

California Wool Growers Association

Membership Resolutions

FOREWARD

The following are current policies of the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA). CWGA resolutions stand as adopted for a period of five years, unless amended or deleted by action of the Board of Directors. At the end of that five-year period, resolutions are dropped unless extended for another five-year period by a vote of the Board of Directors. CWGA works cooperatively with the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) on Federal issues and also refers to the ASI policy manual in order to unify the voice of the California sheep rancher.

KEY TO POLICY CODES

First two digits indicate the year adopted;
Next two digits indicate resolution number at the time of passage;
Last two digits indicate the year the resolution expires.

Note: Policies renewed for additional years will retain the number of the original year adopted with the renewal or revision date listed.

Example: 95-01-06

95 indicates year adopted

01 indicates the resolution number

06 indicates the year the resolution expires

ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE ISSUES

95-06-18 ANIMAL CARE PRACTICES AND FAIR PRACTICES

Readopted: August 19, 2017 – Cambria, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS the Sheep Industry Practices have been adopted for the industry

WHEREAS California's sheep producers produce the highest quality wool and lamb, with food safety and animal care being a priority

WHEREAS Animal Care and Handling protocols have been adopted for the industry through the National Sheep Quality Assurance Program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA continue to take a proactive stand in supporting standards that are set concerning food safety, animal care and show ring ethics in cooperation with the University of California Cooperative Extension, American Sheep Industry Association, fairs, expositions, lamb processor and sheep producers and other sheep experts.

Sheep, as well as rigorously explore the multi-causal nature of disease and death in BHS such as range conditions, transplacental policy, nutrition, mineral deficiency, predations, adverse winter, observed density dependent decrease in reproduction and increase in mortality through well designed epidemiological studies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA continues to pursue actions that will protect producers' grazing privileges as well as herd health for both species until conclusive science addresses the aforementioned issue of perceived disease transmission under range conditions.

95-13-20 SCRAPIE – CDFA RECOGNITION

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the work that USDA/CDFA has done in controlling Scrapie in sheep in the State of California needs to be recognized.

WHEREAS the CWGA wishes to compliment the Department in its efforts in attempting to eradicate this disease.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA encourages USDA/CDFA continue its scrapie program.

98-07-18 SCRAPIE CONTROL

Amended: August 2008 – Carson Valley, NV

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS scrapie control is an important part of a sheep quality assurance program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA Animal Health Committee work with the California Department Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be an active participant in the development of the National Scrapie Eradication Program.

00-01-20 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Amended: September 17, 2005 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFSL) is a vital necessity for the protection of humans and animals in California from the introduction of exotic diseases affecting animals and zoonotic disease affecting both animals and humans, and

WHEREAS the CAHFSL is necessary for the early detection of these catastrophic diseases before they become widespread, and

WHEREAS the CAHFSL has already taken significant budget reductions, and

WHEREAS additional reductions will significantly reduce the necessary effectiveness of the CAHFSL 's ability to detect disease for the protection of animal welfare and prevention of animal and zoonotic-caused human disease; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA advise the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and appropriate legislative groups that the sheep industry strongly urges the state to assure adequate budgetary support to CAHFSL.

03-01-21 NATIONAL TRACEABILITY PROGRAM

Readopted: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Amended: August 23, 2011 – Bass Lake, CA

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the CWGA recognizes the need for a National Traceability program; and

WHEREAS the current Federal Scrapie Eradication Program is in place and should satisfy any new requirements of a Federal Traceability program; and

WHEREAS a National Traceability Program should not result in the impediment to interstate or intrastate movement of livestock, particularly animals designated for slaughter including adult culls by the requirement of individual animal id on official health certificates. The presence of the "ID" should be sufficient for transport to slaughter.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the CWGA will work with the California State and Federal Agencies as an active participant in the development of an economically feasible and responsibly managed National Traceability Program.

