



Fighting for Economic Justice for America's Family Farmers and Ranchers



n August, I was elected president of OCM's board of directors at our 20th annual meeting in Kansas City. I am honored, humbled, and more than a little nervous to follow in the footsteps of past-president Mike Weaver, and others who came before him. I want to thank Mike, as well as longtome board members John Hansen and Joe Logan for their valuable service. Although their terms on the board have ended, I know they will continue to work to support OCM's mission. I also want to welcome new members Webster Davis and Barbara Ross, and returning member Fred Stokes, to our board. Their biographical statements appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a charter member of OCM. I was elected to its board in 2011; served as treasurer from 2012 to 2016, and as vice-president, from

2016to 2018. I am not a farmer, but I come from a farming family and am half-owner of a western Kentucky grain farm that has been in my family since the early 1800s. In fact, my farm is just a few miles from a Tyson chicken plant, in the county with the most chicken houses in the state.

I am professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Kansas, where I taught from 1975 to 2015. I have a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a master's in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. For over three decades I have studied and written about the meat and poultry industry in North America, focusing on industrial agriculture's impact on farmers, processing workers, and rural communities. For 20 years I have studied the decline of tobacco and the rise of chicken production in

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HELMUTH AWARD RECIPIENT:



Dr. C. Robert Taylor

By Senator Paul Muegge, retired

"Bob Taylor and I have been friends since my service in the Oklahoma State Senate. During the 90's we were struggling with the corporate dominance of animal agriculture production and marketing. Being a native Oklahoman and a fellow economist with a history of the evolving and changing scene of farm family agriculture, Dr. Taylor and his realtime knowledge was important to me as a public policy maker here in Oklahoma. We would have not been able to achieve the passage of the 1998 legislation without Dr. Taylor's advice and others that came on board prior to 98. He also played a role in the exposure of various Land Grant Institutions that ignored and refused to question the total dominance of the corporate model of our food systems. In 2000, there was a tremendous effort made to establish legislation that would protect the contract growers. This was on numerous state national agendas. State Attorneys General from many states were also part of this effort. We failed on all fronts, and today the agribusinesses continue to control much of the production and marketing means of the food systems of today. Dr. Bob Taylor never wavered from his efforts and interest in righting this challenging public policy. Today, I have many of the articles and papers that Dr. Taylor edited and in such great detail, that future generations should be able to read and understand what has happened to the family farmers of America and their continuing fight to be a relevant force in the business of agriculture of today. Where have all the marketplaces gone? No, we will not put the leaves back on the trees, but we need to know and understand history to deal with the future. Thank you, Bob Taylor."

By Mike Callicrate

"Robert Taylor was our expert witness in the Tyson/IBP case filed in 1996. Never before, or since, has an economist been able or willing to do the difficult work of analyzing the millions of cattle buying transactions, proving how the biggest meat packer in America at the time, was systematically cheating cattle producers. Robert Taylor stood alone among economists in his work to prove our case to a jury.

While most university economists were defending the big meat companies' concentration and consolidation of the cattle markets, Robert Taylor, while taking the abuse of his peers and the multinational meat packers, never wavered in his support for fair, open and competitive markets. Still today, Robert Taylor contributes a major amount of his time and talent fighting the monopoly power which continues to threaten our independent farmers and ranchers."



by Vaughn Meyer

Just when cattle producers were becoming accustomed to those new millennium buzz words," Sound Science", the self-righteous, save the world authorities, have come to our rescue and thrust the term "sustainability" into our everyday vocabularies. For those of us remaining in farming and ranching, sustainability has been a multi-generational daily event propagated through common sense, hard work and seasoned with a dash of good luck. However, recently our sustainable roots have acquired a new perspective with the 2013 incorporation of the United States Round Table for Sustainable Beef (USRSB). USRSB proclaims the mission, "To advance, support and com-

municate continuous improvement in the sustainability of U.S. beef duction by educating and engag-

ing the beef value-chain through a collaborative multi-stakeholder effort."

multi-stakeholders it becomes

are facing the enemy disguised

as a giant Trojan horse.

Webster defines "sustainability" as to uphold and support. The USRSB mission statement appears to be the arrival of the cavalry as working producers, pre-occupied with daily ranch management decisions, have little time for off-farm issues. With this positive frontal assault to sustain our industry, only one question remains, "Who are the collaborative multi-stakeholders?"

