

Organizational Statement of the Beef Industry Food Safety Council

The Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo) brings together representatives from all segments of the beef industry to develop industry-wide, science-based strategies to solve the problem of *E. coli* O157:H7 and other foodborne pathogens in beef.

The Beef Industry Food Safety Council is coordinating a broad effort to solve pathogen issues, focusing on research prioritization and information dissemination. Although industry segments may not always agree on all issues, it is critical we be united in our efforts to solve food pathogen challenges.

1. Mission

BIFSCo's mission is to engage all sectors of the beef chain in a strategic, coordinated effort to enhance the safety of U.S. and Canadian beef products through research, education and communication initiatives.

2. Constituents

BIFSCo consists of Members, an Executive Committee and a representative of the Administrator.

3. Members

a. Composition

Members are beef industry participants who have paid the current Membership Fee. The Executive Committee has final approval of each membership.

b. Responsibility

The responsibility of Members is to advance BIFSCo's Mission through exchange of information on beef safety, attend the annual Beef Industry Safety Summit, actively participate in BIFSCo Working Groups, attend the annual member meeting, review BIFSCo's budget, and other activities determined by the Executive Committee.

c. Terms and Voting

- i. Membership terms are 1 year.
- ii. Each paid membership has 1 vote.

4. Executive Committee

a. Composition

- i. The BIFSCo Chair which will be voted on by the membership (1 vote/paid membership). The Chair will be a representative of an industry sector (production, harvest/fabrication, processing, retail and foodservice).
- ii. If the Chair vacates the position before the end of the term, a special election will be held by the membership to refill the role for the duration of the term.
- iii. 10 members from allied industry, production, harvest/fabrication, processing, retail, foodservice and other active member organizations/companies as appointed by the Chair.

b. Term and Voting

- i. The Chair serves a 1 yr term and has voting rights. The chair will be elected prior to the effective term of October to September.
- ii. The Executive Committee serves a 2 yr term, with half replaced/reappointed each year with appointment by the Chair. Representative of the Administrator will not have voting rights.

c. Responsibility

i. The responsibilities of the Chair:

1. assure communication of Executive Committee activities to the membership at large
2. appoint the Executive Committee
3. gather eligible candidates for next chair with assistance of the administrator and distribute key information to membership for consideration prior to election
4. assure the responsibilities of the Executive Committee are met
5. convene the Executive Committee at least 2 times/yr

ii. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are to:

1. engage in Committee meetings and programs
2. oversee the Council's affairs
3. assist in planning the annual Beef Industry Safety Summit
4. identify Working Group topics as needed
5. assign Members to the Working Groups
6. appoint the chairs of Working Groups
7. approve an annual budget for BIFSCo's affairs

5. Administrator

a. Composition

The Administrator is National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Any change in the Administrator will be voted on by the membership (1 vote/paid membership).

b. Function

The Administrator provides accounting services, member billing, and meeting facilitation.

6. Antitrust Compliance

The Council is committed to compliance with all requirements of the antitrust laws and to this end acknowledges:

- a. the antitrust laws forbid certain arrangements among competitors including agreements to fix prices, allocate customers or markets or boycott particular suppliers.
- b. each industry participant must act independently in deciding what price to charge for its products, and to whom and under what terms and conditions it will do so.
- c. the antitrust laws forbid an assembly like the Council from acting as a facilitator of prohibited relationships.
- d. as a matter of prudence, the Council will redirect discussions or exchanges of information if they inadvertently enter a forbidden area.