11-09-21 **ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN FOOD ANIMALS**

Amended: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Passed: August 23, 2011 – Bass Lake, CA

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS there is widespread concern and misperception regarding factors contributing to antimicrobial resistance; and

WHEREAS scientific evidence does not support the claim that prudent, as scientifically allowed, antimicrobial usage in food animals is a contributing factor to the development of antimicrobial resistance

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA encourages sheep producers to become trained and certified through the ASI Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance program and practice judicious and prudent use of antimicrobials in treating and preventing disease conditions in sheep.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

93-01-21 **SHEEP/BIGHORN SHEEP RESEARCH**

Amended: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Passed: August 26, 1993

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the current regulatory precedent that separation of domestic sheep and bighorn sheep populations will protect populations of bighorn sheep from morbidity and mortality due to respiratory disease is flawed, as the precedent is based upon limited scope of published research and doesn't consider the multiple factors that other animal populations contribute to the development of fatal respiratory disease. Therefore the current regulatory approach is based primarily on case law using these limited data, without consideration that population-based problems can result from multiple factors influencing interactions between the host, infectious agents and the environment, and

WHEREAS the evidence upon which the claims of disease transmission risk from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep is inconclusive, a thorough survey of existing wild bighorn sheep populations to characterize the differences in thriving populations and those that have experienced 'die-offs' is necessary. This research should be conducted by researchers with expertise in population-based surveys, and the following factors need to be statistically characterized as follows: host genetics; nutrient availability and content (water, protein, energy and trace elements); pathogen virulence not limited to respiratory agents; and interaction with other domestic and wildlife species and environmental influences, and

WHEREAS other ruminant species both wild and domestic, may carry pathogenic microorganisms which could be transmitted to existing susceptible bighorn sheep populations, it must be acknowledged that multiple species have bacterial and viral flora in common that may

play a role in bighorn sheep disease, but that some bighorn populations already possess immunity or resistance to respiratory pathogens, and

WHEREAS there is limited published, generally accepted, and truly “peer reviewed” scientific research that clearly defines the risk of disease transmission between domestic sheep grazing under range conditions and bighorn sheep nearby,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since it is imperative that the concept of species separation is validated by research, that CWGA pursue efforts to cause the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA/APHIS, and USDA/ARS to work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, state universities and producers in devising reasonable scientific studies by independent scientists to determine the influence of domestic sheep on the health of Big Horn Sheep. These agencies, universities and producers must also rigorously explore through well-designed epidemiological studies, methods to provide population immunity to bighorn populations, and consider the multi-causal nature of disease and death in bighorn sheep, such as range conditions, transplacental policy, nutrition-mineral deficiency, predation, stress factors, observed-density-dependent decrease in reproduction and increase in mortality.

94-02-19 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM

Readopted: September 11, 2009 - Bakersfield, CA
Expires: 2019

WHEREAS the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not address social and economic impacts to property owners and public lands permittees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA continue its work to modify the ESA to include social and economic impacts relative to grazing on public lands and the protection of private property rights.

95-19-20 DESERT TORTOISE

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA
Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA
Expires: 2020

WHEREAS listing of the desert tortoise as a threatened species significantly affected ranchers in California.

WHEREAS the grazing permits of many ranchers have been placed under increased burdensome regulation as allotment management plans are rewritten and the Section 7 consultation continues.

WHEREAS lessee input into both the listing and the potential management within areas defined as desert tortoise habitat have been severely restricted or eliminated, now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Public Lands Council, in concert with the CWGA and the California Cattlemen's Association and other relevant organizations, express our continued concerns with regulation writing process which is ongoing as a result with the listing of the Desert Tortoise as a threatened species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these organizations seek access to the decision-making process within the U.S. Department of Interior to assure that the interests of livestock producers are recognized and accounted for in any management plan for the desert tortoise.

16-01-21 INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ENDANGRED SPECIES ACT

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not address social and economic impacts to property owners and public lands permittees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA support the removal of federal and California ESA protection for wolves, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA work to change the state and federal ESAs so they can't be misused in the future, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA cooperate with agricultural and other organizations to accomplish this.

ENVIRONMENT

95-14-20 WEST MOJAVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS one of the first biodiversity plans in the nation has been proposed to manage the West Mojave and its 9.2 million acres, and,

WHEREAS public and private rangelands are being proposed to be regulated more than ever along with being proposed to be eliminated as rangelands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA will work with all grazing agencies that are proposing such a plan to improve this condition for the sheep grazers.

