



FROM THE  
**PRESIDENT**  
Vaughn Meyer

## A Nation built on Agriculture

**T**hroughout history strong nations have risen from the fruits of plentiful agriculture while hungry populations propagate chaotic dictatorships. Here in the United States, we have been blessed with vast productive soils which not only feed our growing population

**Decades of unchallenged mergers and abuses have allowed corporate consolidation of power dominating entire markets.**

but generate the direct, indirect and induced wealth of our nation. Recently it has been proclaimed that every dollar of agriculture production generates \$11 of new wealth for our nation.

However, since the late 19th century American producers and consumers have witnessed the corporate sabotaging of our industry by both foreign and domestic corporations enslaving producers on their own land and price fixing consumer nutrition!

Early on in the late 19TH century our elected officials attempted to strike down these anticompetitive attempts of monopolistic corporations which exploited producers and consumers alike.

The passage of the Sherman Act authorized our Dept. of Justice to enforce anticompetitive actions promoting corporate corruption. Later the Packers and Stockyards act of 1921 sought to prohibit meat packers from engaging in unfair and deceptive practices and regulate interstate and foreign commerce in livestock, livestock produce, dairy, dairy produce, poultry and eggs.

These two Acts along with the Packers Consent Decree brought industry stability for nearly 6 decades until the Packer Consent Decree was abandoned and a packer feeding frenzy escalated under the un watchful eye of our Dept. of Justice and USDA Animal Marketing Service. (AMS).

Decades of unchallenged mergers and abuses have allowed corporate consolidation of power dominating entire markets. Agriculture, with its dominate independent spirit, was among the first industries to become corporate prey. Meanwhile our economists and judges permitted corporate mergers based upon claims of greater consumer efficiencies and economics.

After years of corporate oppression farmers began looking to their organizations for answers to regaining their share of the consumer dollar. What farmers soon learned was the corporate powers had previously dominated their existing farm organizations and had hijacked their check

Please see MEYER on page 2



### INSIDE →

**2 LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN IN RESPONSE TO HIS EXECUTIVE ORDER**

From Executive Director  
Mike Eby

**3 REDEDICATED TO ITS FOUNDING PRINCIPLES**

by Fred Stokes

**4 OCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**6 IN MEMORY JIM JOHNDROW FRANKIE CHARIPAR**

**7 MEMBERSHIP NEW/ RENEWAL/DONATE APPLICATION**





Organization for  
Competitive Markets

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From Executive Director **Mike Eby**

**LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN IN RESPONSE  
TO HIS EXECUTIVE ORDER:**



Organization for  
Competitive Markets

January 28, 2021

United States President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of independent cattle farmers and ranchers in the United States, we appreciate the "Made in America" executive order you signed on Monday, which strengthens U.S. purchasing regulations and ensures that U.S. workers have a future.

However, please note that since the repeal of the U.S. mandatory country of origin labeling law (m-COOL) in 2015, USA beef is no longer distinguishable from imported beef. How then can American family farmers and ranchers participate in, much less benefit from your order?

What is most disturbing is the fact that as policy stands, federal procurement programs including school lunches will be receiving beef from foreign cattle. Based upon your "Made in America" executive order, we can't imagine this is what you have in mind. As a solution, OCM calls upon your administration and/or Congress to reinstate m-COOL.

Organization for Competitive Markets advocates for markets that are fair, honest, accessible, and competitive for all citizens. Having beef labeled of the country from which the animal was born, raised, and slaughtered is the first step in being honest. We hope to work with you to ensure that American family-owned cattle farmers and ranchers can participate in building a future you envision through your executive order. Most importantly this move will strengthen the domestic food supply chain in the United States.

Sincerely,

*Mike Eby*

Mike Eby, Executive Director (717-799-0057) meby@competitivemarkets.com

MEYER (continued from page 1)

off programs forcing farmers and ranchers to finance their own demise.

Realizing the need to reestablish competitive markets within Agriculture, in 1998 a group of concerned producers and industry leaders formed the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM). Since that initial beginning, OCM has continuously advocated and fought for fair markets for all sectors of agriculture. OCM founding members possessed a vision of resurrecting America through a healthy and flourishing agriculture. An American agriculture where once more farm families provide safe wholesome nutrition for American consumers.

Today OCM is working tirelessly with state and national leaders and fellow organizations advocating against the current monopolistic oppression of farm families. The current monopolistic invasion within our industry is destroying the creation of true wealth and turning the United States into a debtor na-

tion. Left unchecked by our Dept. of Justice and the U.S. court systems, this monopolistic octopus is spreading its tentacles to all industries and conquering consumer distribution channels as well.

