

## **MFBF Policy**

### **1. Property Taxes**

Should there be an ag income requirement to be considered “ag land?” If so, how much? (It’s currently \$1500 and there’s a legislative proposal to increase it to \$3500)

Should small acreages (20 to 160 acres) be taxed differently than larger properties if they are being used for agriculture? How should acreages smaller than 20 acres be valued?

Should farm and ranch land owned by “out of state entities” or “recreational ranchers” be taxed differently than bona fide ag land? If so, what is the definition of a “bona fide” farm/ranch? What if the land is leased for agriculture purposes? What if it’s held as a “wildlife preserve”? How do you tell the difference?

### **2. Student Loan Forgiveness for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**

Should there be student loan forgiveness for individuals pursuing a career in production agriculture on a farm or ranch?

If yes, what are the criteria to qualify for loan forgiveness?

During the 2017 Legislative Session there was legislation introduced to provide for student loan forgiveness via the Grow Through Agriculture grant program that is already housed within the Department of Agriculture. It died during the legislative process, but there is a strong possibility of it coming back in 2019.

### **3. DNRC Water Right Change Process**

The water change process is important, especially in closed basins. Right now, you must go to DNRC and apply for a change (divert, where, what, and storage) and must prove that there are no adverse affects associated with that change. This process has become time consuming and expensive over time (due to the necessary level of proof).

The change process is important to agriculture and developers. How do we simplify the change process without threatening senior water rights and agricultural interests?

From a water user’s perspective, what needs to change about the current change process?

Please see the attached minutes from the Water Committee for more info on this topic.

## **MFBF Policy Book Review**

We must be diligent about reviewing policy that currently exists. During the 2017 Summer Conference several committees dedicated time to identifying policies that need to be discussed during the county policy development process. Please see the attachments for more information from each of these committees.

*Policy Development Committee*

*Taxation Committee*

*Animal Health & Livestock Committee*

## **AFBF Policy**

### **1. Border Adjustment Tax**

This topic is likely to be included in comprehensive tax reform at the federal level. We currently have no policy on the topic so cannot answer questions about the provision.

Please see the attachments for more information.

### **2. Animal Disease Traceability**

In 2013, USDA published the final rule on regulations for improving traceability for animals moving interstate. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) is the mechanism by which the United States tracks and traces animal diseases through the animal agriculture population. The intended goal of the system is to provide rapid and effective response to a disease outbreak. While APHIS has not proposed any specific changes to the rule, we ask members to critically evaluate the current policy in an effort to streamline and prioritize components of an ADT system they would like AFBF to focus on in future rulemaking.

AFBF Policy 308/Livestock Identification has some potential conflicts that may arise should we enter a new rulemaking process. ADT is advancing and Farm Bureau members should evaluate Policy 308 under the lens of what Farm Bureau is willing to accept moving forward and how we want to shape that outcome.

Find a video containing more information here: <http://bit.ly/AnimalTracePolicy>

Please see the additional documents on the Policy Development page for more information.