95-20-20 DESERT PLAN

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS in 1976, Congress mandated the California Desert Plan, which took four years in the making, the input of thousands of individuals, the expense of millions of dollars, 8 million dollars in the initiation, and approximately 50 million dollars in the implementation since, and a tremendous amount of work and effort before its approval in 1980.

WHEREAS that plan has been in force and effect since that date and has been cited as "one of the most far reaching regional plans ever undertaken in the U.S."

WHEREAS the present plan protects the interests of preservationists while recognizing the needs of miners, ranchers, and utility companies.

WHEREAS legislation has been introduced which would drastically affect the land use of almost all of the California desert counties and drastically limit multiple use of the desert by tourists, miners and for grazing and for the military.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA opposes legislation which substantially changes the California Desert Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CWGA supports the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management in the development and the continuation of the California Desert Plan in the California Desert Conservation Area and the multiple use and sustaining yield concepts therein.

00-01-20 PRIVATE LAND CONDEMNATION

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: September 9, 2000 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2020

BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA opposes the condemnation of private lands by a public entity to mitigate adverse environmental impacts caused by that entity.

00-02-21 ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

Amended: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Passed: September 9, 2000 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2021

BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA support grazing policies based on sound scientific data regarding the positive effects of managed grazing on the environment and information from Universities to correct the anti-grazing policies of the state and federal agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and require that the potential benefits of grazing, as a land and resource management tool, should be constructively considered for all units administered by the government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and that state and federal agencies and departments be required to show cause for reduction or elimination of grazing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that land removed from grazing will be managed for fuel load. without fire which pollutes California air and increases carbon footprint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that agencies should identify alternative grazing allotments when removing land from grazing. As part of the agency policy alternate viable grazing allotments should be considered. Positive effects of managed grazing on the environment should be recognized.

00-03-20 FENCING RIPARIAN AREAS

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Amended: September 17, 2005 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS there is a conflict of opinion on whether or not the complete exclusion of livestock from riparian areas by fencing is necessary to maintain those areas in a stable, to improving, condition, and

WHEREAS where fencing is believed to be necessary, the major benefit is to wildlife, sportsmen, and other recreationists, and not to the livestock permittees and private landowners; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA opposes any land agency policy that would require permittees and private landowners to construct and maintain fences built to exclude livestock from riparian areas without the cooperation and consultation of the affected landowners, lessees, and/or permittees.

00-04-20 GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Amended: September 17, 2005 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR-96) was signed into law in 1996, and

WHEREAS this act dramatically changes the federal government's direction from underwriting production agriculture to promoting environmental conservation, and

WHEREAS two of the programs within this act, the Private Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), offer federal assistance to livestock ranchers for environmental conservation, and

WHEREAS participation in either of these programs is purely voluntary, and

WHEREAS it is a goal of the CWGA to protect private property rights and support the individual's right of self-determination on his or her own property; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA maintain a position on both the GLCI Steering Committee and the EQIP Technical Committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA endeavor to provide direction to these committees in the formulation and implementation of environmental conservation policies that will affect the ranching and livestock industry in the State of California to insure that private property rights and the individual's right of self-determination on his or her own property is preserved.

00-05-20 FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Amended: September 17, 2005 – Chico, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS accumulating fuel levels in rangelands represent a threat to the environment and society due to wildfires and,

WHEREAS the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is a state agency charged with vegetation management, and

WHEREAS tool such as prescribed burning, grazing and animal impact are critical to controlling fuel levels,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA support legislation that would allocate funds to support the appropriate agencies,

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that CWGA work with Rangeland Management Advisory Committee to achieve this purpose.

16-02-21 CALIFORNIA GRAZING WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS clean water is a priority for CWGA members, and

WHEREAS well-managed grazing contributes to the protection and enhancement of water quality on California rangelands, and

WHEREAS the State Water Resources Control Board tabled the Grazing Regulatory Action Program and asked ranchers, academia and non-governmental organizations to provide an alternative approach to updating its approach to rangeland water quality; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA supports the newly established California Grazing Water Quality Partnership (the Partnership), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA supports the Partnership's efforts to update the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan, develop policies to address the 2004 Nonpoint Source Pollution Implementation and Enforcement Policy, and establish a research advisory committee to address current and future water quality research priorities.

