or otherwise common species must be eliminated.

After five (5) years if the species is not recovered it should be permanently de-listed.

Wildlife Releases

(7/25/25) (Wildlife)

The Arizona Game and Fish Department in cooperation with federal land management agencies, and wildlife interests have developed agreements and released both indigenous and non-indigenous wildlife on and/or in proximity to grazing allotments without involvement of the permittees or adjacent private land owner; and

Releases have resulted in loss of wildlife, created conflict between domestic livestock and wildlife, private land owners and the public, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association opposes any such releases or agreements being made without the full knowledge and consent of the permittee on either vacant or active grazing allotments, the land management agencies, the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Arizona Wool Producers Assn., and all land owners within the area that may be impacted. Furthermore, Arizona native species should not be introduced to areas of Arizona where that species has no prior history.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association opposes any releases without an in-depth study of the impacts on other wildlife, livestock, and the social, cultural, and economic impacts on local communities.

STATE & PRIVATE LAND RESOURCES

Trespass Laws:

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

We support laws that hold property owners harmless of consequences of trespassing by others. Individuals who trespass should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Firefighting companies should not trespass on private property without permission from the landowner unless it is to stop a fire that is life threatening (including livestock) or that involves any dwelling or permanent structure.

Recognizing the expense and continuing maintenance cost associated with the current posting requirements of A.R.S. 17-304, we support eliminating the ¼ mile interval posting. Posting of property corners and points of entry should serve as sufficient legal notification.

Vehicular Off-Road Traffic:

(9/9/24) (State and Private Lands, Federal Lands)

Vehicular off-road traffic has increased to the point where irreparable damage to natural resources and improved/unimproved roads has occurred.

ACGA recommends land management agencies assemble an updated enforceable map system that will designate specific "roads" for recreational use and provide a uniform method of enforcing off road vehicle regulations. Uses other than hunting would be allowed under appropriate permits

ACGA urges the Arizona Legislature to continue appropriate funding for the education and the enforcement of existing off road vehicle regulations, provide compensation to landowners and USFS/BLM and state allotment holders for damage and criminal trespass.

ACGA supports setting a speed limit on all improved and unimproved roads for all terrain (ATV) and off highway (OHV) vehicles. We support setting penalties high enough to deter violation of the law.

ACGA supports single-sourced mandatory education of off-road vehicle use developed by the AZ OHV Study Committee, Sheriff, Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Arizona State Forester, and Arizona Game & Fish Department.

ACGA supports redistributing citation revenue so that counties benefit from environmental Off-Road Vehicle citations.

ACGA supports using all of the funding received from the OHV decal to be put toward the enforcement of OHV laws.

ACGA encourages the manufacturers, vendors, dealerships and advertisers to provide programs that will educate OHV users of the potential for damaging the environment and of their responsibility to minimize such damage.

OHV equipment can only be used in Arizona in compliance with manufacturers recommendations and standards for use of that equipment.

OHV recreational sites and facilities should be developed in Arizona where members of the public can enjoy recreating with their vehicles without damaging grazing allotments on state or federal land.

Recreational Vehicle Enforcement and Damage Restoration Funding

(9//9/22) (State Land, Federal Land)

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association supports the implementation of a surcharge on recreational vehicle sale and rental at a federal, state, and/or county level to restore the resource damage on private, state trust and federal lands caused by these vehicles and to pay for state law enforcement officers to enforce laws pertaining to proper use of these vehicles.

Loss of Grazing Leases on State or Federal Lands to Clean Energy Facilities

(9/9/22) (State Land, Federal Land)

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association opposes the replacement of grazing on state or federal lands in favor of commercial leases such as clean energy facilities, solar or wind projects, unless the public authorities can secure the lessee a new lease that is of equal or greater value. All new solar and wind power generation projects on public lands should take into consideration current grazing and its effect on said grazing. Any loss of improvements, AUM's or overall ranch value shall be paid for by the new project owners at market

value. We believe clean energy facilities should only be established with the approval of the lessee or permittee

Wild/Unauthorized/Feral Horse & Burro

(9/9/22) (Federal Lands)

Wild/unauthorized/ feral horse and burro populations on public lands should be managed to be kept at or below the appropriate management level (AML). Like all other uses of the public lands, wild horses and burros must share the available resources. Should public land agencies not be able to manage the populations to the AML, then the excess populations should be removed from the lands through any means necessary for bringing the number in line with AML.

