



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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



From The PRESIDENT

Taylor H. Haynes MD

Critical Allies! Consumers & Producers

The proposed merger of giants Kroger and Albertsons is causing serious consternation across the country, with good reason. This proposal commandeers my attention and jogs my memory.

First, please indulge my memory. Growing up on a small produce farm in Northwest Louisiana, I was keenly aware of the indispensable role of the consumer in our farming success. There were mom and pop grocery stores every few blocks or so in the largest town near our farm. I was allowed to market a portion of our "Louisiana Yam" crop as my own. Note, there were other small farms in that market.

Competition was strong. I learned to offer our highest quality yams at the best wholesale price we could afford. Thus, the grocer could offer good prices to the consumers. This form of local production and marketing was common throughout the country.

This food production and marketing system was very robust and hardy. It was nearly impossible for a disaster natural or man-made to cause nationwide shortages. They very rarely affected the whole country at once. Therefore, local shortages could be supplanted by food from neighboring areas that were unaffected. Simple proximity provided transparency of the origin and methods of production to consumers.

Kroger and Albertsons have been gobbling up smaller competitors individually through the decades. If one were to go back and list **all** the small to regional grocers gone into the maw of these two behemoths, it would be terrifying! The mom-and-pop neighborhood grocers mentioned in my reminiscence are long gone. This merger will exacerbate the situation.

This form of horizontal and vertical integration has destroyed most of livestock agriculture. Pork and poultry production have largely devolved into systems that are harmful to the environment, the producer, the livestock and the consumer.

This has happened because the mergers and acquisitions have been allowed by the Federal Trade Commission and the USDA.

The rules prohibiting many of these practices like the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1929 and the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration rule (GIPSA), proposed in 2017 are not enforced.

See **Critical Allies!** on page 2

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Critical Allies! (cont. from page 1)

The last segment to be cannibalized is beef production. Agriculture is the largest segment of our economy. Beef production is the largest segment of agriculture.

Whether one is vegan, vegetarian or omnivore, we must come together to save individual farming and ranching across our country. The availability of a variety of wholesome, affordable food is essential to us all. Individual farms and ranches provide habitat and feed year-round for a variety of wildlife.

Four meat packers control eighty-five percent (85%) of the meat packed in our country. Grocery purveyors have grown larger and fewer. A symbiosis has developed between these entities choking access to the marketplace for independent farmers and ranchers. This monopolistic setup has caused the demise of hundreds of thousands of independent farmers and ranchers and small independent grocers as well. It has robbed the

consumer of the increase in convenience and affordability promised by each merger and acquisition. They are traveling farther from home and facing continually rising prices. The Covid crisis demonstrated the dangers of concentrated supply chains.

Critical Allies! We producers across the country must and will be urged to contact our congressional representatives insisting they weigh in to block the Kroger -Albertsons merger.

In turn we desperately need consumers to contact their congressional representation insisting they vote to include the Agriculture and Meat Production Act in the upcoming Farm Bill of 2023. This Act restores Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of beef in the meat case. Today it is labeled "product of the USA". This is a fraud as the beef can be from anywhere in the world including the deforested Amazon rainforest and has been re-packaged.

We must all act now!



Doing the Right Thing & Acting Accordingly

From Mike Schultz
OCM Vice President

I hope in the world of living and life, you are doing well. We seem to need more and more "faith and hope"! We have all seen changes in our lifetime, but not many like we are seeing today and globally. As a cattleman and farmer in agriculture and our world, I have never been so upset with the lack of peoples' honesty and integrity to "do the right thing and act accordingly". I stay very busy with board work for groups that are truly trying to fix many competition issues in the cattle industry and our markets. OCM is a voice and I truly believe that we have some great people on this board. We need everyone to step up and help financially so that we can continue to be the "THINK TANK ORGANIZATION" that our founder, Fred Stokes started!

See **From Mike Schultz** cont. on page 3

DISCLAIMER: All authors' 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.

