
OCM

Organization for
Competitive Markets

Board of Directors

May 20, 2020

Don Stull
Lawrence, KS
President

The Honorable Secretary Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20250

Vaughn Meyer
Reva, SD
Vice President

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Jonathan Buttram
Albertville, AL
Treasurer

Yesterday at an event during which he announced aid for American farmers, President Trump suggested terminating the importation of beef cattle from foreign countries.

Al Davis
Hyannis, NE
Secretary

While OCM agrees with that strategy, we feel it does not go far enough. The U.S. must also ban beef imports, especially beef imported from Brazil. The February 2020 lift of the ban on Brazilian beef imports, which we opposed, was a mistake, and it needs to be reversed.

Jeri Lynn Bakken
Lemon, SD

OCM recently called for a breakup of the Big Four meatpacking companies. The current levels of consolidation in agriculture are unsustainable, and our food system must be restructured. This restructuring must occur not only from the top down, but also from the ground up. That is why we are currently working proactively with our members and stakeholders to develop policy recommendations for a transition to a more decentralized food system.

Webster Davis
Auxvasse, MO

The market disruption caused by Covid-19 has left cattle producers hurting across the country. Low prices, processing bottlenecks and drought have put unprecedented pressure on American farmers and ranchers. In the absence of Country of Origin Labeling, to continue to allow imported cattle and foreign beef to unfairly compete with domestic producers and products is the equivalent of kicking American ranchers while they are down.

Tom Dierks
Lincoln, NE

Chris Petersen
Clear Lake, IA

By implementing a ban on imported cattle and beef, and by allowing American farmers and ranchers to feed America, we can hopefully weather this trying time in our nation's history and together rebuild an agriculture and food economy that will enrich our rural and urban communities and nourish our nation's people.

Barbara Ross
Jefferson City, MO

Fred Stokes
Porterville, MS
Past President

Do not hesitate to let me know if there is more information or assistance OCM can provide on this matter.

David Wright
Neligh, NE

Sincerely,



Ben Gotschall, Interim Executive Director