Feral horses and burro are abandoned and/or unauthorized livestock and therefore should not be classified as wild horses and should not qualify as protected under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 as amended. ACGA does not support the use of public funds for the creation of any new feral horse sanctuaries on Arizona public lands. ACGA does not support the importing or transportation of feral horses for the purpose of release.

ACGA supports the prompt, efficient and humane disposal of feral burros and horses on public federal lands in the interest of sustainable land management, with sale authority granted to the management agencies for the disposal of unadoptable animals.

Access to Water for Livestock and Wildlife:

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

Developed waters are critical for managing cattle distribution on ranches and by providing dependable water for wildlife. Camping, parking, or obstructing access for livestock and wildlife shall not be allowed within a quarter mile of developed water, whether a stock tank, trough, or trick tank. This distance should be enforced year-round by Arizona Game and Fish, local law enforcement, and land management agency law enforcement.

State Land Leases

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

We recommend that Arizona continue using the current grazing fee schedule. Due to the increasing incidence of gates left open and cut fences, ranchers are often faced with serious disruption of their operation and increased expenses. We recommend Arizona strictly enforce its current laws and regulations pertaining to state owned land, destruction of lease improvements, theft, licensing and permitting.

We request that the Arizona game and fish commission, state land department, bureau of land management and U.S. forest service inform other public land users, and the public in general, of the law.

We support the State Land Department's requirement for new lessees to maintain and continue the intended use of the lease to benefit the trust and long-term stewardship of the land.

We support the lengthening of the term of Arizona state agriculture leases/grazing limits up to 30 years.

We oppose any process which allows the fragmentation or "cherry picking" of state land parcels from within a ranching unit or agricultural lease which would result in a devaluation of the total ranching unit or agriculture operation and the loss of long-term revenue to the state school trust.

All leases of state land should provide for their preferential right of renewal, as provided in the Enabling Act, by current lessees, if they are in compliance with the provisions of the lease. Value and stewardship of land assets are enhanced when leaseholders have tenure. We strongly support this concept of stewardship in the leasing of our state lands.

When lawsuits are filed against a permittee and/or the managing land agency We support a cash bond being provided by the plaintiff equal to the full cash value of the permit to reimburse lessees for loss of production and associated legal costs pertaining to their state land leases.

We strongly recommend that the Arizona State Land Department institute a comprehensive program to evaluate agricultural/grazing leases on a fair and equitable basis for the welfare of both the state and the lessee. The cost of improvements on state leases should be weighed out so that the lessee is acknowledged financially as a major contributing factor toward making the land economically viable.

We support the current Administration and Management Discount Program in place by the Arizona State Land Department that is made available to lessees.

We are opposed to the Arizona State Land Department changing the lease classification without compensating the lessee for improvements.

Property Rights

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

We affirm in the strongest language possible our belief in the constitutional right to private property ownership. To protect those rights, we continue our efforts to protect private property rights and the rights of those who own land, timber or other valuable considerations associated with land ownership.

We oppose any government action that will abridge people's right to use their property for legitimate purposes unless there is full and equitable compensation for the reduction in the use of property.

We support the right of ranchers to hold on to their rights to own and use private property. We support legislation that affirms those rights.

Government entities should be required to perform an economic impact analysis before adopting new regulations or taking a government action that may result in a taking of private property such as open space, buffer strips, easements, viewsheds, or greenbelt requirements. We urge legislative bodies and the courts to recognize the reality and disastrous effects of partial takings through regulatory actions. We urge a national recognition that partial takings should be compensated. Therefore, the government should provide due process and compensation to the exact degree that an owner's right to use his property has been diminished by government action. We

recommend legislation providing maximum protection through compensation when government projects devalue adjoining private property. Furthermore, we believe that the just basis for compensation is fair market value or the economic loss to the landowner.

We support a policy of no net loss of private lands in Arizona and of not having private lands removed from the property tax rolls. We support legislation that requires the consent of the Arizona Legislature before any more private property is transferred into federal or state ownership.

We oppose any legislation that would allow public access to or through private property without permission of the property owner or authorized agent. We support legislation that requires government officials to notify property owners and obtain permission before going onto private property.

We call for review of all government regulations that encroach on the rights of property owners. We urge amendment or deletion of statutes or regulations that allow government agencies, either on their own determination or in collusion with other government agencies, to establish rules of control which interfere with individual property rights. Members or employees of government agencies acting outside the scope of their authority or in violation of the constitution should be held personally liable, either civilly or criminally, for any damage that might occur.