From Mike Schultz ... (cont. from page 3)

First, I want to talk about our recent work on trying to develop a new marketing concept for ag producers working with a major retailing supply vendor. OCM has worked tirelessly on the implementation of this new concept and if we get it accomplished, we have done what no one else has ever tried. If successful, the result will help save rural America and your communities. We have the potential to market and sell beef, pork, chicken and even vegetables, if as members of OCM we are willing to try this new way of marketing. We need to remove the stranglehold by the meat packers!

This marketing plan will benefit producers! We are doing remarkable things with new concepts and ways to accomplish success. We have an effective team working on putting a plan together whereby we can capture more of the retail food dollar than what we have today. We have been holding meetings with producers, processors, marketers, and retailer segment people. What is unique on our project will be:

1. We have an outlet with a consumer base that is already buying! How many business models have consumers before they even have the supply system in place?

2. We are working on regional processing plants and supply stream issues as in quality, type and kind as well as "consistency to the products" that may be offered.

3. We are working on the profitability splits, so every segment sees a return for their investment (Years ago, I worked on a plan like this called the "Complete Beef Program").

4. We are into USA Product! Name recognition with the product and OCM will be recognized.

Another great accomplishment has been with the TAPPPS group (Texas Animal Protein Producers Prosperity and Security Group) and the finalization of the Agriculture Marketing Protection Act (AMP Act). Mike Eby and others of us at OCM have helped get this finalized.

Here is the Cover letter: [The Amp Act](#)

Agriculture Meat Production Act [230112 AMP Act, Final AM.docx \(wsimg.com\)](#)

The Amp Act is new legislation that was drafted by grassroots cow/calf producers 2021-2023.

The TAPPPS Group (Texas Animal Protein Producers and Security Group) served as Project Manager for this legislation with contributions from industry experts including representatives from independent cattlemen's associations, lawyers, legal scholars, and law professors. The final review of the Amp Act was completed in late January 2023.

New legislation is imperative because we live with the consequences of inaction and lack of enforcement of existing laws by congress as well as the unfair trade practices by packers, corporate giants, cattle associations, and others in the agricultural industry.

The Amp Act addresses issues through legislation that will bring back a competitive market to the cow/calf producers such as prohibiting anticompetitive cattle-buying practices, putting limits on further mergers, incentivizing expansion of local packer capacity, and strengthening and preserving our industry's price discovery market. Title I of our legislation is the strongest version of the American Beef Labeling Act or MCOOL written thus far!

Change through legislation will preserve the livelihoods of cattle raisers, reverse the decimation of rural America, and protect our customers, the beef consumers providing them the ability to choose American born, raised, and harvested beef, the best most regulated and inspected meat on earth. The AMP Act addresses the national security crisis of our protein supply chain and foreign investments in the U.S. Agriculture Industry.

The following were contributors to the drafting and final review of the AMP Act:

Bill Bullard, Peter Carstensen, David Crafton, Charles (Chuck) Gabbert, Lance Graham, Edwin Greiner, Joshua Knop, Vaughn Meyer, Judith McGeary, Mike Schultz

TAPPPS Mission:

To restore the livelihood of cow/calf producers and a competitive marketplace through legislation, therefore stopping the hollowing out and decimation of rural America. Also, to provide the beef consumers our customers the ability to choose American born, raised, and harvested beef through legislation mandating truthful labeling of the country of origin of all meat sold in America. To provide the resources necessary to educate cow/calf producers and the beef consumer about the crisis we face in the cattle industry and the importance of convincing elected officials to pass the AMP Act to return to a fair and just cattle industry. Email to: tapppsgroup@gmail.com and here is the link to review the Act: <https://theampact.com/about-us> Please help us get this to all the legislators so that they will know what is on the table and why it is so important for it to be passed this year in the 2023 Farm Bill.

In closing, we want to see everyone stay in this fight because the day we quit the corruption of open, fair, and free competition loses. Again, OCM needs your social and financial support more than ever! Please help if you can.