16-03-21 WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) protects the nation's "navigable" waters, their tributaries, and adjacent water bodies that are hydrologically connected to them, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a rule that expands their authority over various waters by redefining "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) to include many farm fields and farm ditches, which could affect farmers' ability to use their lands.

WHEREAS On August 28, 2015, the new rule became effective, the new WOTUS definition creates more jurisdictional waters regulated by EPA, expands the already complex permitting process to more lands, and overall, will increase the economic burden for farm families and future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA supports a clean water supply for agriculture and the environment, but strongly opposes EPA's unnecessary expansion of federal jurisdiction over "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA believes the WOTUS rule has significant technical problems, and the process EPA undertook to develop the rule violated basic due process and long-standing procedural protections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA supports industry efforts to withdraw the rule and work with affected stakeholders, including farmers, to develop a rule that clarifies which waters are and are not covered under the CWA and that is workable for all stakeholders.

LAMB MARKETING

95-01-20 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

Amended: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the CWGA is concerned with the consumers confusion between foreign and domestic lamb.

WHEREAS American Lamb is that born, raised, finished and processed in the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA support positive identification of foreign lamb at the retail and wholesale level.

98-01-22 INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ACTION

Readopted: August 19, 2017 – Cambria, CA

Passed: September 12, 1998 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2022

WHEREAS the California sheep industry effectively utilizes renewable resources on public and private lands to produce domestic food and fiber that feeds and clothes domestic population as well as the population of the world.

WHEREAS the importation of lamb can have an impact on profitability of the US sheep industry

BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA work to strengthen all international trade actions to protect domestic lamb markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA encourages Congress and the Administration to address issues that would be counterproductive to domestic production and profitability to meet market demand in the United States.

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

95-07-20 MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS mountain lion incidents relative to livestock depredation and human health and safety have increased dramatically, and

WHEREAS current legislation eliminated the use of the foot snare and contains unworkable and unreasonable restrictions in obtaining a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and Game;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA supports any legislative, legal or initiative effort that would restore management tools, and reduce costly taxpayer funded provisions for unmanaged species protection.

95-08-18 COOPERATIVE FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES

Amended: August 2008 – Carson Valley, NV

Passed: August 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS because the California Department of Food and Agriculture contracted with the Cooperative Wildlife Service Program since 1921 to minimize property damage.

WHEREAS because the Wildlife Services was originally designed to be funded by the Federal Government, by the State Government and by local contract counties.

WHEREAS because the Wildlife Services has been effective in reducing predation damages.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA supports the continuing commitment of the Federal, State & County partnership in funding the Wildlife Service Program.

95-09-20 FISH AND GAME COMPENSATION

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA promote and support legislation providing for compensation for livestock and crop losses caused by predators and non-predators, based on fair market value.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Department of Fish and Game take full responsibility for depredation by mammals and birds under their jurisdiction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the livestock losses be reimbursed based upon and supported by producer-recorded losses, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), and any other records that may be available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic implications of the Endangered Species Act and introduction of endangered species which have a negative economic impact on producers, be reimbursed for the negative effect on the industry and lamb and wool production.

95-10-20 DEPREDATING ANIMALS

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the predatory animal population in California has increased to where unnecessary danger is placed on public safety and domestic livestock.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA oppose any legislation and/or initiatives that further restricts the control or management of the depredating animals in California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA encourage and support legislation and regulation that would allow more predatory control tools for landowners and/or their agents and predatory control specialists.

98-04-20 OVERALL STRATEGY AND GOALS

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 26, 1993 – Sparks, NV

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS predators in California are an increasing problem, and

WHEREAS the USDA Wildlife Services (WS) program has experienced budgetary shortfalls;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA will:

- Work with the Vertebrate Pest Council to further develop support.
- Investigate equitable supplemental industry funding sources for WS.
- Work with WS, agricultural commissioners and other organizations to re-build a viable WS program.
- Build coalitions with other organizations.
- Develop industry-wide white papers, which includes numerical statistics, facts, studies, and policies as an information guide to industry and friends of the industry.
- Support research and development of reasonable predator management alternatives.
- Oppose forced wildlife introduction. While encouraging natural migration of species.