We believe that businesses, industries and ranchers who have to prove they are meeting environmental regulations should be reimbursed for their expenditures if they were meeting the requirements before the government agency questioned their performance.

We support legislation that would protect innocent private property owners from property confiscation in the event that illegal substances are found, stored or growing on private property without the landowner's knowledge or consent.

Private Access

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

Access across private lands to publicly held lands shall be by permission of the landowner or his agent,

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association suggests that "reasonable access" across private lands for legitimate uses of publicly held lands be determined on a case-by-case basis, on the ground, by the landowner(s) involved, a representative of the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and any other appropriate entities they may choose to include;

All conditions of access shall be established at such time as permission for access is granted.

When public access through private property to public land becomes closed, the agency responsible for those public lands shall obtain and maintain an access to that property across public land.

Eminent Domain and Condemned Property:

(7/25/25) (State and Private Lands)

The taking of property or easements from property owners should be permitted only for a public purpose when there is a clear-cut need for the betterment of the public good and the completion of the project is guaranteed. In cases where private property is taken, we support prompt, just and fair market compensation.

Any person owning property which is obtained by any governmental agency through condemnation procedures or by zoning regulation actions should have the option of being monetarily compensated or be offered an exchange of public property of equal value in another area of the county or state.

We further recommend, when parts of a parcel of land are seized through eminent domain, that not only the value of the part taken be considered for compensation, but also what future effect the taking will have on the entire parcel including future ranching operations that may be hampered or permanently interrupted

We oppose the use of eminent domain to condemn property in a manner inconsistent with the constitution of the state of Arizona for redevelopment purposes.

Eminent domain should not be used when the condemned property will ultimately wind up in private hands. Increased tax revenue should not be used as a definition of "public use" or "public benefit" under the powers of eminent domain.

The state should compensate landowners of properties that include navigable stream banks and beds if the state claims title to the land.

Estate and Capital Gains Tax

(7/25/25) (Legislative) (Ag Issues)

We support the complete, immediate and permanent elimination of inheritance and estate and capital gains taxes. Until permanent repeal is achieved, a fair and reliable way to transfer a business from one family generation to another should be developed. Such policy would exempt taxation on the first \$10 million dollars per individual and shall not exceed a tax rate of 20% after the \$10 million has been surpassed.

Agriculture Status for Property Tax Assessment

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

We recommend that in setting the value for agricultural lands, value be based upon current use; and oppose efforts to impose retroactive taxes and penalties on land sales based on future land uses. Tax assessors should not be authorized to change or interpret policy.

We believe ranch land value should be determined by evaluating typical leases, typical landowner expenses and typical lease frequency and practices in an area.

We support the agricultural tax classification for operations including but not limited to concentrated feeding operations, agri-tourism and agri-tainment. Further, we believe packing sheds, storage facilities and elevators are also agriculture and should be reclassified as such.

We support measures that simplify the appeals process regarding property taxes and want to eliminate unnecessary assessments based on automatic classification when an agricultural property is sold. Furthermore, we are opposed to regulations requiring agriculture operations to renew their agricultural tax status on a regular basis.

The Arizona State Legislature must recognize that the majority of Arizona ranchers need off-farm income to survive. Agricultural status must be based on agricultural use. Parcels used for agricultural production should qualify for agricultural classification under ARS 42-12152, regardless of whether the parcels are contiguous.

Assessors must be prohibited from demanding excessively intrusive and irrelevant information from agricultural status applicants such as but not limited to land management plans. Specifically, assessors must be prohibited from demanding statements of non-agricultural income from applicants for agricultural tax status. Non-agricultural income of the applicant is irrelevant to whether or not a property is being used for agriculture. Agricultural facilities should be considered agricultural use if it is used for sales of ranch products.

We support repeal of the requirement that all lessors and lessees of agricultural land submit annual lease information.

We request the Legislature revise the statutes concerning Agricultural status for tax classification of properties so that the language concerning a “reasonable expectation of profit” be eliminated and replaced with language requiring a minimum level of agricultural use, while allowing for periods of years when land must be taken out of production.

We will seek legislation allowing retroactive application and awarding of agricultural tax status in cases of repossessed ranchland.

Counties should not impose laws, rules, regulations or more restrictive interpretations of state or federal laws with respect to classifying agricultural property for property tax purposes.