Legislative Update

From Marty Irby - OCM Secretary

It's been a tough few years for family farmers in the livestock business, but most folks don't really understand the root of the problem, and it's not necessarily inflation, supply chain problems, or the current state of our crippled economy. Industrial agriculture, or "Big Ag" as we like to call it, is sucking up the hard-earned dollars of family farmers and using those funds to lobby against the interests of the very people it purports to represent.

To be precise, I am writing about Big Ag's big secret — a series of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Commodity [Checkoff Programs](#) for beef, pork, dairy, and other commodities. Under these programs, struggling farmers are forced to hand over part of their proceeds and watch them placed into the pockets of trade organizations that pay their top executives six figure salaries. It's the worst kind of taxation — one where the payer gets nothing in return. Major trade associations like the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Dairy Management Inc. divert checkoff dollars that by law are restricted to commodity marketing programs and research, and instead use a large portion of the money for hefty salaries, prime office locations, and high-priced lobbyists.

And that includes lobbyists who push for policies that often hurt both family farmers and animals — opposing Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), fighting efforts to stop the extreme confinement of animals on factory farms, promoting the use of antibiotics that threaten public health, and blocking the growth of the organic sector.

To make it worse, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack — a former Democrat Governor of Iowa — served for eight years under President Obama and left his tenure at the end of that Administration to work for the dairy checkoff for nearly \$1 million per year. And as it often goes here in the swamp, Vilsack returned four years later to the same post under Joe Biden. The revolving door and potential conflicts of interest with Vilsack have raised eyebrows around the globe.

[Report](#) after [report](#) has consistently revealed the unethical and illegal re-routing of checkoff resources year after year under both Republican and Democrat Administrations. And those scandals brought to light by Politico and The Daily Caller occurred when Vilsack was Secretary the first time.

But there is hope: Last week, Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah,

Cory Booker, D-N.J., Rand Paul, R-Ky., Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., along with Reps. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., and Dina Titus, D-Nev., introduced the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, H.R. 1249/S. 557, to bring transparency and accountability to USDA's broken checkoff programs.

The bill doesn't seek to abolish the checkoff programs, as Big Ag beneficiaries are misrepresenting, but would instead simply require transparency and accountability and would prohibit checkoff funds from being used for lobbying. The OFF Act also would prohibit funds from being used to pay for staff and programs of trade associations that favor multinational corporations and push independent farmers out of business. And it would prevent disparagement of one product over another, because allowing the federal government to pick winners and losers in the marketplace is unacceptable.

Right now, funds from checkoff programs benefit industry groups that promote frightening levels of market consolidation and anticompetitive practices in production agriculture, and that does nothing to help the family farmers forced to pay into the program. For example, NCBA and other Big Ag groups pushed for the dissolution of programs designed to prevent price-fixing at the packing houses. Producers are thus forced to accept prices imposed by the global meat cartels, such as JBS from Brazil and Smithfield from China, that make it impossible to compete with cheaper, suspect products from overseas. American producers and consumers alike should be outraged that the NCBA, a U.S.-based beef industry group, is doing the bidding of giant multinational corporations instead of hard-working American farmers and ranchers. NCBA also does the bidding of those same foreign corporations in opposing rules to let consumers know where their meat was raised and processed. As a result of their nefarious efforts, the beef labeled as "Made in the USA" may have been produced in South America or Africa and merely packaged in the USA.

The effort for checkoff reform is supported by more than 80 farm organizations, including OCM, the National Farmers Union, and R-CALF, representing over 250,000 family farmers and ranchers, alongside groups like the Heritage Foundation, R Street, and even the National Taxpayers Union.

See [Legislative Update](#) cont. on page 5

Legislative Update ... (cont. from page 4)

Supporters of the bill are calling on Congress to take a second look at the broken and corrupt commodity checkoff programs — and hold Congressional hearings on the OFF Act to open the checkoff books to the public.

They're also calling for leaders on the House and Senate Agriculture Committee to include the OFF Act in the upcoming must-pass Farm Bill, set to be taken up later this year. And with Rep. Mace now holding an Oversight Subcommittee gavel, those hearings may finally be possible.