98-06-18 USDA-APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES AVIATION PROGRAM

Amended: August 2008 – Carson Valley, NV

Passed: August 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program is vital to the success of the Wildlife Services program and in many ways represents the most efficient method available for protecting livestock, wildlife, and other resources, and,

WHEREAS the USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs directed that an outside, independent review of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program be conducted and,

WHEREAS the review found that safety had been compromised in the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program due to lack of funds necessary to run a safe and efficient aviation program and,

WHEREAS the review identified safety recommendations that will require significant additional funding, and,

WHEREAS the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services program currently does not have that funding available now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the CWGA urges the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to recognize the importance of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program in managing predator depredation on livestock, wildlife and other resources and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in view of the recent review of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Aviation Program, the USDA Secretary of Agriculture should place the utmost priority in providing sufficient additional funds to initiate as soon as possible, the recommendations of the outside, independent review team.

16-04-21 WOLF MANAGEMENT

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS, the increase in the predatory animal population in California has placed public safety and domestic livestock in unnecessary danger;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA encourage legal lethal control methods when predators engage in livestock depredation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA support the creation of a review board where appeals and reviews of wolf kill confirmation may be made, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the CWGA supports efforts to provide that confirmation of kills be posted no later than thirty days from date of occurrence, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the CWGA supports efforts to provide compensation for documented indirect losses (losses in reproductive success, weaning weights, wool quality and other factors) due to wolf predation.

17-01-22 DEPREDATION DETERMINATION

Passed: August 19, 2017 – Cambria, CA

Expires: 2022

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves indicates that depredation determinations in the case of possible livestock depredation be made by CDFW, and

WHEREAS, CDFW does not have sufficient staff or livestock expertise to make such determinations in a timely manner and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that the determination of cause of death in livestock depredation must be made quickly, and

WHEREAS, USDA Wildlife Services has both the expertise and producer relationships necessary to work with sheep producers to make determination of cause of death in cases of livestock depredation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Wool Growers Association requests that USDA Wildlife Services take the lead in determining cause of death in all depredation cases in California.

PRODUCTION, EDUCATION, & RESEARCH

95-04-21 SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL

Readopted: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV
Amended: August 23, 2011 – Bass Lake, CA
Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the average flock in California contains 25 or less ewes; and

WHEREAS in California there is a serious shortage, and in some areas a complete lack of shearer's to shear flocks; and

WHEREAS the CWGA is very concerned with the production of a quality wool clip and supports efforts to improve the ability of producers to prepare such a clip. Shearing Schools train shearer's in the preparation of sheep for shearing, handling of sheep, the most effective techniques of shearing, as well as the packaging of a product in which sheep producers can take pride; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA supports Sheep Shearing Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA seek funding or to provide other assistance for sheep shearing training programs as necessary from appropriate sources.

95-05-21 MEDIA TRAINING

Readopted: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV
Amended: August 23, 2011 – Bass Lake, CA
Expires: 2021

WHEREAS there is an increasing need for producers to present the sheep industry's position to the media and legislature;

WHEREAS this exposure, correctly presented, influences public perception about the California Sheep Industry; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA train members, as needed, to become media spokespersons and witnesses as they represent our industry before the public and legislature.

15-04-20 ULTRASOUND TECHNIQUE

Passed: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS CWGA has supported and encouraged the creation of certification schools for ultrasound technicians to ascertain carcass qualities, and

WHEREAS those schools are now available and trained technicians are available, and

WHEREAS research has shown that there is a direct correlation between rib-eye size or eye-muscle depth and red-meat yield, and

WHEREAS red-meat yield has a direct-profit relationship on all phases of the industry – from the grower, feeder, and packer to the retailer,

BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA strongly encourages the use of the ultrasound technique to determine rib-eye size or eye-muscle depth on potential breeding ewes and rams (especially of the meat breeds routinely used to sire crossbred-market lambs), and the measurements be available for buyers at ram sales, other points of commerce and for the use in genetic-evaluation programs to generate Expected Breeding Values (EBVs).

PUBLIC LANDS

**95-15-20 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL, GRAZING FEES &
RANGELAND REGULATION**

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA work closely on all matters of concern and with the necessary agencies and organizations on all issues concerning range management problems of the Livestock Industry on all State, Federal and Private Lands within the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CWGA work closely with the Public Lands Council and any other organization on matters relating to the livestock management of national controlled lands concerning the livestock industry.