Upon closer examination of the

U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef: A 21ST Century **Trojan Horse**

multi-stakeholders it becomes apparent that beef producers are facing the enemy disguised as a giant Trojan horse. A giant wooden horse, waiting to be towed inside the castle where under the cover of darkness, the final blow of beef industry vertical integration will be delivered; a collaborative effort to insert the final piece of the vertical integration puzzle for all of U.S. agriculture.

To better understand the odds producers are up against let's examine the missions by which these multi-stakeholders plan to educate and engage producers and our in-

The USRSB boasts 43 founding members with the majority being members and affiliate organizations of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). However NCBA has a history of anti – producer support for marketing issues. Under their fake producer disguise NCBA and affiliates were successful in persuading Congress to

repeal Coun-Upon closer examination of the try of Origen Labeling (COOL). apparent that beef producers Their "kill COOL" packorchestrated charge resulted in a \$20 billion

> loss to cattle producers within the first 9 months. At the same time, packer profits increased from \$17 per animal to \$194. Since February this year, packers have collaborated to increase per head margins by 60% with a peak profit of \$309 per head. Since May 25th packers initiated 3 weeks of reduced supplies of negotiated cash cattle, relying heavily upon their domestic and foreign captive supplies. Their 50% decline of purchased cash inventory successfully tanked the cash market at \$106.87,

culminating an 8 year low costing feeders and producers billions. During this same period retail sales were strong with a .38% Activity Index gain and a 1% featured rate increase, disputing claims of weak consumer demands.

Since the January 1st 2016 repeal of COOL it is estimated that producers have lost over \$60 billion in revenue due to depressed markets and competition with imported beef being falsely mislabeled as USA beef. These \$60 billion producer losses translate into losses of over \$420 billion of U.S. true renewable wealth.

USRSB's largest constituent of producers and producer organizations are nothing but pro packer Trojan horse stakeholders, collaborating and conspiring to engage the beef value chain to sustain their monopolis-

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a civil society USRSB stakeholder, is an international fund raising organization with focus on species-related conservation projects and the establishment of nature reserves. WWF, an anti - domesticated animal organization, encourages high income countries, like the United States, to eat less beef.

WWF in conjunction with other conservation groups has its eye on the Northern Great Plains which spans more than 180 million acres and crosses five U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. To conquer the Northern Great Plains, WWF assisted the American Prairie Foundation's acquisition of 31,320 domestic livestock grazing acres in Montana for wildlife restoration. Grants from our U.S. Government along with partnerships from Coca Cola and Walmart enable this Trojan horse participant to remove domestic livestock from beef producing grasslands. Worldwide, WWF is acquiring land at astonishing rates

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OCM 20th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference



OCM's Annual Food and Agriculture Conference is the only national conference focused on breaking the stranglehold monopolies have on our farm and food economy. On August 9-11, 2018, OCM members and supporters came together in Kansas City, MO for the 20th year to guide the conversation about how we can bring economic justice to our food system.

Dr. Ricardo Salvador kicked off the conference discussing how our communities can put the past behind us and move forward together in the fight for economic justice for all. Then we dove into the impacts of concentration with a look at today's impending farm crisis, heard from communities who have been marginalized by systemic power imbalances, and held a roundtable discussion on how to build bridges.

Our banquet speaker, Federal Trade Commissioner Rohit Chopra, spoke about antitrust enforcement and later moderated a panel discussion on government agency capture and the need for greater transparency. Another highlight was the entertaining lunch presentation by Nebraska farmer Kevin Fulton, showing how we can build an alternative food system with a thriving rural economy through regenerative agriculture. We also hosted panel discussions on the impacts of concentration in cattle, dairy, poultry and fisheries, the impacts on workers, rural communities and main streets, and took a look at concentration in other sectors including online technology.