Let us be reminded of what President Abraham Lincoln said in 1864, two and a half years after he established the Department of Agriculture, in what was his final address to the Congress: "The Agricultural Department, under the supervision of its present energetic and faithful

head, is rapidly commending itself to the great and vital interest it was created to advance. It is precisely the people's Department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other. I commend it to the continued attention and fostering care of Congress."

That's clearly not the USDA we see today, and that's clearly not the USDA that Big Ag wants in Washington. If Big Ag fights against a simple hearing and investigation on the matter, it makes you wonder what the NCBA and other checkoffs have to hide.

Marty Irby is a director and board secretary at the [Organization for Competitive Markets](#) who was named one of The Hill's Top Lobbyists for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Follow him on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) @MartyIrby.



2023 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.

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

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Chicken: It's what's for dinner — with or without a checkoff program

(June 14, 2018)

From Jonathan Buttram - OCM Treasurer



They say this is the Golden Age of Poultry. Chicken consumption has hit an all-time high, outpacing beef, pork, and turkey. According to USDA estimates, beef was being consumed at 84.4 pounds per person per year in 1970. Today? That number is projected to be 57.9 pounds per person in 2018. Chicken consumption, on the other hand, is up from 40.1 pounds in 1970 to an estimated 92.5 pounds projected for 2018—all without the help of any checkoff program.

Chicken has overtaken the consumption of beef for many reasons—dietary trends, price, and availability (i.e. cut-up, pre-cooked and fast food offerings), among them. Although many factors play a role, it's noteworthy, and worth further discussion, that consumption levels of both beef and pork have fallen in the years since the checkoff programs for each were instituted. All while consumption of chicken, which has no promotional program of any kind, has continued to climb.

Originally intended to collect money to be used for promotion and research, commodity checkoff programs were established to help farmers of all sizes. Paid for directly from mandatory farmer payments, these programs were never to be used for lobbying efforts, nor were they to fund campaigns against any other commodity, agricultural product or animal welfare measure.

History, however, has proven otherwise. Since the inception of these programs, illegal relationships between checkoff boards and lobbying organizations have formed. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been misused, and these checkoff programs, as they are currently being managed, do not work in the best interests of independent family farmers.

These checkoff programs must be fixed. Though the 2018 Farm Bill, H.R. 2, was defeated with a 198-213 vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, the House plans to again vote for the legislation later this month. The Senate also plans to mark up its version of the farm bill this month. Our legislators need to look to an amendment filed by U.S. Reps. Dave Brat (R-VA),

Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Dina Titus (D-NV) on the House bill that would adequately reform the USDA's checkoff programs.

Similar to the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, H.R. 1753 calls for much-needed transparency and accountability in the checkoff programs. S. 741, which is a standalone counterpart in the U.S. Senate, is being led by Senators Mike Lee (R-UT) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) in the Upper Chamber.

More than 250,000 family farmers and ranchers are represented by the 80-plus farm organizations that are calling for checkoff reform in the 2018 Farm Bill. As a poultry producer, I understand the need for parity in livestock production—for big and small producers alike. My colleagues and friends raising beef and pork are not benefiting from current checkoff practices.

The system has to change, and accountability and transparency are key to righting the wrongs in the current USDA programs.

Jonathan Buttram is president of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association.

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Reps. Titus, Mace Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Target Anticompetitive Practices in Agriculture

February 28th, 2023

Contact: Ryan Radulovacki
ryan.radulovacki@mail.house.gov



PRESS RELEASE

Washington, DC - Today Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV) and Congresswoman Nancy Mace (R-SC) introduced bipartisan legislation targeting the anticompetitive practices of agriculture lobbyists and big corporations to enhance accountability and transparency in the agricultural industry.

The Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act refines the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s checkoff programs by closing a loophole that allows taxpayer dollars to be used for lobbying. The programs were established by the federal government and are funded through compulsory fees on producers of milk, eggs, beef, and other agricultural products so that members of the agricultural industry could pool their financial resources for promotional and research purposes. Regrettably, lax oversight at the federal level has allowed harmful relationships between the boards governing these programs and the agriculture lobby to develop.