Classification of real property for property tax purposes should be consistent with federal law in recognizing agriculture products as such until they are taken “out of bond”. Only the land and improvements dedicated to the sale or distribution of agricultural products after they are taken out of bond should be classified as commercial.

Fence Out Law:

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

We oppose any changes in the current Arizona fence out laws. We recommend that the “Subdivision Public Reports” issued by the Arizona Department of Real Estate—for distribution to prospective property buyers—of property outside of an incorporated area or no fence district, whether vacant, commercial, or residential land, contain information explaining Arizona fence out law, the responsibility of the owner to fence their property, and the definition of a legal fence. We support positive disclosure by all real estate sellers in closing escrow acknowledging fence out law and acceptance by the buyer—We believe the fence out law does not require the livestock owner to provide an ordinary duty of care to a motorist or any other persons encountering his livestock. Furthermore, we support legislation to clarify and strengthen fence out law.

Illegal Dumping

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

We oppose any attempts by the state land department to put agricultural leases at risk as a result of third-party illegal dumping. We strongly urge legislation increasing the penalties for illegal dumping. We urge increased enforcement on this matter and support the posting of signs similar to that of highway markers stating no dumping and also the penalties. Penalties should include a minimum amount of mandatory public service for anyone convicted of illegal dumping in addition to the monetary fines.

We support the use of state superfund money for cleanup of hazardous waste illegally dumped on private property by unknown persons.

The State of Arizona should require all county governments to provide adequate public refuse collection sites at no charge to the public. General tax revenues have funded this service ~~was~~ and should be used again. All refuse collection sites need to be open seven days a week. The charging of dumping fees, lack of refuse collection locations and restrictions of dumping hours all lead to illegal dumping on ranches and in desert areas the expense to clean up the illegal dumping far outweighs the cost of operating the refuse sites.

Ag Certainty

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

All regulations that impact agricultural operations should be clear, concise, reasonable, affordable, and implementable for the operation. Agricultural operations should be regulated on what they physically have in-place, not what could potentially be constructed in the future (such as regulating a lagoon as a digester because it could potentially be covered to capture gas). Regulations should be written in such a way that a layman can discern what is required. Air and water quality regulations should not contradict each other. Regulations that are not complete, under litigious proceedings which could affect the regulation's requirements, or have parts which have not been finalized, should not be put into effect. All regulatory development, policies, and interpretation should go through a transparent stakeholder process; internal regulatory agency memos and guidance documents are not acceptable ways to develop regulations, set regulatory policy, or determine how to interpret the regulations.

Agricultural operations should be given emission reduction credits for the installation, implementation and use of emissions reduction technology; these types of credit should be extended to both air and water quality improvement technologies and practices.

We are strong believers of environmental protection and support the voluntary use of reasonable, implementable, and cost-effective control technologies. Where regulatory changes mandate specific types of control technologies be installed, a reasonable time frame to implement and pay for the required new technologies should be provided. In addition, for those operations that have an existing control technology (voluntary or mandated), the timeframe should allow for the full depreciation of the existing control technology prior to a new technology being mandated.

County Fair and Department of Agriculture Funding

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

County Fairs Livestock and Agriculture Promotion Fund should be used exclusively for the purpose of promoting the livestock and agricultural resources, and not to be used at the will of county parks and recreation, or county fair departments, for other purposes and expenses when funding a county fair.

Frivolous Lawsuits

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

We recognize the right of individuals to seek redress. However, when individuals file frivolous suits, we feel this is a flagrant violation of this right, and that the person who filed the suit should pay the cost of such actions, including court costs.

Prosecution of Violators

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association reaffirms their commendation of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, all state livestock inspectors, and sheriffs' offices for their diligent investigations of livestock thefts, livestock and related personal property, vandalism and thievery with accompanying filing of formal complaints. We urge again that County Attorneys having jurisdiction vigorously prosecute all livestock law violators including those on Indian reservations. We urge judges to pronounce sentences commensurate with the crimes; and especially, that our members seek convictions rather than settle for restitution and/or compensation for losses.

Firearms

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to each citizen the right to keep and bear arms, we believe state or federal regulation of firearms to be an infringement on the rights of citizens.

We strongly affirm our right to bear arms.