We closed out our conference with a focus on solutions. We discussed ways to end corporate influence on policy through checkoff program reform, ensuring transparent and honest food labeling, and exposing the revolving door of government and industry employees which has allowed a fox inside every henhouse in Washington D.C. Antitrust and consumer protection attorneys outlined how individuals and organizations can take action to hold abusive corporations accountable through the courts. In a final roundtable discussion, participants shared their ideas and campaigns, including the new Campaign for Real Meals which aims to reform the unjust practices of the Big Three food service management corporations, Sodexo, Aramark and Compass Group.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, participants, Board members and staff who made this year's conference a success AH

CAPITOLROUNDUP

by Joe Maxwell

2018 FARM BILL: In spite of the economic plight farmers and ranchers are facing, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate failed to get the 2018 Farm Bill passed prior to the September 30, 2018 deadline. The chairs and ranking members of the agriculture committees are still discussing getting a farm bill finalized and past during the lame duck session following the November general election. However, it is uncertain, considering how far apart the various parties are on the major issues, if this is likely to occur. OCM continues to work for the passage of a Farm Bill favoring the U.S. Senate version. However, with a raging trade war having erupted since both versions of the Farm Bill were adopted, OCM believes that the passage of an extension of the current Farm Bill and starting the new Congress with a priority of addressing issues family farmers and ranchers are facing today may make the most sense.

KING AMENDMENT: Unfortunately, Congressman Steve King (R-IA) continues to push for the passage of H.R. 4879/3599, the "Protect Interstate Commerce Act," in the 2018 Farm Bill. This legislation is now in the House version of the Farm Bill. As we have reported, this legislation would negate most all state laws and local ordinances regarding the production or manufacture of agricultural products. It is now just a wait and see if there will even be a 2018 Farm Bill, but if there is, we clearly need to ensure the King Amendment is not part of the bill.

CHECKOFF REFORM:

ing the vote on the U.S. Senate floor on checkoff reform legislation, S.A. 3074 (The Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act S. 741), OCM and other stakeholders have been working to get the 38 U.S. Senators who voted for the amendment to co-sponsor the legislation. Both lead sponsors, Senators Lee and Booker, have agreed to refile the legislation in the new Congress. While your U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators are home for their break, please encourage them to co-sponsor The Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, H.R. 1753 sponsored by Representatives Brat and Titus, and S. 741 sponsored by Senators Lee and Booker.

FARMER FAIR PRACTICES

RULES: The Farmer Fair Practices Rules, or GIPSA Rules, are now back in the spotlight. On September 26, 2018 during OCM's hearing in our lawsuit against USDA and Secretary Perdue's illegal withdrawal of the Farmer Fair Practices Rules, USDA's attorney announced that USDA was working on GIPSA rules and planned in the Spring of 2019 to add the GIP-SA rules to their Regulatory Agenda. We strongly believe this announcement was simply a tactic to try and sway the court against our case and that USDA in fact has no intent in moving forward with any meaningful Packers and Stockyard Act market safeguards. OCM's belief is supported by what the USDA attorney actually said. He indicated that USDA did plan to place the GIPSA rules on the Spring 2019 Regulatory Agenda and they would then INDI-Follow- CATE WHEN THEY WOULD ISSUE A Please see CAPITOL on page 7

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES, OCM along with many other organizations have been fighting for over a decade to restore market safeguards in the Packers and Stockyards Act and there is not one farmer or rancher who can wait another 10 years for justice. In November 2017, OCM and more than 80 other farm organizations sent a letter to President Trump calling on him to undo Secretary Perdue's injustice and implement the Farmer Fair Practices Rules (GIPSA) by executive order. OCM is now renewing its call on President Trump to enact the Farmer Fair Practices Rules by executive order.

NEW NAFTA: The President announced the new U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) as a great deal. In reviewing the agreement, OCM disagrees. There are some winners - U.S. wheat

STULL (continued from page 1)

western Kentucky. I previously edited the journal Culture & Agriculture and co-edited Any Way You Cut It: Meat Processing and Small-Town America (University Press of Kansas, 1995). An updated and expanded second edition of my book (with Michael Broadway) Slaughterhouse Blues: The Meat and Poultry Industry of North America was published in 2013 (Wadsworth). My wife Laura and I divide our time between Lawrence, Kansas, and my hometown of Sebree, Kentucky.

Enough about me! Big doings, or nothing-doings, as the case may be, are afoot. On September 30, Congress allowed the farm bill to expire, and that same night negotiations were finalized on a new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The failure to pass the farm bill leaves dozens of programs at risk of running out of funds, including those supporting land and water conservation, commodity price supports, veteran and beginning farmers. The impasse between the House and Senate-and Democrats and Republicans-revolves primarily around proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which would mandate new work requirements for food stamp recipients. Failure to reach an agreement, and possibly more restrictive eligibility requirements to qualify for food stamps will have serious consequences for rural Americans. Crop insurance and commodity programs are also being debated.