OCM work is driven by a staff and directors with a broad geographic representation and with diverse participation in all areas of agricultural production.

As president I am proud and honored to work with the OCM team as they fight to save American family agriculture. OCM recognizes the strength of working together and we extend invitations to organizations and individuals to join our team sharing your ideas and letting your voices be heard.

God endowed the United States with fruitful productive soils and OCM will not rest until fair and competitive markets are restored for the produce of those soils.

J.K. Rowling once said, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."



# Rededicated to its Founding Mission and Principles

by Fred Stokes (Founding Member)

At its founding meeting in Kansas City some 20 plus years ago, OCM laid out its mission and principles and resolved not to be diverted by mission creep or outside influences. Over the years, folks of diverse political and philosophical persuasion came together in a common effort to make agricultural markets open, transparent, fair and competitive. They agreed to pursue this mission with vigor and in various ways; but always by honest and ethical means. This was the glue that bound the effort together in relative harmony and concert for two decades.

In the past couple of years, OCM fell victim to the same malady that had afflicted the country at large; it became a House Divided. Social activism, political correctness and diversity became a part of the agenda. Fixing the broken marketplace was no longer the exclusive focus. Social and political ideology divided OCM into two (less than harmonious) camps.

In retrospect, it seems that a strategically planned effort materialized to takeover this small and meagerly funded organization with its worthy mission and honorable reputation. It began by packing the board, followed by a bylaw change that resulted in a truncated re-

moval of the President from the board **and membership by board action alone** rather than by the membership. The same tactic was attempted to remove me as a remaining impediment to the coup. The scheme narrowly failed.

With this as background, the membership overwhelmingly voted (84%) last August for directors who were seen to be keepers of OCM's tradition of sticking to the mission and keeping outside agendas out.

Two directors apparently saw the handwriting on the wall and declined to seek reelection. The other five were either defeated in the election or resigned. But, on their way out the door, while still having a majority, they acted summarily (and likely illegally) to return the major portion of OCM's funds to the funding agencies. Several then made written, widely distributed emailed statements, renouncing their membership and predicted OCM's demise. Happily, these dire predictions did not come to pass.

OCM is now stronger than ever! It has a diverse board that is balanced with regard to race, gender and geography. More importantly, each individual director has the particular background, skills and insight to effectively

contribute to the organization's effort. (Visit the OCM website to view photos and bios of directors and staff.)

Our reliable and trustworthy secretary is still with us and we now have an Executive Director that is especially well qualified and interacts well with the board. We also have a highly competent legal support team that is enthusiastically supportive. The entire current OCM team is "one piece" and pulling in the same direction.

A board meeting in DC is planned for the end of June to push a number of issues, to include COOL, Checkoff Reform, increasing independent meat processors and several others.

We are discussing a face-to-face general membership meeting in Rapid City, SD in August.

While I am getting a bit *long-of-tooth*, perhaps with diminishing abilities, a little fire in the belly remains and I plan to stay involved.

There is lots of work yet to be done if we are to make the game fair so that independent family agriculture and a livable rural America can endure. **Please join us as we work toward that end.**



# MEET OCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCM's mission is to work for transparent, fair, and truly competitive agricultural and food markets. Our diverse Board consists of like-minded professionals who are committed and devoted to working together toward OCM's mission. We continue to fight for economic justice for America's family farmers and ranchers. (Additional information about our Directors is available on our website.)

## **VAUGHN MEYER** President, Reva, SD



Vaughn and his family manage Sodak Angus Ranch, located in northwest South Dakota. Sodak Angus was originally homestead-

ed by Vaughn's grandfather, Otto Meyer, in 1909. Vaughn's late father, Raymond Meyer, introduced Angus genetics to the operation in 1954, and today the ranch consists of a 600-head purebred cow herd and a dry land farming operation.

## **THOMAS F. "FRED" STOKES** Vice-President, Porterville, MS



Born and raised on a small, diversified family farm in Kemper County, Mississippi. He retired from the Army in 1972 as a Major

and returned to his home county in Mississippi. He has been involved in the cattle business and active in agricultural and rural life issues ever since. Fred is deeply concerned about the disappearance of independent family agriculture and the decay in rural America.