We support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock Illegal Seizure

(9/9/22) (State Land, Federal Land)

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association opposes illegal seizure of livestock under the umbrella of federal or state law. We strongly support private property rights as they frame the right of ranchers to manage their own cattle in accordance with the law.

Livestock Inspection Services Authority:

(9/16/24) (State Land & Private Land)

We support livestock officers utilizing their authority to stop vehicles hauling livestock to verify health and ownership with probable cause.

State brand inspections should be required, and provided within 24 hours, when beef cattle are sold, slaughtered, or moved out of state.

Livestock inspectors and officers should only deal with state statutes rather than county ordinances.

Funding for inspection services for abandoned or neglected animals should come from the state general fund and/or penalties assessed on the offending party.

We encourage the department of agriculture to employ livestock inspectors and officers who are

Experienced in the livestock industry. We encourage the use of part-time inspectors.

We recommend the placement of livestock inspectors and officers throughout the State of Arizona (not just rural areas) with at least one inspector per county. Cattle Marketing and Price Discovery/Transparency (9/9/22) (Ag Issues) (Traceability)

ACGA supports legislation that would result in more competition between major packers and more price transparency from the packing industry.

Negotiated Cash Trade

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues) (Traceability)

ACGA supports establishing a minimum percentage of negotiated cash trade in the packing sector of the beef industry. The percentages should not to fall below current (July 23, 2022) levels.

Packer Concentration/Price Discovery/Transparency

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues) (Traceability)

We support aggressive enforcement of laws that prohibit monopolies and assure fair competition and fair-trade practices in livestock marketing. These laws include the Sherman Antitrust Act, the Clayton Antitrust Act and the Packers and Stockyards Act.

We support actions that would prohibit packers from directly or indirectly owning a captive supply of beef cattle for slaughter.

We support the establishment of a cattle contract library.

We support increasing the window for fed cattle scheduled for delivery to the packer from 7 days to not more than 14 days after the date on which the agreement for purchase is made.

Veterinary Training

(7/25/25) (Education)

We support veterinary training and certification programs in the state of Arizona to help alleviate the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the state.

Environmental Range Education

(7/25/25) (Education)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association recognizes that students attending public, private and charter schools in the State of Arizona have a right to benefit from accurate and factual education regarding the environment, and that these opportunities should include the presentation of diverse opinions,

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association encourages and supports accurate science based environmental education and the need for factual information regarding natural resources to be incorporated into an environmental

education curriculum. We support the programming of the Arizona Beef Council and the Arizona Farm Bureau Ag In The Classroom programs and will coordinate with them to present correct information regarding the beef industry.

Methane Emissions

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

We oppose any attempt to regulate methane emissions from ruminant animals under the Clean Air Act or any other legislative vehicle.

Animal Rights

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

We support the humane treatment of animals.

We are opposed to the concept of animal “rights” and oppose the expenditure of public funds to promote the concept of animal rights. We support the humane treatment of animals; however, we oppose any group or movement seeking to elevate concerns for the well-being of animals to a similar status as the rights of people.

We oppose initiatives/referendums/legislative movements -that move to create animal welfare public policy that dictates standards above sound veterinary science and best management practices.

We support increasing the penalties for individuals and groups that violate and destroy property, both public and private, in the name of animal rights.

Animal Abuse Reporting

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

We support a mandated requirement that any employee within an operation who witnesses animal abuse report the incident to the operation’s management within 48 hours or less. We oppose unauthorized imaging on private agricultural property. We encourage the aggressive prosecution of violators.

Non-Ambulatory Animal Handling

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

We support industry-coordinated, non-ambulatory animal handling educational activities and oppose additional unreasonable regulations.

We recommend:

1. The livestock industry opposes the shipment of non-ambulatory livestock from the ranch to livestock markets or auctions;
2. Non-ambulatory livestock be properly handled or treated on the ranch to avoid unnecessary suffering;

3. If the proper professional treatment on the ranch fails, non-ambulatory livestock be humanely transported to slaughter or be euthanized on the ranch and disposed of properly.
4. If livestock becomes non-ambulatory during transportation or while being held at livestock markets, such livestock receive appropriate veterinary treatment, and special arrangements be made to have such livestock immediately disposed of properly; we deplore illegal dumping of dead animals and insist that local and state authorities cooperate to prosecute to the fullest extent those who illegally dump dead animals;
5. The livestock industry supports additional research and evaluation of livestock husbandry including humane methods for the movement of non-ambulatory livestock, design of livestock production, handling and transportation systems;
6. The livestock industry encourages aggressive initiatives within its ranks to communicate the best modern animal husbandry and handling practices, including but not limited to:
 - a. Methods to prevent livestock from becoming non-ambulatory;
 - b. Information on practical and acceptable methods for the humane movement of non-ambulatory livestock; and
 - c. Facility designs that promote the safe and humane production and movement of livestock.

