

# Resolutions arising from Fall 2018 MBP District Meetings

Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) held its 14 annual district meetings in October and November. These meetings provided producer members with information about policies, issues and actions undertaken by MBP.

The following are the 16 resolutions that were proposed by producers, debated and carried at the district meetings. They will be brought forward for debate at the 40th MBP Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held February 7, 2019 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon.

There were no resolutions arising from Districts 3, 7, 11 and 14.

If you wish to bring forward a late resolution for debate at the AGM, it must be provided in writing to MBP staff no later than 11 a.m., February 7, 2019. Please send it to [info@mbbeef.ca](mailto:info@mbbeef.ca) to the attention of General Manager Brian Lemon or Policy Analyst Maureen Cousins. If the resolution is deemed to be in order it will be considered for debate at the end of the resolutions session, time permitting.

MBP will also publish these resolutions online at [www.mbbeef.ca](http://www.mbbeef.ca) to help ensure Manitoba's beef producers are aware of them in advance of the AGM.

Please note that some districts have adopted similar or identical resolutions. These may be combined for debate and voting purposes at the AGM. Attend the 40th MBP AGM to debate and vote on the resolutions. We look forward to your participation.

## District 11 – Oct. 22

There were no resolutions arising.

## District 9 – Oct. 23

**9.1** Whereas Manitoba Agriculture recognizes that bale grazing of beef cattle can save producers time, effort and money and help distribute valuable nutrients to the soil to enhance future productivity; and

Whereas even though this practice is well utilized by Manitoba's beef producers, they currently receive no compensation for wildlife damage to bales left in fields or pastures for feeding purposes.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government for changes to the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Crop Damage to ensure that baled hay that remains on fields for use as part of an extended feeding regime becomes eligible for compensation related to wildlife damage.

## District 4 – Oct. 25

**4.1** Whereas the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid is listed as an endangered species, and is found common-

ly in areas of southeast Manitoba and is impacting producers' ability to farm their private land as they wish.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby Manitoba Sustainable Development to work with producers in southeast Manitoba to develop management strategies to both respect producers' right to make a living as well as to protect the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid; and

Be it further resolved to compensate producers annually for the loss of production caused by the presence of the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid.

**4.2** Whereas Manitoba Beef Producers is celebrating its 40th anniversary and is celebrating its history at its annual general meeting in February 2019.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers invest in the writing and publishing of a book to capture and celebrate its long and proud history before its history is lost along with its founding members.

## District 10 – Oct. 29

**10.1** Whereas the Minister of Agriculture wishes to expand the beef herd and Manitoba Agriculture staff are supporting extended grazing practices including the practice of grazing standing corn, swath grazing, etc.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government for changes to the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Crop Damage to ensure that any feed left on the fields as part of an extended feeding regime be eligible for compensation related to wildlife damage.

**10.2** Whereas problem predators continue to harass cattle in pastures; and

Whereas these cattle can break loose out of even the best maintained fences and find their way onto roads and highways leading to potential liability concerns for producers.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to enact clear policies to protect cattle producers from future liability caused by predators harassing their cattle and breaking through fences and finding their way onto roads and highways.

**10.3** Whereas unmaintained Manitoba Hydro line right of ways with overgrown brush and trees can lead to unexpected and sometimes long-term power outages; and

Whereas these outages cause inconveniences and can lead to significant animal welfare concerns for producers needing power to ensure animals have access to water.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef

Producers lobby Manitoba Hydro to properly maintain their hydro line right of ways.

## District 3 – Oct. 30

There were no resolutions arising.

## District 2 – Nov. 1

**2.1** Whereas currently producers are required to choose between Pasture Insurance and/or Pasture Days Insurance, and are not able to purchase both.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation to allow a change to the programs to permit producers to purchase both Pasture Insurance and Pasture Days Insurance.

**2.2** Whereas land values continue to rise and municipal taxes on farm lands continue to increase.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to remove or increase the Farmland School Tax Rebate cap.

## District 5 – Nov. 2

**5.1** Whereas the Minister of Agriculture is pushing to expand the beef herd and Manitoba Agriculture staff are supporting the use of extended grazing practices, including the practices of grazing bales and standing corn, swath grazing, etc.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government for changes to the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Crop Damage to ensure that any feed left on the fields as part of an extended feeding regime be eligible for compensation related to wildlife and/or pig damage.

**5.2** Whereas cattle producers rely on secure access to leased agricultural Crown lands, and

Whereas unauthorized public access to these pastures creates a dangerous situation for the public, the cattle and producers, and creates potential environmental and biosecurity concerns, and causes damage to grazing infrastructure.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to enact strict informed access regulations to prohibit unauthorized public access to leased agricultural Crown lands.

## District 14 – Nov. 5

There were no resolutions arising.

## District 12 – Nov. 6

**12.1** Whereas blackbirds can cause damage and losses to standing corn and other annual crops.

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# Resolutions continued...

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Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation to include blackbird losses under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Crop Damage.

