



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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



From The **PRESIDENT**

Taylor H. Haynes MD

Food Anyone?

As summer work comes to a close, we look ahead to Autumn. On the mountain where we are, wildlife has been prepping since Spring. Preparations range from storing nuts by the various squirrel types to putting on fat and winter coats. The bears continue foraging in preparation for hibernation. There is a very strong hint of Fall as the colors are just beginning.

For we agriculturalists, the harvest is in full swing. We provide food and fiber for the world. This ritual is ten to eleven thousand years old that we can document. I am pretty sure that is sustainable. Production agriculture allowed societies to flourish and advance because people no longer spent most of their time feeding themselves. They developed other skills producing

goods and services which rapidly advanced civilization. I have cherished this procession of the seasons since childhood.

Peddling Louisiana yams to the mom-and-pop grocery stores that once existed in neighborhoods, connected me to the consumer. It was an education in our free enterprise system. Our farm was in competition with other farms. We were motivated to offer the highest quality product at the best wholesale price we could afford to the grocer. Consumers were offered a variety of locally sourced food products with commensurate price ranges. Today the consumers' choice of beef and pork products is blinded. The "product of the USA" label is a fraud because internationally sourced beef and pork products are repackaged as products of the USA. The imported products are stealing the domestic producers "good will" while depressing the prices they receive.

Agriculture, unlike manufacturing, construction, and most other professions, requires large tracts of land. It should be clear to all that one cannot abuse the land and remain in business. We truly love the land and the animals we care for. They are our lifeblood! We are raised with the philosophy to leave the land and herd better than we found them. For example, our country has seen several very severe droughts since the "Dust Bowl" drought. However, the "Dust Bowl" has not been repeated. This is due to knowledge gained and care intensified.

In recent years, under the guise of combatting climate change and protecting the environment, agriculture has been under attack.

Across Europe, with the Netherlands being the point of the spear, agricultural activity may be reduced by up to 40%. Here at home (the USA) it would be reduced by 30% by the year 2030.

There are already some empty shelves in grocery stores. Prices are rising at breath taking rates. If the aforementioned reductions take place, starvation and its attended chaos will ensue globally.

Consumers must rally to the side of agriculture as the next Farm Bill is crafted, to preserve their access to high quality affordable food.

INSIDE

- 1 From the President
FOOD ANYONE?
by Taylor H. Haynes, M.D.
- 2-3 The Organization for
Competitive Markets
Moves Forward on
Southeast Beef Supply
Chain Pilot Project
by Fred Stokes
- 3 Making a Difference
- 4-6 OCM 2022
Membership Highlights
- 7 In Memory of
Gary Galbreath



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Competitive Markets

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The Organization for Competitive Markets Moves forward on Southeast Beef Supply Chain Pilot Project

September 8th, 2022
by Fred Stokes



There was a gathering of twenty-one people in Forest, Mississippi in the Bank of Forest Board Room to discuss OCM's plan for expanding independent beef processing in the region. Others participated in the discussion electronically via Zoom.

Represented were OCM leadership and staff, area meat processors, food retailers, cattle producers, meat specialists, USDA technical support personnel, bankers, and others.

The three-hour discussion focused on developing one or more pilot supply chains in Mississippi and Louisiana to explore the complexities of building cattle feeding and processing infrastructure in the area.

The existing deficiency in this capability requires the major portion of the nation's calves produced in the region to be shipped long distances for feeding and processing. As a consequence, these cattle are heavily discounted, causing financial harm to cattle producers and the local rural economy alike. After processing, much of the beef is then shipped back to the area markets, generating unnecessary, environmental impact.

OCM has long seen concentration in processing as the bottleneck in the beef supply chain and a major impediment to market competition. The recent USDA initiative to expand independent meat processing was welcomed as an opportunity to address the situation.

For more than two years, OCM has made the expansion of independent meat processing a priority undertaking. In April of 2021, it held a meeting on the matter in Washington, DC with USDA officials and members of congress.

See **Southeast Beef Supply Chain Pilot Project** on Page 3

DISCLAIMER: All author's written opinions are their own and are not intended to imply the organization's position. OCM has membership with diverse viewpoints on all issues and is committed to one principal; competition.

Southeast Beef Supply Chain Project ...

(continued from page 2)

In July of this year, a follow-up meeting was held in Kansas City, hosted by Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG), a cooperative with some 3,100 food store members. There were some 30 participants taking part in person or via zoom. There was strong agreement that an opportunity existed for a "coming-together" of cattle producers, independent processors and independent grocers in some sort of cooperating relationship that would work to their mutual economic advantage. The mood of the meeting was captured by a statement by one of the participants; ***"we are not here to come up with some sort of get rich scheme but to find a way to preserve our way of life!"***

The group asked OCM to go forward with a pilot supply chain project to find answers to the various questions and build a working model to demonstrate feasibility for the general concept.

This is not any easy task! There have been many past failures. To avoid having to place a large amount of start-up capital at risk, we plan to bring currently existing entities into our pilot supply chain. We are currently working with a number of producers, two independent area processors and a family chain of 15 independent grocery stores.