95-17-20 RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the State legislature established the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) as an advisory committee to advise the California State Board of Forestry and Fire protection on matters concerning use and welfare of state-owned rangelands and the natural resources contained on those lands;

WHEREAS RMAC's role to generate and facilitate advice from a large group of State and Federal agencies, rangeland users and other constituents who share common interests and concerns for California Rangeland.

WHEREAS the California sheep industry has traditionally relied on healthy rangelands and wise rangeland use policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA continues its support of RMAC to deal with the rangeland issues within the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA will continue to participate with RMAC on rangeland issues as an active consistent representing livestock production resource protection and continuing viability of the California sheep industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA supports the continuance and strengthening of the Certified Rangeland Managers.

10-26-20 NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS U.S. Presidents have aggressively designated hundreds of thousands of acres of land across the Western U.S. as national monuments through use of the Antiquities Act, and

WHEREAS monument designations continue to lock down the land and restrict multiple uses to the point of elimination through restricted access and increased regulation, thus destroying the social and economic fabric of the local area, as well as the high level of ecological integrity which merited its designation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED CWGA strongly supports Congressional review and modification of the Antiquities Act to include Congressional approval of Presidential Designations and a requirement that existing levels of grazing be maintained, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED CWGA supports Congressional action to exempt the Western States from the Antiquities Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED CWGA work toward the reversal or repeal of past unnecessary National Monument designations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in the meantime, CWGA will work with locally affected members and land management agencies to ensure that management plans for monuments incorporate livestock grazing and other multiple uses.

16-05-21 ILLEGAL OCCUPATION ON PUBLIC LANDS

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS the nation's livestock industry, in particular those in the sheep community that are dependent upon the public lands, are being portrayed in a negative way across all media outlets, including social media.

WHEREAS despite challenges by those who utilize public lands in regards to the restrictions imposed by federal agencies, the sheep industry continues to benefit from grazing on public lands, while at the same time developing positive relationships with conservation and more ecosystem focused groups to forge mutually beneficial results from such grazing practices.

WHEREAS the majority of the livestock and sheep producers who graze on public lands are responsible, caring, and trustworthy tenants of the public's property, for the sheep industry not to address the developments at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Oregon, will only allow for a growing perception by the general public that all livestock and sheep producers who utilize public lands are of the same character.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA make it known that grazing on public lands is a partnership between the sheep community and government agencies to create a clear, succinct message which reiterates the sheep industry's commitment to positive outcomes on the public lands, and to separate our industry from being identified as part of the small group of occupiers that are acting on their own personal behalf.

16-06-21 ILLEGAL DRUG OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS

Passed: August 27, 2016 – Minden, NV

Expires: 2021

WHEREAS such activity threatens and degrades the environment by polluting the water, diverting normal stream flows, killing sheep, goats, and wildlife and polluting the air, and

WHEREAS such activity increases the liability and threatens the personal safety of ranchers, landowners, farm and ranch workers and family members along with those using public lands, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA coordinate and collaborate with the affected parties including ranchers, timberland owners, sportsmen's groups, public land use groups, public agencies, county boards of supervisors, legislators and the Governor to communicate and cooperate with the various environmental enforcement agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Drug Enforcement Agency, federal state and local law enforcement agencies and local politicians in an effort to allocate and appropriate adequate funding and other resources to effectively aid in enforcing existing laws and ordinances restricting and regulating the cultivation, harvesting and distribution of marijuana throughout the State of California, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a multi-tiered approach is needed to resolve these problems and CWGA supports and will advocate on behalf of the following:

1. Secure funding for the sheriff's department and search for grant funding from state and federal agencies and private entities.
2. Improve coordination between the aforesaid agencies to increase the efficiency of these agencies and specifically local law enforcement to implement the enforcement of existing laws and ordinances regulating marijuana.
3. Legislation that increases fines and penalties for violations of drug laws.
4. Secure funding that will be made available to clean up and restore public and private lands that have been damaged by illegal cultivation.
5. Increase public awareness of environmental damage being done and the impacts of growers' dogs killing sheep and goats, growers' poisoning wildlife, diverting water, polluting water, growers' armed and on drugs and the general increase in crime associated with these elements.