The continued support of non-inspected custom kill operations that are so vital to the livestock industry.

Brand Inspection

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

State brand inspections should be required, and provided within 24 hours, when beef cattle are sold, slaughtered, or moved out of state.

Livestock inspectors should only deal with state statutes rather than county ordinances.

Funding for inspection services for abandoned or neglected animals should come from the state general fund and/or penalties assessed on the offending party.

We encourage the Department of Agriculture to employ livestock inspectors who are experienced in the livestock industry. We encourage the use of part-time inspectors.

We recommend the placement of livestock inspectors throughout the state of Arizona (not just rural areas) with at least one inspector per county. Furthermore, cattle should be inspected at feedlots when there is a change of ownership.

Arizona Cattle Growers recognizes the authority of livestock officers/inspectors to allow shipment of fresh branded cattle after inspection by the officer/inspector at the ranch.

If someone is convicted of rustling cattle or altering brands; they are permanently banned from using a self-inspection book.

LABOR AND IMMIGRATION

Border Patrol Actions

(9/9/22) (Border)

ACGA believes that the border patrol should be held accountable and required to report damage to fences, improvements, and livestock while engaged in the lawful operations of border security. Any damage to property while engaged in security operations should be reported and the individual rancher that incurred the damage compensated in a timely manner.

Border Security

(9/9/22) (Border)

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association strongly supports all lawful methods to secure our nation's border with Mexico, including support for local law enforcement to stop violations of state law at the border.

FOOD SAFETY & DISEASE CONTROL

Animal Health

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues)

The Arizona livestock industry and the general public depend upon State government and the Department of Agriculture for assurances of animal health, public health, and issues of ownership of livestock for animal identification.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association will work with the Department of Agriculture and the State Legislature to ensure that these vital public functions of health and livestock brand inspection remain viable.

Shortage Of Food Animal Vets

(9/9/22) (Education)

Arizona is experiencing a shortage of rural food animal veterinarians; therefore, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association supports the University of Arizona's efforts to address the shortage of food animal veterinarians.

Screw Worm Control

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association commends all of the cooperating parties in the Screw Worm Eradication Program for their past efforts and success in ridding the United States of screw worms,

ACGA urges continued efforts to completely eradicate screw worms from Mexico and Central America and to establish a permanent barrier in Panama, the most cost-effective measure to forever protect the North American continent from re-infestation.

ACGA supports feeder cattle imports from Mexico contingent upon strict adherence to USDA

inspection and treatment protocols.

ACGA strongly requests adequate federal funding to accomplish this goal.

Agriculture Products

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association encourages the expansion of all beef markets with potential benefits for our members.

ACGA supports the Arizona Department of Agriculture's "Arizona Grown" Program and strongly urges the Department to coordinate with ACGA leadership to expand this program to include animal agriculture more fully.

We support the efforts of all groups in promoting the consumption of all agricultural commodities. We urge the continued development of a program to promote the positive image of beef by the ACGA.

Sustainable Agriculture

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Sustainable agriculture refers to an integrated system of plant and animal production that will, over the long term, satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends, makes the most efficient use of both renewable and nonrenewable resources, sustains the economic viability of agricultural operations and enhances the quality of life for both agricultural producers and society as a whole.

The term "sustainable agriculture" should include all agricultural practices, including conventional agriculture, that meet the above definition.

Bovine Trichomoniasis

(7/23) (Ag Issues)

We support the enforcement of the existing trichomoniasis rule as of 7/23/23. We support voluntary testing of bulls on cattle operations. We support testing bulls at sale barns. We support educational efforts for ranchers related to trichomoniasis. Proposals for amendment to the current rule as of 7/23/23 should be evaluated by whether they are technically feasible for producers to implement and whether the proposal's benefit outweighs the cost of implementation.

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Funding

(7/25/25) (Education)

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona, as part of the land grant university system, is responsible for three major functions in service to the people of Arizona: Extension Education, Resident Instruction, and Research.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association strongly urges the legislature to continue to fund the College of Agriculture with the line-item budget.