President Trump hailed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as a "very, very big deal for our farmers." Well, maybe for American dairy and wheat farmers living in states bordering Canada, but the overall gains for American agriculture appear modest at best. And there are some glaring omissions.

As expected, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Pork Producer's Council, and the National Chicken Council hailed USMCA. Sadly, but also expected, USMCA makes no provision for country of origin labeling (COOL). The agreement also states the three countries will work with the WTO to reduce agricultural supports for commodities, thereby weakening our ability to support prices and manage supplies of agricultural products. The new agreement will also codify the efficiency and consumer protection rules as they relate to corporate actions between the three countries. Producers who suffer harm at the hands of the likes of JBS will have little

recourse. Of course, USMCA has yet to be ratified by the U.S. Senate, and an election is coming which may alter its makeup. Let your senators and representatives—and those who are running for these offices-know your concerns about the farm bill and USMCA. Who knows, maybe they will listen. DS

MEYER (continued from page 3)

through their" debt-for-nature swaps". Funding for these swaps is generated through an unprecedented partnership between WWF, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. government.

The Nature Conservancy, another USRSB member, works in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation and the World Animal Foundation to eliminate domestic livestock grazing on federal, state and private grasslands. The Nature Conservancy coordinates efforts to advance the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area (DGCA), through the purchasing of perpetual conservation easements from private landowners thereby limiting future landowner activities.

Nature Conservancy is transitioning staff to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices in South Dakota to help purchase perpetual conservation easements. Nature Conservancy also works with legislators and other decision-makers to ensure that funding from federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and other federal and state sources flows to the DGCA to fund their anti-domestic livestock programs.

Both the Nature Conservancy and WWF are stealth Trojan horse participants with under lying motives to remove domestic livestock from the grasslands and aiding to the demise of family agriculture. Both organizations have succeeded in removing domestic livestock from 1.1 million acres of grasslands in northeast Montana.

Some of the other USRSB/ Trojan horse stakeholders include members like Arby's Restaurant Group, Costco Wholesale Corporation, Mc Donald's Corporation, Target, Taco Bell, Wendy and Walmart. All retail members seeking to improve their financial bottom line through the exploitation of producers burdened with expensive source and age documentation.

The first requirement USRSB stakeholders are seeking, is the establishment of a national animal identification system to monitor producer premise and livestock (personal prop-

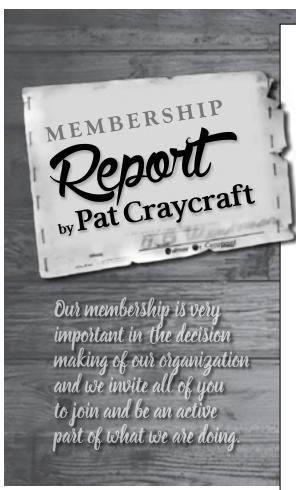
erty) numbers. The USRSB web site proudly proclaims, "USRSB recognizes the necessity of animal identification for the U.S. beef cattle herd to measure success and improvements in sustainability and embraces a nationwide goal of animal identification for purposes of disease traceability, herd security, consumer confidence, quality improvement, international market access, and a means to participate in supply chain programs that can offer value-added benefits". Two of the most alarming points of this statement are "quality improvement and market access" which were the (2) main driving principles for vertical integration in the hog and poultry industries. When processors and retailers dictate quality and market access the ultimate battle of price fixation has been won and beef producers will join the ranks with their swine and poultry colleagues as serfs on their own land.

USRSB and their global predecessor, the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) are two of the largest threats to family agriculture and if left unchecked will result in the extinction of family beef production at the hands of large multi-corporate conglomerates seeking to exploit the industry for their monopolistic control. The stakeholders of these organizations are establishing total industry control through producer intimidation and proclamation of their superior "sustainable" knowledge.

Looking back at past beef industry cycles, this new "sustainable" charge is nothing more than a continuance of past corporate market manipulation which congress attempted to fix with the 1921 Packers and Stockyard Act. The only change this time around is the collusion of stakeholders who not only want to steal your markets but also wish to remove your cattle off state and federal grasslands.

