

RANGE MANAGEMENT

1. WEEDS AND PESTS (revised '15)

WHEREAS: It has been mandated by the South Dakota Legislature to develop county weed and pest boards for the control of noxious weeds and declared pests in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS: The total burden of funding these boards have been placed upon the taxpayers of each county; and

WHEREAS: We have many combines and farm industry machines entering our state from other areas of the United States with little or no inspection; and

WHEREAS: Noxious weeds and pests (such as prairie dogs) on federal and state lands are spreading and contaminating private lands; and

WHEREAS: The problem of noxious weeds and declared pests is statewide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association requests that; 1. State funding be appropriated to the Weed and Pest Control Program to lessen the burden upon the counties and local taxpayers.

2. South Dakota Ports of Entry establish a strict inspection of combines, farm industry machines and seed entering the state.

3. All federal and state land management agencies implement a more effective weed and pest control program on federal and state land.

4. The governor, declare all State and Federal highway rights-of-way be mowed and/or sprayed in a timely manner for noxious weed control, maintenance, and safety purposes. Adjacent landowners will be encouraged to mow without cost.

5. That holders of any private and/or public easement be responsible for mowing, spraying, and managing noxious weeds in an effective, timely manner.

2. EPA PHOSPHOROUS ('99)

WHEREAS: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to use Phosphorous in place of Nitrogen to limit the amount of manure applied per acres of land.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association does not support using Phosphorous to limit land application of manure unless site specific scientific study show phosphorous to be a problem.

3. PROPER RANGE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS: It is recognized that the better plant populations serve as a hedge against major livestock reduction caused by drought; and

WHEREAS: Many undesirable plants can be controlled with competition from desirable and vigorous forage plants; and

WHEREAS: Periods of grazing rest or deferments have been universally shown to improve plant vigor and favor better plant populations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association challenge each rancher to adopt his own management system that will provide for proper stocking and a period of rest during the growing season for each pasture

4. RANGELAND INSURANCE PROGRAM ('15)

BE IT RESOLVED: Producers should be able to sign up for NAP and Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Sign-up period should be conducted in a timeframe allowing producers to know results of previous year before committing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Results should be based on a combination of Rainfall Index and Vegetative Index satellite readings, and producers should be provided an appeals process which includes ground survey for actual conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Inadequate results from the satellite imagery should suggest the native hay measurements program should be implemented as a tried-and-true program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: 100% loss should be determined on 30% greenness factor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association encourages the USDA Risk Management Agency to provide a program that is cost effective to protect the producers of South Dakota from catastrophic losses of rangeland.

5. GRASSHOPPER REDUCTION PROGRAM ('15)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The state and federal government is requested to help find grant moneys for cost sharing the grasshopper reduction programs on private land to keep the cost as low as possible to increase producer participation.

6. GRASSLAND CONVERSION ('11)

WHEREAS: Grazing lands are essential to the cow/calf and yearling producer and are the foundation of the livestock industry, and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS: Federal farm program payments and crop insurance are a valuable tool; however, current federal policy often has the unintended consequence of encouraging investors and speculators to convert grazing land with no previous cropping history to tillable acres, and

WHEREAS: Current farm program payments and federal crop insurance policy often creates an uneven economic playing field between grazing and cropping interests that often makes it difficult for ranchers (particularly young operators) to remain economically competitive,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association will work to include a Farm Bill a provision that fully respects an individual's free market property right to convert grazing land without previous cropping history to cropland; however, such converted tracts of land will be ineligible for all federal subsidy supports, including commodity payments and crop insurance, on new cropland acres put into production by breaking grassland with no previous cropping history.