## **TOM DIERKS** Secretary, Lincoln, NE



Tom was born and raised in Ewing, Nebraska, and is working in Lincoln in private practice as a Licensed Clinical Social

Worker. He has had the opportunity to spend time working on the family ranch and served as a licensed foster parent for eleven years. Tom is in his second year as a board member of OCM.

## **JONATHAN BUTTRAM** Treasurer, Albertville, AL



Jonathan has been a Poultry & Cattle farmer for 38 years. He also serves as a Volunteer Fire Fighter and President of the Alabama

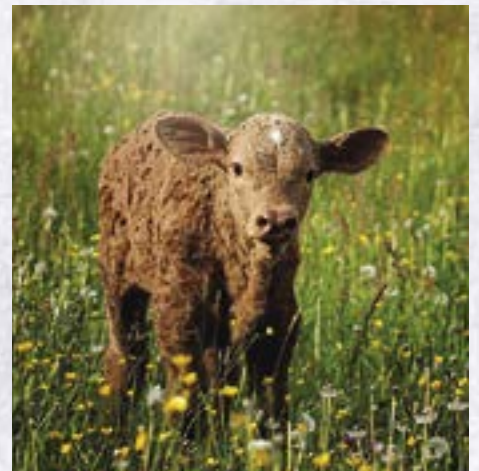
Contract Poultry Growers Association. He believes one man can make a difference if he puts Jesus first.

## **JERIKA BRUMBELOE** Director, Geraldine, AL



Jerika is a fourth-generation cattle farmer, born and raised in Geraldine, Alabama. Raised on a 14-house broiler chicken operation

and was active in learning to manage the health of her grandfather's cow/calf operation. She took this knowledge to aid in assisting her parents with their cattle operation, as well as growing her own operation. She started with a small herd of 10 SimAngus brood cows and heifers, and has grown that operation to over 50 head, while using only the female genetics passed down from her grandfather's herd to her father's herd, then to hers. She has recently began acquiring Registered Balancer females to form a progressive herd.



# MEET OCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continued)

## JOAQUIN CONTENTE

Director, Hanford, CA



Son of Portuguese immigrants and lifetime dairy farmer located in Hanford California. I am blessed having my daughter,

Claudine, and son J.T. sharing both the work and rewards of our family dairy farm. We are milking 850 cows and growing crops on 500 acres. Claudine's duties consist of overseeing the herd and financial accounting of the business. J.T. maintains the equipment, schedules irrigation and harvesting of crops to feed the cows.

## TAYLOR H. HAYNES, M.D.

Laramie, WY



Taylor is an entrepreneur and cattle rancher residing in Albany County Wyoming, producing all natural grass fed Beef

using Animal Husbandry techniques Organic. He is also a founding Board member and past president of Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming (ICOW). He was a member of the

Board of Directors of R-CALF USA, and as such is the Regional Director for Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Dr Haynes is a Lifetime Member of Wyoming Stock Growers Association and a Former Vice President and Director of Region II of Wyoming Stock Growers Association. Dr. Haynes is involved in multiple Beef marketing efforts, both conventional as well as All Natural Grass Fed Beef. Dr. Haynes was inducted into the Multicultural Western Heritage Hall of Fame in Ft. Worth Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

## MARTY IRBY

Director, Washington, D.C.



Marty is the executive director at Animal Wellness Action in Washington, D.C. Irby worked in the U.S. House of Representatives

for Congressman Ed Whitfield (KY-01) as Press Secretary, Communications Director and Science, NASA, and Agriculture Policy Advisor. In August of 2020, Irby was recognized by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, II, with an Award for his extraordinary efforts to reduce violence in the training of horses, only the second occasion in history the British Crown has given such a presentation.

## MIKE SCHULTZ

Director, Brewster, KS



Mike has been active in politics and the cattle industry for decades. He founded the Kansas Cattlemen's Association in

1998, serving as the Executive Director until 2007 and worked with the early founders of R-CALF USA during the same time frame. He served as Vice President of R-CALF USA and am currently chairman of the Country of Origin Labeling committee. We are heavily involved in agriculture as cow/calf producers, farming and alfalfa production. My involvement in the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, R-CALF USA and now OCM has allowed me to meet some great people (and some not so much) along the way! It has been a great lifetime experience. My noted quote is "You earn my respect I don't give it away, regardless of who you are."

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[competitivemarkets.com](http://competitivemarkets.com)

# MEET OCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continued)

## CRAIG VEJRASKA

Director, Omak, WA



Craig owns and operates the Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, along with his two sons Todd and Scott. We are located in the

heart of cattle country in North Central Washington. We run a herd of commercial and registered Angus cattle. We market our bulls at our annual production sale every year in March. Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch is a third-generation ranch started by myself and my father, Lou, in the early 1960's. It actually was a runaway 4-H project that developed into my lifelong career.

