

## March 2021 Cattle Country

### 42<sup>nd</sup> MBP AGM: Results of Resolutions Debate and Discussion of Proposed Administration By-law Amendments

The traditional resolutions debate, as well as a review of proposed changes to the administration by-law of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (operating as Manitoba Beef Producers) were considered at the 42<sup>nd</sup> MBP Annual General Meeting on February 11.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of MBP's fall 2020 district meetings was changed to virtual meetings. As such, MBP's board of directors agreed to accept in writing proposed resolutions for consideration for debate at the virtual AGM. Late resolutions had to be submitted in writing no later than 8:30 a.m., Friday, February 5, 2021 so they could be reviewed by MBP's AGM/Nominations/Resolutions Committee and deemed in order for debate.

Two such resolutions were brought forward for consideration, deemed to be in order and were debated, voted upon and carried by the membership as presented. The two resolutions were as follows:

#### Value of Livestock Price Insurance Program

**L1:** Whereas access to effective Business Risk Management (BRM) programs is crucial, particularly as factors such as extreme weather and significant market volatility continue to affect Canadian agriculture; and

Whereas the Livestock Price Insurance program (LPI) (*previously known as the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program*) is an important risk mitigation tool that provides significant value to Manitoba's cattle industry; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic caused market volatility which led to additional livestock price insurance premium cost burdens for cattle producers, and the sector had requested premium cost-sharing by governments to help address this challenge; and

Whereas certain aspects of BRM programs such as livestock price insurance – including program design, spending or availability – can create inequitable coverage levels amongst agriculture sectors and across regions in Canada; and

Whereas there are producers in eastern Canada who are seeking access to livestock price insurance as a risk mitigation tool.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) advocate for the federal and provincial government to cost share the premiums for producers enrolling in the Livestock Price Insurance program; and,

Be it further resolved that MBP advocate with governments to work toward making livestock price insurance a national program offering; and

Be it further resolved that MBP advocate with governments to no longer make livestock price insurance a program that is dependent on renewal under each successive agricultural policy framework, but rather to make it a permanent business risk management program for Canadian cattle producers.

#### District 8

**Outcome: Carried**

## **Process for Valuing Improvements to Agricultural Crown Lands**

**L2.** Whereas the Government of Manitoba has made a series of changes to the Agricultural Crown Lands (ACL) Leasing Program (including the legislative, regulatory and policy framework) which will impact ACL lease and permit holders for years to come; and

Whereas one of the major changes affects the way lease hold improvements will be dealt with, moving from a system whereby the value of the improvements was previously determined by the provincial government, to a process whereby “The transfer of any value related to privately-owned improvements on an ACL parcel are to be negotiated with the outgoing leaseholder within 30 days of the auction.”; and

Whereas if there is a disagreement between the outgoing and incoming lessee or permit holder over the value of the improvements, the only recourse for the outgoing lease or permit holder is to remove any removable improvements, or to pursue resolution of the matter as per The Arbitration Act; and

Whereas the removal of the improvements may not be practical, and the pursuit of arbitration could be a costly and time consuming process for the outgoing lessee or permit holder, resulting in length delays in arriving at payment for the improvements.

Be it resolved to recommend that MBP continue its advocacy efforts with the Government of Manitoba to allow for an independent, third-party assessment to be undertaken of the agricultural Crown land (ACL) improvements (including an assessment of the physical infrastructure) prior to the lease or permit going to auction so that both outgoing and incoming lessee and permit holders know the dollar value of the improvements at the time of the auction.

Be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) continue its advocacy efforts with the Government of Manitoba to ensure that any system for valuing agricultural Crown land improvements is a fair, balanced and transparent process so that the likelihood for lengthy and potentially costly disputes and the need for arbitration is eliminated.

### **District 12**

**Outcome: Carried**

## **Administration By-Law Amendments**

As well, the MBP board of directors took forward to the membership for consideration a series of proposed amendments to the Association’s administration by-law.

The purpose of the proposed amendments was to affirm the types of processes which can be used to hold the association’s district meetings, the annual general meeting or special meetings, as well as the processes for notifying members of said meetings. In particular, the amendments recognize that there are a variety of means by which meetings can be conducted, i.e. telephonic, electronic or another type of communication facility.

The proposed amendments were reviewed by the membership, voted upon, approved as presented and are now in effect.

MBP thanks the membership for their participation in both the resolutions debate and the review of the proposed by-law amendments. If you wish to receive a copy of the administration by-law amendments, please contact the MBP office.