GENERAL

LABOR

95-02-20 FOREIGN SHEEP SHEARERS

Readopted: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Passed: August 24, 1995 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS California sheep producers feel that the quality of the wool clip is greatly influenced by the sheep shearer's personal experience and technique, and

WHEREAS the availability of quality sheep shearers during the peak shearing season is very limited;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA continues to support the efforts to bring legal temporary foreign sheep shears to California during the peak shearing season.

15-01-20 H-2A PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Passed: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS the California Sheep Industry is dependent on a legal, well trained, and highly skilled labor force, and

WHEREAS a consistent and non-seasonal labor force comes from many countries around the world, who are allowed to legally work in the United States utilizing H-2A work visas, and

WHEREAS the loss of this labor force would be catastrophic to the majority of commercial producers in the California Sheep Industry, and

WHEREAS CWGA is proactive in the areas of continuing and promoting fair compensation and treatment during a worker's tenure in the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA takes necessary action to insure the continuance of the H-2A Program or similar programs.

15-02-20 GUEST WORKER PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT

Passed: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS The California Sheep Industry has successfully utilized a federal non-immigrant shepherd program since the 1950s for providing a mutually beneficial relationship between shepherders and shearers from other countries and California Sheep Industry, and

WHEREAS there is a constant need to enforce and audit the program to maintain the integrity of the program and for the safety and security of our nation,

BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA supports monitoring and enforcement mechanisms within the H-2A program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CWGA will collaborate with Mountain Plains Agricultural Service, Western Range Association, and H-2A employers to advocate on behalf of the industry when issues arise that threaten the effectiveness of the existing program. Specific areas of concern may include but are not limited to:

1. Development of an objective, uniform, feasible, and effective audit system to maintain the integrity of the program.
2. Enforcement of Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security's employer and employee regulatory obligations.
3. Stewardship of existing Special Procedures for occupations involved in shepherding.

15-03-20 GUEST WORKER RESOLUTION

Passed: August 29, 2015 – Monterey, CA

Expires: 2020

WHEREAS despite industry recruiting efforts, a reliable domestic labor supply of shepherders, sheep shearers and livestock workers does not exist in some areas of the country,

WHEREAS Congress enacted the H-2A guest worker legislation that established a mutually beneficial program that provides non-immigrant shepherders, sheep shearers, and livestock workers to the U.S. sheep industry which provides job opportunities to individuals from other countries who desire to build a better life for themselves and their families,

WHEREAS H-2A and its accompanying Special Procedures regulations provide the continuity to the sheep industry with trained employees, which results in proper animal care, more efficient livestock production, and stewardship of natural resources,

WHEREAS experience and continuity are keys to successful shepherding because of the large expanse of grazing lands that comprise many sheep ranches and the necessity to care for the animals themselves, and

WHEREAS the H-2A program is an integral and indispensable component of the California Sheep Industry, and the program has served the purpose of providing a reliable labor supply in areas of need while creating additional U.S. jobs and economic development, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA recommends that Congress codify the H-2A Special Procedures and use the H-2A program as a model for other guest worker programs when reforming immigration policy.

OTHER

98-09-18 COORDINATION WITH OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS

Readopted as Amended: August 23, 2008 – Carson Valley, NV

Passed: August 25, 1993 – Sparks, NV

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS there are numerous issues facing all segments of the California sheep industry, and there are several industry groups that specialize in representing the interests of those diverse segments, and

WHEREAS the problems facing these groups of producers are the same as those of the entire industry, and that by helping to identify the similarities of the problems in order to begin to find the solutions to them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CWGA will attempt to and take an active part in helping to promote these efforts.

99-02-18 MAINTAINING THE CALIFORNIA ASI CONNECTION

Passed: September 11, 2009 – Bakersfield, CA

Expires: 2018

WHEREAS the CWGA recognizes the importance of maintaining a connection on a National level with ASI or its successor assuring that California will have representation nationally.

WHEREAS ASI is well received and recognized in Washington, D.C.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CWGA urge all producers, feeders and companies to join in support in maintaining the California ASI connection.