## MIKE WEAVER

Director, Fort Seybert, WV



Mike is the Past President of the Organization for Competitive Markets. He also serves as President of the Contract Poultry

Growers Association of the Virginias, which represents broiler, pullet, egg producers and turkey growers in West Virginia and Virginia. He is a board member or officer of Allegheny Highlands Alliance, West Virginia Special Olympics, Potomac Highlands Wounded Warrior Outreach, and South Fork Ruritan Club. He is also a member of American Legion and National Wild Turkey Federation.

## DAVID WRIGHT

Director, Neligh, NE



David is District 4 Director and Past President of Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska (ICON). He ranches in Holt County,

NE and owns JD Printing & Publishing in Neligh. Wright is a fourth-generation rancher and his day-to-day operation includes a cow-calf operation with just enough grass to feed the cows and enough cows to eat the grass. He is proud his grandfather was a cattle-trader. Along with his son Isaac, the ranch hand, he backgrounds the calves to 600-700 lbs. Wright also sells hay.

*In  
Memory*

## Jim Johndrow

of Ponca City, OK

Passed away at the end of January 2021. He had been an active member since August 2016. It was reported that he had a form of blood cancer that he lived with for many years, it was not Covid-19.

## Frankie Charipar

of Leigh, Nebraska

Passed away on November 27, 2020. He was 82 years old and a strong believer in OCM. He had attended many conventions and had been a member of OCM since 2004.

OCM extends our sincere sympathy to these men and their families. They were continued supporters of our mission for competitive markets. May they rest in peace. Please send information about our members who have passed to [pccraycraft@competitivemarkets.com](mailto:pccraycraft@competitivemarkets.com) or 402-327-8390.





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

## 2021 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

### Renew/Join/Donate TODAY!

The Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) is a recognized national leader working to bring economic justice for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities by fighting to break the abusive corporate power that extracts the wealth out of their pockets. OCM provides a platform for individuals and organizations to join their voices in demanding fairness and justice within the marketplace. Working together we can ensure everyone receives their fair share of America's prosperity they build. By becoming a member, you will have access to the information and tools you need to join the fight.

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- As an **Individual Member** (\$50) you will receive OCM's informative quarterly newsletter and each week you will receive our **NEWS ROUNDUP** by email.
- As a **Voting Member** (\$125) you will receive all the benefits of an Individual Member, and you gain the **right to vote at OCM membership meetings**, setting the course of OCM's future.
- As a **Sustaining Member** (\$500) you receive all the benefits of the Individual and Voting Member, plus you will have access to the inside strategies of OCM's ongoing campaigns through one-on-one conversations.

#### ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

OCM's strength comes from collaborating with other like-minded organizations. Let OCM provide you with the information and services you need to succeed by becoming an **Associate Organization Member**.

- As a **\$200 Associate** your organization will receive OCM's informative quarterly newsletter, and each week your organization will receive our **NEWS ROUNDUP** by email.
- As a **\$500 Associate** your benefit package will include the benefits of the \$200 member plus two conference registrations, giving you a head start on attending OCM's annual conference.
- As a **\$1,000 Associate** your benefit package will include in addition to those listed for the membership levels above booth space and recognition at our annual conference.

#### DONATIONS

**Your support and donation can make a difference.** All donations to OCM are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit tax deduction. Please send your donation TODAY. All donors will receive the OCM Quarterly Newsletter and the NEWS ROUNDUP by email.

**Join/Renew/Donate today by selecting the level of membership that works for you:**

\_\_\_\_ \$50 Individual Member    \_\_\_\_ \$125 Voting Member    \_\_\_\_ \$500 Sustaining Member

\_\_\_\_ \$200 Associate Organization    \_\_\_\_ \$500 Associate Organization    \_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Associate Organization

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**Newsletters will be sent by email unless you check here to receive a mailed copy \_\_\_\_\_.**

Membership is January to December. Make checks payable to **OCM, P. O. Box 6486, Lincoln, NE 68506** or pay by debit or credit card through our secure, only system at [www.competitivemarkets.com](http://www.competitivemarkets.com).



Organization for  
Competitive Markets

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY-MARCH  
**2021**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Organization for Competitive Markets  
is to work for transparent, fair, and truly  
competitive agricultural and food markets.*

