

## 50. ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

We will aggressively work to encourage growth and enhancement of the livestock industry in Illinois.

We support:

1. Seeking legislation to preempt anticipatory nuisance claims against owners of proposed livestock facilities or expansions to existing facilities, provided that such facilities are in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and the construction or expansion of the facility has been approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) under the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA).
2. Encouraging the IDOA to cease interpretation of cases or specific situations as "inherent in the law" when no documented or otherwise noted explanation can be found in the LMFA (especially with using this language to explain that any expansion leads to the requirement of construction of a storage facility).
3. Encouraging all agencies involved with livestock facilities management jurisdiction to interact and cooperate so as to develop greater consistency, uniformity, and practicality in rules and regulations.
4. The care of livestock through accepted management practices which will provide for better health and safety for the livestock while maintaining acceptable production levels.
5. The research and development of approved alternatives to livestock rendering including incineration, composting systems, and approved burial methods.
6. Encouraging farmer participation and adoption of quality assurance programs.
7. Informing the general public and the food industry concerning livestock handling procedures which complement accepted livestock management practices, and we will be involved in the development of any standards.
8. IDOA being the entity which shall administer the laws and regulations regarding the care of livestock and companion animals.
9. Participating in supply chain coalitions to proactively address issues threatening the future viability of the livestock industry.
10. The use of signage notifying employees that the use of unauthorized audio, photographic, and video devices of any kind are prohibited in the workplace. Educational programs on employee-employer relationships and issues should be offered to members.
11. Establishing a more aggressive and visible role in monitoring animal activists' activities, such as identifying sources of funding, legislative initiatives, and membership enrollment. We will work with these groups as needed to ensure complete and accurate public statements about animal agriculture.
12. Counter efforts against the livestock industry by continuing to develop a public relations and public information strategy in cooperation with other agricultural interests to provide accurate information to the media concerning animal agriculture.
13. Enforcement of the laws which protect animal production and continue to support criminal penalties for trespassing and damage that disrupts livestock production and/or research facilities.
14. Providing information in conjunction with the county Farm Bureaus to the media and the public about the importance of the livestock industry. Assistance should also be provided to individual farmers to help them to deal with the public relations challenges faced by the livestock industry.
15. Encouraging livestock exhibitors to only use practices based on responsible animal husbandry. Livestock exhibitors should continue to be educated with regard to what constitutes responsible, ethical, and accepted animal welfare practices, as they relate to the competitive exhibition of livestock.
16. Encouraging livestock show officials to enforce the "Code of Ethics" and penalize violators appropriately.
17. Seeking amendments to the Humane Care for Animals Act and the Illinois Administrative Code that limit the authority of approved volunteer animal investigators that are contracted through the county Humane Societies, to companion animals only, and make those investigators primarily responsible to the IDOA.

We oppose federal, state, or local legislation and regulations that are promoted in the name of “humane” treatment in situations where science shows those regulations would, in actual practice, adversely affect the health, longevity, or productivity of livestock and the economic viability of the operation.