

**64th Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

The Overland Park Convention Center
Overland Park, Kansas

August 9-12, 2009

**Resolution in Support of Science-Based Research and Education in
Animal Agriculture**

- WHEREAS,** animal agriculture is a large portion of U.S. agriculture, contributing significantly to the economic stability of farm families; and
- WHEREAS,** animal agriculture in the U.S. is the single largest source of demand for U.S. soybean production and much of the corn produced; and
- WHEREAS,** animal agriculture has an economic impact of \$100 billion and is responsible for 600,000 jobs in the Midwest; and
- WHEREAS,** humane, science-based animal agriculture translates into an affordable and high-quality food supply for consumers; and
- WHEREAS,** consumers may be many generations removed from the farm and have little understanding of production agriculture; and
- WHEREAS,** animal welfare is a complex issue involving philosophical, emotional, religious, political and practical elements; and
- WHEREAS,** Midwestern states and the federal government have invested millions of dollars and decades into animal well-being research; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians and animal science researchers are the proper experts to determine animal welfare methodology; and
- WHEREAS,** state lawmakers are the gatekeepers to sound policy that leads to good legislation supporting abundant food, fiber and energy production, coupled with protection of human health and the environment; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference promotes the use of sound, scientific, peer-reviewed research and data that is produced under Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) in hearings and testimony; and be it further

- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference encourages state agencies to abide by the same principles in the use of quality, sound scientific data; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that sound science, as opposed to emotional arguments, should be utilized when educating the public regarding animal agriculture production; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference encourages programs that educate consumers of all ages on science-based animal welfare issues; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference encourages continued support for agriculture research; and be it further resolved
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal, state and provincial officials.