**District 13 – Nov. 7**

13.1 Whereas the temporary suspension of all unit transfers has been put in place as part of Bill 35, *The Crown Lands Amendment Act (Improved Management Of Community Pastures And Agricultural Crown Lands)*, and

Whereas this will limit the growth of the cattle herd by hindering commerce and impeding the ability to sell/transfer viable cattle operations.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to move as quickly as possible to revoke the temporary suspension of unit transfers.

**District 7 – Nov. 8**

There were no resolutions arising.

**District 1 – Nov. 13**

1.1 Whereas currently Individual Productivity Indexes (IPIs) are available for most other crops grown in Manitoba, and not available for silage and forage corn.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation to implement Individual Productivity Indexes (IPIs) for silage and forage/grain corn.

**District 8 – Nov. 14**

8.1 Whereas cattle producers are the owners of huge tracts pasture and

grasslands which sequester significant amounts of carbon from the environment annually.

Whereas the Minister of Agriculture announced the government's objective to grow the beef herd, and cattle production is continually under pressure from annual cropping for productive acres.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the provincial government to create policies to recognize the carbon sequestration of grasslands and perennial forages, and to incent the protection of these important pastures for beef cattle production.

**District 6 – Nov. 15**

6.1 Whereas the Minister of Agriculture has initiated a policy of "modernizing" the allocation of Manitoba agricultural Crown lands (ACL), forage and grazing leases, and

Whereas future allocation of forage and grazing leases in Manitoba may be determined by a combination of tender and public auction, and

Whereas the elected directors of Manitoba Beef Producers have endorsed the Minister's initiative to "modernize" the allocation of Crown land forage and grazing leases, and

Whereas the membership of Manitoba Beef Producers may not be well informed as to the potential impact that "modernizing" the allocation of Crown land forage and grazing leases will have upon their continuing access to Crown land or their future cost of operation, and

Whereas for the purpose of business planning it is essential that producers currently leasing

Crown land or seeking to lease Crown land have sufficient time to study and understand the potential impact "modernization" may have upon their future security and cost of operation.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the Minister of Agriculture to request that the Minister make public both the policy and the regulations relating to the "modernization" of access to agricultural Crown land forage and grazing leases in Manitoba six months prior to proceeding with the first Crown land allocations made available under the new "modernized" process; and

Be it further resolved Manitoba Beef Producers would support providing Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture extended time to complete drafting and circulation of the policy and regulations associated with "modernizing" producer access to Crown land by extending all existing crown land leases and fees structure for a period of one year and by placing all new 2019 Crown land allocations under a one year casual permit.

6.2 Whereas blackbirds cause significant losses to producers' crops.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers lobby the Minister of Sustainable Development to include blackbird damage as eligible for claims under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Crop Damage.

# District 4 director, Robert Kerda, never stops learning

BY ANGELA LOVELL

Another new face on Manitoba Beef Producers' (MBP) board of directors is District 4 Director, Robert Kerda of Ridgeville, who represents beef producers in the Rural Municipalities of Emerson-Franklin, Piney, La Broquerie, Ritchot, Hanover, De Salaberry, Reynolds and the communities of Stuartburn and Ste. Anne.

A third-generation rancher, Kerda is a long-standing MBP member and says he decided to run as a director because he wants to be a part of the ongoing discussion about traceability, which he feels could be one of the major challenges facing the Manitoba beef industry in the short term.

"I think it's important for beef producers to have input into what traceability will ultimately look like," he says. "If there is a cost for traceability, because that is what consumers are asking for, I believe that all of those costs should not come back on the producer. There needs to be some way to offset some of those costs because producers are not in a position to set prices for their cattle, we are in the position of taking what is offered."

Kerda serves on MBP's animal health, communications and production management committees and says he's had to learn to be more patient. "The wheels move very slowly," he says. "It's no use coming in and making demands to



Rob Kerda

try and get things rolling because it just doesn't work that way."

**A lifelong learner**

He finds communications the most interesting and challenging role for him, but he is determined to take his time and learn from his peers, like Communications Committee Chair, Dianne Riding, who he credits as a 'fabulous leader'.

In fact, Kerda believes there is always something new to learn, even after a lifetime in the cattle business, and it's something he thinks young people coming into the industry need to know.

"My best advice to young producers is keep an open mind," he says. "Even after 42 years, I still have an opportunity to learn every time I turn around on cattle quality, feed systems, ways of incorporating dif-

ferent grazing techniques, all those things, so learn as much as you can."

Going forward, Kerda believes the introduction of a carbon tax could present good opportunities for the beef industry in Manitoba.

"It's something that's a feather in our cap," he says. "We need cattle to graze and that is the best thing for carbon sequestration. I am looking forward to learning and getting more information so I can have some good discussions on that in the future."

Kerda and his wife, Belinda plan to do a lot more travelling in the future now that he no longer has a grain side to his operation, which is freeing up some time for them both.

"We'd love to spend some time to travel and see more of Canada," he says.

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