Those lobbyists have worked to benefit certain producers to the detriment of others, pushed Congress to enact legislation harmful to animal welfare, and enabled conflicts of interest. The OFF Act targets the influence of agriculture lobbyists and prohibits anticompetitive behavior by preventing USDA checkoff programs from paying organizations that lobby on agricultural issues, banning activities that involve a conflict of interest, and requiring audits to ensure compliance.

"With too many Nevadans bearing the brunt of higher food prices, big ag corporations should be working to keep costs low, not lining their own pockets by promoting anticompetitive practices," **said Rep. Titus.** "I'm pushing this bipartisan legislation to increase federal oversight, prevent conflicts of interest, and stop ag lobbyists from squeezing small producers out of business."

"Industrial agriculture is sucking up family farmers' hard-earned dollars and using those funds against the interests of the very producers it was designed to represent," **said Rep. Mace.** "The support for the OFF Act is overwhelming, with more than 80 farm organizations, representing over 250,000 family farmers and ranchers, cheering on the measure alongside groups like Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy. We hope to secure enactment of this legislation as a rider to the upcoming Farm Bill to save our American family farmers in peril."

"American family farmers are in peril and today, every cent counts," **said Taylor Haynes, President of the Organization for Competitive Markets.** "If we're going to be forced to pay into USDA's checkoff programs then the very least we should expect is transparency, accountability, and oversight of our hard-earned dollars, and the OFF Act accomplishes just that."

"The OFF Act was first introduced in the 115th Congress and here we are in the 118th Congress still working for transparency and accountability to reform the USDA's commodity checkoff programs," **said Deborah Mills Chairwoman of the National Dairy Producers Organization.** "This speaks volumes about what frustrates producers who are paying into checkoff programs. The recipients of the checkoff dollars are the greatest proponents of maintaining the status quo. Producers are being denied the basic right to have their questions about their investment answered."

"We applaud Reps. Mace and Titus for their tireless work and leadership on the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act," **said Marty Irby, Executive Director at Animal Wellness Action.** "USDA's commodity checkoff programs remain under fire because of their lack of transparency, misuse of funds, and damaging anti-competitive practices that have bankrupted millions of American farmers."





The Cattlecon, One Hell of a Party

By Jim Mundorf

(2/9/23 Article from Lonesome Lands/The Drover House w/permission)

Jim Mundorf is the owner of Lonesome Lands and the Drover House. He also works on his family's farm in Southwest Iowa.

Last week was the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, NCBA's, national convention, in New Orleans. They have appropriately named this get together the Cattle Con. I often describe the NCBA as a lobbyist organization because what they do is lobby in D.C. for their clients, the corporate beef packers, and corporate cattle feeders. Lobbying is what they do best, and they are good at it. What a lot of cattle producers and beef consumers fail to realize is that the NCBA is also constantly lobbying them for support as well, and what's worse is the NCBA uses cattlemen's own money to do it.

The NCBA has access to just over \$50 million of cattlemen's dollars (\$17 million this year, \$33 million over three years.) This money comes to the NCBA through the checkoff, a one dollar tax on the cattlemen for every head of cattle sold. The people who approve handing this money over to the NCBA are the Cattlemen's Beef Board. Although the USDA is supposed to oversee the checkoff, the NCBA controls every aspect of it, including where the Cattlemen's Beef Board has their meetings, which happens to be at the NCBA's yearly Cattle Con.

ONE HELL OF A PARTY

I have talked to a number of people who have served on the beef board, with the hopes of changing how it operates. They had joined with others to try to take power away from the NCBA (all have told me it's a lost cause.) Not long ago I was eating dinner with one of those ex-board members, when they said something, I have thought a lot about since. While explaining to me how Beef Board met at the convention, they said, "Say what you want about the NCBA, but they sure know how to throw one hell of a party." This took me by surprise, and as I listened to how great this party at the convention was, I could see in their eyes, that even though they disagreed with how the NCBA operates, they had a great time, and kind of wanted to go back. Truth be told, I kinda wanted to go too.