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association will work with other industry organizations to identify producer needs and communicate those needs to the university.

We strongly urge the state to provide the funding that allows the University of Arizona to fill vacant cooperative extension agent positions throughout the state.

Synthetic/Imitation Meat Products

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues) (Education)

We oppose the labeling of products from alternative sources, including but not limited to lab-grown animal cells, synthetic creations from insects, plants, and non-animal components, as “meat”, “beef”, “chicken”, or “pork.”

We oppose the use of misleading marketing labels that lead consumers to believe that lab-grown products are better nutritionally and/or environmentally than traditional, naturally grown meat.

Imitation products should not be labeled as meat harvested in the traditional manner.

We support legislation that defines “meat” as coming from a live animal.

We support USDA, not FDA, oversight of synthetic lab-grown meat-like products.

Processing of Meat and Importation from Mexico

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

Arizona Cattle Growers supports policy allowing the movement of Arizona cattle into Mexico for slaughter and the meat being returned to consumers as an Arizona product.

Controlled Substances for Veterinary Use

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

ACGA supports allowing licensed veterinarians to carry with them, in their vehicles, such controlled substances that are legally registered to their premises.

Animal Disease Lab

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Be it resolved that we strongly urge the continuation of the University of Arizona Animal Disease Diagnostic and Toxicology Laboratory.

Hoof and Mouth Disease

(7/25/25) (Ag Policy)

We recommend that ACGA work closely with the state veterinarian to develop an emergency management plan to deal with any outbreak of hoof and mouth disease in Arizona or neighboring states. USDA border ports entry inspection must be diligent and remain closed if there is any evidence of Hoof and Mouth.

Beef Quality Assurance Support

(7/25/25) (Ag Issues)

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association believes that it is our responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product and we support research and education efforts, including the Arizona Ranchers Beef Quality Assurance Program, directed to that end.

Arizona Livestock Food Safety

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues)

The Arizona livestock industry and the general public depend upon State government and Department of Agriculture for assurances of animal health, public health, and issues of ownership of livestock for animal identification.

Arizona Cattle Growers Association will work with the Department of Agriculture and the State Legislature to ensure that these vital public functions of health and livestock brand inspection remain viable.

Arizona Department of Agriculture has the primary responsibility for enforcing Arizona's animal health protection network. The University of Arizona has diagnostic and education responsibilities to provide an effective survey and detection program for Arizona's animal health programs.

ACGA supports utilizing all available funding sources including but not limited to local, state, Homeland Security and other federal funding to implement the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team "ALIRT" program.

WATER

In the State of Arizona, a water right is an individual property right owned by the property owner. These rights are connected to the land and should be understood as such, not as part of larger water systems. Water owners should be able to use their water resources as they see fit, subject only to traditional background property restrictions and long-standing Arizona water regulations. This property is the owners to use or not. ACGA supports water policy that affirmatively protects existing ranching use of groundwater and minimizes regulation.

Water is tied to the land. Therefore, we believe the water should be left in rural areas to serve the agricultural and economic needs of those communities. Water farming or other schemes to transfer rural water to meet the water deficits of urban areas are dangerous practices and should be forbidden. They only serve to promote unsustainable growth and destroy rural economies. The central goal of future water policy in this state must be the modernization of all water infrastructure in the maintenance of a healthy and resilient watershed.

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association supports all efforts to augment the water supply through new sources from outside the State such as through desalinization plants, or from within the state, such as through water recycling.

Groundwater

(9/9/22) (Water)

Groundwater is governed by the doctrine of “reasonable use.” This means that if a landowner makes efforts to access the water, they have the right to make reasonable use of that water.

We support grandfathered irrigation rights on lands with historic water use, including those within an Active Management Areas (AMA). Further, there should be no withdrawal fee associated with the use of one’s own groundwater.

Groundwater should maintain its separate identity, whether used alone or in combination with another water resource.

Surface Water

(9/9/22) (Water)

ACGA fully support a statutory prohibition on the transfer of any state river water entitlements away from communities along or near the respective rivers. This more specifically include entitlements to water from the Colorado and Gila Rivers. Allowing the transfer of this water outside the counties where it is found would compromise the availability of water to agricultural communities.

ACGA also support a legislative remedy for those users negatively affected by adjudications which have designated their surface water as “sub flow”. Any water designated as “sub flow” should statutorily have the same original registration date as the surface water registration.

