

BIC Defeats Structure Proposal, Sets Stage For New Talks

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Beef Industry Council (BIC) of the Meat Board, the Federation of State Councils, defeated by a 61 percent no vote a proposal to support the current Oversight Committee beef structure proposal.

Topping concerns about the plan is the consolidation of lobbying and checkoff governance through the same organization with a "seamless" executive committee made up of dues-payers only.

While not approving the current structure proposal, the 91 producers and industry representatives who make up the BIC board passed a second resolution that directs the BIC Executive Committee "to work with and through the current and future Oversight Committee and transition teams to develop a plan for greater focus,

coordination and cost effectiveness." Meat Board directors passed this and a companion motion which also commits the Meat Board to support the effort.

BIC Chairman Ron Curtis said the Federation has long suggested structural change and remains committed to the principles that led to the current structure proposal. He said the BIC will continue to work to develop a consumer-focused structure with programs built around the eight leverage points outlined in the Beef Industry Long-Range Plan.

"BIC directors continue to believe it would be good for the beef industry to focus its efforts around a single plan, work more cooperatively, eliminate bureaucracy and be cost effective. To succeed, however, a plan must be realistic and workable and must

have strong industry consensus supporting it," said Curtis, a Hastings, Iowa cattle feeder.

For the past two years, Meat Board Chairman Jim Hauge said, Meat Board and BIC have been part of the process to develop, through a consensus, an organizational structure that would help the industry become more effective and efficient.

"There continue to be many questions and concerns about the form of the proposed organization, however, especially the consolidation of lobbying and checkoff governance," the Leith, North Dakota beef and pork producer said. "Our directors believe we can find a structure proposal that will achieve industry goals. In the months ahead the Meat Board and Beef Industry Council will contin-

ue to be part of the process of consensus-building.

"It always has been the Meat Board objective to achieve a realistic and doable structure that was good for the beef industry. Although this plan isn't acceptable, our action today sets the stage for us to actively contribute to a consensus solution," Hauge said.

Cattlemen's Association Sets Information Seminar

PEACH BOTTOM (Lancaster Co.) — The Southeast Regional Cattlemen's Association will be presenting an information seminar on the applications of dynamic programming for beef rearing

(maximizing your feedstuffs for profit) and Feeding and Fertility in beef cows.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. David Galligan and Dr. Jim Ferguson on Wednesday, Feb. 15,

at 7:30 p.m. in the Woerner Amphitheater New Bolton Center of the University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square.

All are welcome. Check in at main entrance.

For information contact Bobbi McMullen, Secretary, Southeast Regional Cattlemen's Association, 2384 Robert Fulton Hwy., Peach Bottom, PA 17563 (717) 548-3282 or Dan Siegfried, Director, 150 Pleasant Dr. Nottingham, PA 19362, (610) 932-2117.

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(Continued from Page A28)

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'94 Disaster Signup Set

Signup for 1994 disaster benefits ends on March 31.

Benefits are paid on losses exceeding 40 percent (35 percent if the crop is insured) of normal production. All crops, including nursery stock, are covered by this program. Payments are calculated on eligible losses at 65 percent of the market price as established by the Farm Service Agency.

Producers filing application will be required to provide documented evidence of their efforts to produce a normal crop. This could include fertilizer, lime and pesticide bills, spray schedules, or any evidence of production activities. Evidence of actual production could include sales receipts, harvest records, weigh tickets, general sales records, or Farm Service Agency bin measurements for grain in storage.

Normal production for program crops such as corn will be the Farm Service Agency assigned yield. Producers of nonprogram crops such as peaches may establish a proven yield for the crop by providing sales receipts for any of the past three years. Growers unable to provide sales receipts will use the Farm Service Agency assigned yield.

Any grower suffering crop losses in 1994 should contact the Farm Service Agency Office (formerly ASCS) in the Fairlane Village Mall for details.



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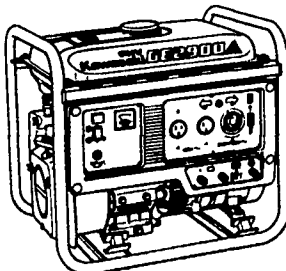
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Also in the March issue read about how the Indians made Maple syrup

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