As cattlemen, why would we want to sustain a broken market system in which 35 producers are forced out of business each day and the producer share of the beef dollar is 14.8 cents versus a retail- wholesale share of 85.2 cents? Are we willing to obediently allow USRSB to instill their monopolistic rhetoric and policies upon our industry?

In the past 75 years, cattle producers have received parity for their produce 3 years, 2013-2015, resulting from the enforcement of COOL. Are we willing to let the USRSB stakeholders vertically integrate our beef industry and cast us into serfdom without a fight or will we replace that sustainable USRSB mandate with a **regenerative** producer lead charge to restore family agriculture. VM



OCM's Annual Membership Meeting was held at our 20th Anniversary Conference on August 11, 2018. This meeting was held for voting members to hear what we have done in the past year, vote on any issues that require the majority vote of the membership and to elect four new directors for a three-year term. At this year's meeting we reported on the organization's financials for 2017, approved last year's meeting minutes, heard activity updates from our then-President, Mike Weaver; our Executive Director, Joe Maxwell and our Director of Communications and Research, Angela Huffman.

This year we had a bylaw change that was recommended by the OCM Board of Directors to be presented at the Membership Meeting regarding the removal of Officers, Directors and Members. The change was an addition to the original bylaws that any Director, Officer or Member may be removed by a two-thirds ballot vote of all board members. This bylaw change was voted on and approved at the membership meeting.

The membership also elected four new directors to fill the outgoing officer positions. The new directors to serve for three years beginning August 2018 to August 2021 are: Webster Davis, Barbara Ross, Paul Muegge and Fred Stokes. After the new directors were elected, the membership nominated (among the 12 current directors) and voted for a President and Vice-President. Don Stull was elected President and Vaughn Meyer was elected Vice-President. The Secretary and Treasurer positions were elected at the first board meeting following the Membership Meeting. Judy Heffernan was elected Secretary and Jonathan Buttram was elected Treasurer.

Our membership is very important in the decision making of our organization and we invite all of you to join and be an active part of what we are doing. If you are already a member, we appreciate your support. Please encourage others that have an interest in our issues to become part of our team.

ANNUAL DONATIONS - Just a reminder that all donations made to OCM are tax deductible. As we near the end of the year, please consider supporting OCM with a donation. PC

CAPITOL (continued from page 5)

farmers may be one of them - but the overall impact on all farmers and ranchers will be worse than under NAFTA. The Agriculture Chapter 3 begins by giving greater power and authority to the World Trade Organization (WTO), requiring that the U.S. work through the WTO on agriculture support programs in an effort to reduce the support for agriculture and America's farmers, ranchers and dairy producers - clearly not what most farmers and ranchers thought would be the outcome of a new agreement. As concerning is Chapter 21 the Competition Policy Chapter. While this chapter is not subject to the dispute resolution sections contained in the agreement, it is just as contractually binding on the U.S. as any other provision. The policy contained in the chapter would enshrine the very U.S. policies that have given us the

current state of mega-mergers and acquisitions. The terms of the chapter state the U.S. would not be able to change or move away from the efficiency definition of antitrust law resulting in multi-national corporations being allowed to merge or acquire their competitors all the while stuffing any savings from the deals into their own pockets while gaining greater market power that extracts wealth out of the pockets of family farmers and rural communities and gouges the consumer at the grocery store. A glaring omission is the failure of the agreement to allow for the U.S. to have a Country of Origin Labeling provision. Without COOL, U.S. cattle producers will continue to be squeezed out of the market. OCM is working to have these provisions addressed in the agreement. If OCM is unsuccessful in making these changes, we will work against this trade agreement.

MORATORIUM ON MERGERS |

AND ACQUISITIONS: Over the last year, OCM worked to help draft federal legislation that would push the pause button on agriculture, food and beverage manufacturing, and retail grocery mergers and acquisitions and establish a commission to review mergers, concentration, and market power in those sectors. In early September, Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI) introduced landmark legislation that updated to the late Senator Paul Wellstone's agribusiness merger moratorium bill. The Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2018 (S.3404/ H.R.6800) would halt the mega-mergers sweeping the agribusiness, food manufacturing and grocery industries that are contributing to falling farm prices, declining farm incomes and food worker wages, raising food prices and sapping the economic vitality of rural communities.^{JM}



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