

News Release

Nebraska Cattlemen

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For Immediate Release

Nebraska Cattlemen Adopts Brand Policy

(June 12, 2006) LINCOLN, NE – Approving a resolution originated by its Brand Committee, the Nebraska Cattlemen adopted interim policy June 9 which states NC will oppose LB 1162 or any legislation that would make substantial changes to Nebraska Brand Statutes regarding documents of title.

The policy was approved at the Nebraska Cattlemen Midyear Conference June 9 in Holdrege and will be reviewed at its annual convention in late November.

The resolution was prompted by LB 1162, which NC believes would hinder the Nebraska Brand Committee's ability to provide clear title on cattle. The bill would have changed the statute to allow a photo copy of a brand release, bill of sale or other document of ownership for cattle rather than having to present the document and the brand inspector write a new document.

“Without having to surrender the document,” Jay Martindale, NC Brand Committee chair and rancher from Brewster said, “someone could illegally claim title to cattle they had previously disposed of. For example, if you could sell an auto with a photo copy of the title, it would be possible to later claim title to the car because you still held the original document.”

The Cattlemen also believes LR 329 provides an opportunity for the group to help legislators understand the importance of the state's brand law as well as the economic risk to producers if clear title can not be established.

“We will provide appropriate testimony at LR 329 hearings,” Martindale said.

Other issues addressed at the Cattlemen's Midyear meeting included livestock waste regulations, foreign trade, University of Nebraska animal science teaching an research funding, animal identification, ethanol by-products, instrument grading and water transfer legislation and regulations.

The Nebraska Cattlemen association serves as the spokesman for the state's beef cattle industry and represents professional cattle breeders, ranchers and feeders, as well as 48 county and local cattlemen's associations. Its headquarters are in Lincoln and second office in Alliance serves cattlemen in western Nebraska.

This and other Nebraska Cattlemen information is available at www.nebraskacattlemen.org.