The attitude is positive, and expectations are high, but we intend to avoid placing any of these folks at significant financial risk.

Stay Tuned!



The 2022 Year is ending soon.

Please consider OCM as a tax deduction donation this year.

I would like to make a **2022 Donation to OCM TODAY!**

All donations to OCM are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit tax deduction.

Your support and donation can **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

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Please send your donation to: OCM, P. O. Box 6486, Lincoln, NE 68506, OR pay by debit or credit card online through our secure, online system, at www.competitivemarkets.com

Thank you.

OCM 2022 Membership Highlights

July 29, 2022 – OCM - 24th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference

"Freedom to Market" Building the Infrastructure for our Future.

This year's focus was **"Freedom to Market" - Building the Infrastructure for our Future**. Our conference objective was to point to the independent beef supply chain. We believe that no matter how much money the Biden administration devotes to small processing, without connecting the supply chain of live cattle all the way to retail, \$1.5 billion in grants could all be for naught. To ensure this is not our country's fate, OCM showed examples of supply chain connections made in the southeast that can be replicated nationwide. During the conference, speakers including farmers, ranchers, policymakers, researchers, and organizers shared their expertise and experiences in their endeavors for fair and competitive markets.



Panel: Update – Independent Market Processing Meeting – 7/28/2022, AWG
From left to right: Steve Stratford/Winter LS-Kansas, Michael Kovach/PFU, Rob Larew/NFU, and Vaughn Meyer/OCM

Gilles Stockton, a recent congressional hearing testifier, opened the conference and set the stage. Mid-morning, **Andy Green** from USDA spoke to efforts to promote fair and competitive markets. At Lunch, **Scott Blubaugh**, Oklahoma Farmers Union President, shared his meat processing success with the Oklahoma Native American tribe. Friday afternoon featured **David Smith**, Independent Grocer CEO, speaking to supply chain logistics. **Gary Genske**, NDPO board director, shared the 100% USA Beef trademark and its marketability. Wrapping up our day, **Peter Sykes** speaking from Australia addressed the recent JBS acquisition just approved and the effects of market concentration globally. [See individual speaker presentations on OCM's website.](#)

See **Membership Highlights** on Page 5



Panel: Update - Checkoff, Off Act, Transparency, COOL, and Packers & Stockyards Act.
From Left to Right: OCM Directors - David Wright, Taylor Haynes, Mike Schultz, and Marty Irby

HELMUTH AWARD - OCM presents the John Helmuth Award to Gilles Stockton in recognition of his sustained and effective advocacy for open, fair, and competitive agricultural markets and his dedication to promoting the interests of independent family agriculture.

For more than three decades, through the efforts of several non-profit organizations to include The Organization for Competitive Markets, Gilles has applied his energy and talent to confront abuse of the Beef Checkoff, opposing market concentration and market power abuse, advancing rulemaking to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, enacting Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling legislation and other interests of those who live in rural America. For this, he is deserving of our deep gratitude.

Note from Gilles Stockton: *I want to thank you and your board for the real honor of the John Helmuth Award. Also, for the honor of inviting me to address your annual meeting, which was awesome. Too much good information by real experts.*



See **Membership Highlights** on Page 6

July 30, 2022 - OCM's Annual Membership Meeting

Held in Kansas City, MO at the Marriott Kansas City Airport. After introductions and update by our President and Executive Director, the following officers were elected for a 3 year term: Joaquin Contente, Tom Dierks, Vaughn Meyer, and Dave Wright. Election for President was held electing Taylor Haynes. Election for Vice-President was held electing Mike Schultz.



OCM Board of Directors 2022–2023

August 8, 2022 - OCM Board Meeting

Election of Secretary and Treasurer. The following were elected for a 1 year term: Secretary/Marty Irby and Treasurer/Jonathan Buttram.

New Mission Statement – it was voted unanimously for the following new OCM Mission Statement: *"Keeping the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt the original monopoly buster, OCM strives to foster and recreate food production locally, providing Consumers truly transparent "Farm to plate" food systems in communities across America. OCM's actions will stimulate local commerce while making food availability and food safety more certain."*

IN MEMORY OF

GARY GALBREATH



Gary Scott Galbreath (81) was born December 31, 1939, to Maynard and Alma (Scott) Galbreath in Spokane, WA. Gary was a lifelong farmer in Ritzville, WA. until September 2014, when he suffered a severe stroke and was unable to return to the fields and enjoy the deep, rewarding pleasures of farming. Over the past seven years, Gary battled through various complications, while trying to find joy and meaning in his post-stroke days. On Christmas day, December 25, 2021, Gary was set free and able to walk into the perfect, loving arms of Jesus.

Gary grew up learning the joys of rural life, value of chores and hard work, love of animals, and developed many business and leadership skills along the way. He was a lifelong member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, served on the Ritzville School Board, Wheatland Bank Board, Big Bend Electric Board, and the Adams County Wheat Growers. He also led the local 4-H horse club and coached high school baseball. Over the years, he actively engaged in civic life, serving in varied capacities throughout the community and region.



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MISSION STATEMENT

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JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