As I have thought about that conversation, and the look in those eyes, it has answered a lot of questions about how the NCBA gets the people that they are actually working against, to support them.

THE CATTLECON

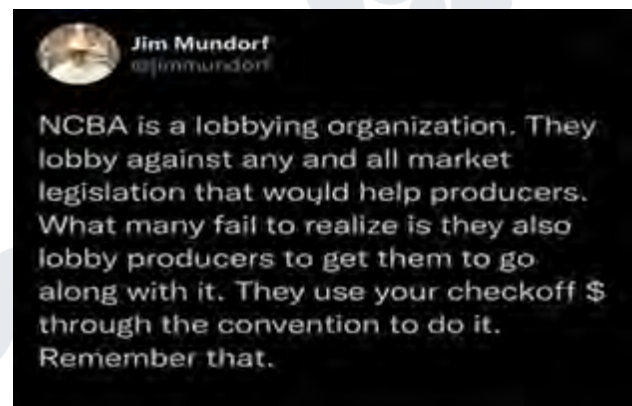
Each year the checkoff pays for the 101 beef board members' airfare, lodging and full access to the Cattle Con. (Convention tickets start at \$1,075 x 101 = \$108,575 for tickets) In other words a free vacation to New Orleans as long as they attend the lobbyist's meetings. The meetings are updates from checkoff contractors, about how the program's going. The main checkoff contractor is the NCBA. So the board gets a free vacation to the NCBA convention, where they sit through meetings, and are told how great of a job the NCBA is doing with their checkoff dollars. After the meetings they are free to attend the dinners, concerts and entertainment, hosted by the NCBA where they throw, "one hell of a party."

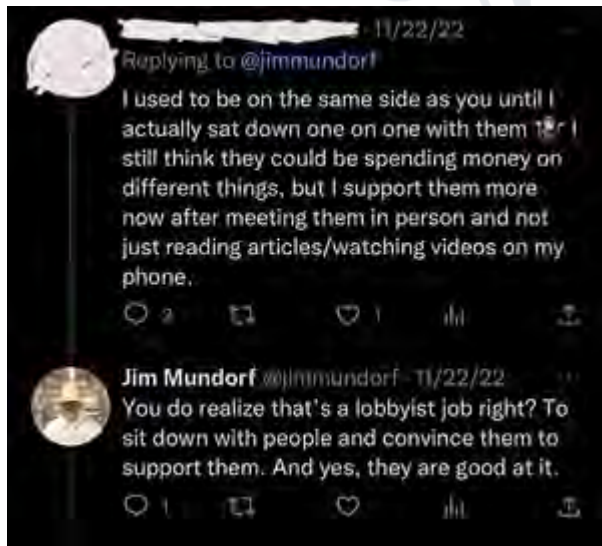
The whole thing sounds like those time-share trips, where you get a free vacation if you sit through a sales pitch for the time-share. Only here they aren't asking for your money to be signed over, they are simply asking the beef board members for their fellow cattlemen's dollars, and if you keep signing over those dollars, you will keep your seat on the board and continue getting your free vacations.

THE SALES PITCH

Before the convention I mentioned on Twitter that the NCBA's goal is to get people to support them no matter what. I was then given a response that was the perfect example of how good the NCBA is at doing just that:

See [The Cattlecon](#) cont. on page 9





If you are wondering why cattlemen's checkoff dollars are spent to send the board to this convention, this person just told you. "I support them more now after meeting them in person." This is someone who had done their own research and had agreed with me, that the NCBA works against cattle producers, but after sitting down with the lobbyist in D.C. they were convinced otherwise. The lobbyist did such a good job, that when I explained to this person exactly what had happened, they still didn't get it.