The allocation of water towards agricultural use should be the main priority of the Coolidge Dam. Thus, we support a statutory minimum requirement of water that must be released for agricultural use in the area prior to any other allocation.

Water rights for irrigation should take precedence over water claims for maintenance of “riparian” area or for the benefit of “endangered” or threatened species.

Water Farms

(9/9/22) (Water)

ACGA opposes the practice of water farming and believes it should be banned in our state. Arizona’s traditional practice of leaving landowners in control of the water resources on their property is based on the understanding that they will have an incentive to use that water in a responsible way and preserve it for future generations. This has made our state a world leader in agricultural and beef production. Out-of-state

companies have no such incentive. These corporations are purchasing rural land, sucking it dry of water, and moving on.

ACGA opposes the right of out-of-state corporations of buying rural land and selling the attached water resources. Entities that are not incorporated and that do not have their principal place of business in Arizona should be required to use any water rights attached to land owned in Arizona, on that land.

Furthermore, the sale of water, by any water right owner, beyond the place of use registered with the claim for a right with the state would be banned.

AIR & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Water Forfeiture

(9/9/22) (Water)

ACGA opposes the current water forfeiture statute by which water unused for five years or more escheats to the state, enabling other users to take these water rights from the owners and divert them to some other use. ACGA supports any legislative efforts to completely repeal this law.

Metering Water Wells

(07-23) (Water)

ACGA opposes the metering of all wells registered and owned by Arizonans, or entities which are registered and have their principal place of business in this state, and which are located outside of AMA areas (where metering is required).

We recognize that there is no good way to monitor groundwater levels and use without metering, but believe that the best way to promote responsible water use is to leave it in the able hands of Arizona ranchers who will use it responsibly, with an eye towards future generations.

We do supports metering wells owned by out-of-state, non-resident or foreign corporations – those who have no incentive to protect Arizona’s groundwater. This enables the monitoring of their use of Arizona’s groundwater, and ultimately, the protection of our water resources.

Federal Jurisdiction over Ephemeral water Features in Arizona

ACGA opposes federal assertion of jurisdiction over ephemeral features in the State.

Drilling New Non-Exempt Wells

(9/9/22) (Water)

The Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association supports a limit on drilling new non-exempt wells or changing native soil

into production in an area for a five-year period when the people in the affected area support the limitation by a vote.

ACGA ADMINISTRATION

Five-Year Policies

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues)

The policies herein remain in force for a period of five years unless amended or reaffirmed. The date preceding each policy statement is the year it originated, was amended or was reaffirmed as ACGA policy. ACGA policy books are made available to all members upon request.

Policy Development Committee Reports

(9/9/22) (Communication)

We direct the officers and staff of the ACGA to publish the annual meeting policy report with committee recommendations for amendments, deletions and additions and send it to each member not less than fourteen days prior to the annual meeting.

Resolutions Process

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues)

Any voting member, county organization, standing committee, or special called committee may propose new policy or policy amendments. Proposals must be submitted to the appropriate committee for review.

Committees will review and further policy recommendations to the resolutions committee prior to summer convention.

The Resolutions Committee will meet prior to Summer and/or Winter Conventions to review the policy additions and changes brought forth by each committee. The committee will review grammar, spelling, and confirm the policy report is ready for deliberation by the membership at Summer and Winter Conventions. Policy that is not ready for the membership meeting will be returned to the committee for further discussion.

Procedure for Late Resolutions

(9/9/22) (Ag Issues)

Late resolutions are those resolutions, which address an issue that has surfaced in the time period between County Annual Meetings, committee meetings, and the State Annual Meeting.

A written copy of the resolution shall be furnished to the state resolutions committee.

After presentation of late resolutions, the State Resolutions Committee shall meet to determine if these resolutions meet the criteria of solving a problem which has surfaced late in the policy development process. Those resolutions that meet this test will be included in the Committee Reports and recommendations offered

to the voting membership. The committee shall return those resolutions, which do not meet the test, to the sponsor.

Late resolutions may be introduced from the floor by a voting member at the committee meeting during the Summer Convention and/or Winter Convention. Upon adoption by the committee, late resolutions will be forwarded to the voting membership at the general membership meeting.

Adopted as of the 25th of August 2025.



Brian deGanahl, President
Date 8/25/2025



Stephanie Teskey, Secretary
Date 8/25/2026