THE SHELL GAME

Another ex-Beef Board member once described the way the NCBA operates the checkoff as, "a money laundering shell game." I have found this to be incredibly accurate, because everything that has to do with the checkoff is intentionally made to be incredibly complicated so that no one knows where any of the money goes. The CattleCon is filled with examples of this. Here's one: Under the heading, "Industry Information", the NCBA is given \$2.5 million checkoff dollars partly to fund the Beef Quality Assurance program, BQA. BQA is listed as a convention sponsor. So the cattlemen pay into the checkoff, the checkoff pays the NCBA to fund BQA, and BQA helps pay for the NCBA convention that costs the cattlemen \$1,075 to attend. That's just one shell in the game. Another is that the Beef Board is listed as a convention host. I have been told that the hosts, split the cost of putting on the convention. So cattlemen's checkoff dollars that are meant for promotion and research are spent to host a convention. Tickets for the full convention go from \$1,075-\$1,400. The smallest booth at the trade show costs \$2,600 and there are 373 vendors. Then there are 84 corporate sponsors. Does this convention make a profit, and if so who gets it? I'm guessing it's not the checkoff, so how much is this costing the checkoff, besides the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent simply to send their board members there? (There is no mention of convention costs being authorized on the checkoff website.)

THE END GAME

What's the end game? Obviously, this is about money, but there is much more to it. The NCBA needs the checkoff to exist, and the beef packers and their corporate cattle feeding partners desperately need the NCBA to exist, because with the checkoff's assistance the NCBA can present themselves in Washington D.C. as a, "cattlemen's organization." Then they can lobby your senators on behalf of, "cattlemen." What are they lobbying for? After this year's convention the NCBA released a list of priorities for 2023. The one that caught my attention was, "Combat overly restrictive Packers & Stockyards (GIPSA) rules." The Packers and Stockyards laws, (not rules) were written to prevent beef packers from becoming a monopoly, or from colluding together to act as a monopoly, and manipulating the market, which is exactly what has happened now that four beef packers control 85% of all beef produced in the U.S.

See **The Cattlecon** cont. on page 10

The Cattlecon ... (cont. from page 9)

Over the past few years, the Packers and Stockyards act has been ignored, and cattlemen have suffered from a manipulated market. Farmers and ranchers have begged their congressmen and the USDA to enforce the Packers and Stockyards act, and multiple new laws have been introduced that would make it harder for packers to manipulate the market. None of them have passed because, as their priority states, the NCBA has been, "combatting" these efforts every step of the way.

So for any cattlemen who have wondered where their checkoff dollars have been going, just know that when the shells in the game stop spinning, the money goes directly to combating the laws that were written to keep you in business. The beef checkoff was put in

place by the 1985 farm bill. This year a new farm bill is being written. The time has come for Americans to stand up for independent cattle producers who feed them, and make sure that the new farm bill contains a new beef act. One that removes the NCBA's control of beef checkoff dollars and ends the ultimate cattle con.

Correction: Originally it was published that the NCBA received \$50 million checkoff dollars this year. I came up with that number by adding up approved Authorization Requests from the NCBA. Some of those requests were for a three-year contract so while the \$50 million approved is correct, \$17 million is for this year and \$33 million is spread over three-year contracts. The second highest paid contractor is the U.S. Meat Export Federation receiving \$8.2 Million.

FOLLOW LONESOME LANDS



Mark Your CALENDAR

25th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference and Membership Meeting

July 28 to July 29, 2023

Marriott Kansas City Airport, Kansas City, MO

(More details to be announced)

What's up at OCM?

The effort to rescue a major portion of the food supply from the clutches of multinational conglomerates is alive and well at OCM. Note Agriculture is the largest segment of our economy. Beef is the largest segment of agriculture.

Our plan to develop viable alternative beef processing systems across the country is taking shape. We've forged relationships with major retailers, and meat processing brokers. In our systems the byproducts of meat processing will be turned into an organic fertilizer.

To get the full story and many other updates and great fellowship, join us at our Annual Meeting July 28 & 29 at the Airport Marriot in Kansas City Missouri.

July
2023

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402-327-8390
P. O. Box 6486
Lincoln, NE 68506
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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."

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

