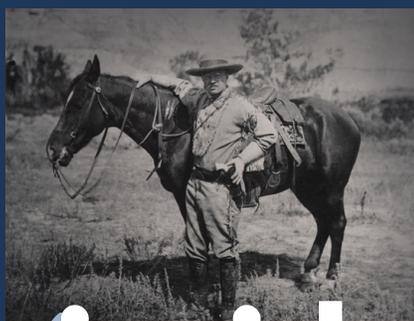




*Fighting for Economic Justice for America's Family Farmers and Ranchers*



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## FOOD ANYONE?

Taylor Hanes

### PRESIDENT

*"If you can keep your head while all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you..."*

This excerpt from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," certainly applies to today's world.

Let's talk about carbon and carbon dioxide in common sense scientific terms. Our Planet Earth is a carbon (C) based system for the support of life as we know it. The molecule carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the transfer agent. Cellulose (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) is a very significant structural component of green growing plants. To be precise this includes everything from grasses to trees with the fruits, vegetables and nuts we eat in between. The plants take in CO<sub>2</sub> produce food and fiber and give off oxygen and a little water. Cellulose is indigestible by

**Continued on page 2**

## mission

The mission of OCM is to work for transparent, fair and truly competitive agricultural and food markets. Former President Theodore Roosevelt, whose likeness graces our masthead, was known as the original Trust Buster. He advocated and enforced the first antitrust laws and fought for true competition and entrepreneurship throughout America. OCM seeks to reinvigorate his legacy of antitrust law and competition policy.

Establishing competitive markets in agriculture for farmers, ranchers and rural communities is our goal for America. True competition reduces the need for economic regulation. Our mission, and our duty, is to define and advocate the proper role of government in the agricultural economy as a regulator and enforcer of rules necessary for markets that are fair, honest, accessible and competitive for all citizens.



## UPDATE ON TAPPPS GROUP

*(Texas Animal Protein Producers Prosperity and Security)*

### Mike Schultz VICE PRESIDENT

Many independent ranchers and consumers have been working for over 14 months on the Agriculture and Meat Production Act (AMP Act) <http://www.theampact.com>.

Mike Eby and myself are involved in this endeavor. The goal is to find a legislative sponsor for these nine sections, and two must win if independent agriculture and competition are to survive.

First is the American Beef Labeling Act, which addresses beef labeling. This addresses the bogus and biased concerns in 2015 by the Appellate Panel of the current dismantled World Trade Organization's partial appellate panel. This new Act would be a new bill and require a new filing if any country wanted to take it on. That being the case, the most recent report shows that the WTO is currently in disarray since President Trump stepped in on December 10, 2019, and broke it up. In the past, most cases were being filed against the USA. We were targeted and, once again, became the dumping ground for cheap unmarked beef imports.

You can read here the most recent study by the Research Triangle Institute 11-30-2022 on "Product of the USA" Labeling claims can be read at: [https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media\\_file/documents/Product\\_of\\_USA\\_Consumer\\_Survey\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media_file/documents/Product_of_USA_Consumer_Survey_Final_Report.pdf).

The most recent evidence on this is Paraguay's imported beef quota request that USDA Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack is trying to justify beef imports from a disease known country headed here for USA consumers.

Second is the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act (OFF Act). This act would give more checks and balances to the corrupt and abuses of our Beef Checkoff funds. The NCBA is the largest contractor of these funds (in 2023, over 25.72 ml dollars), and as you all know, they have been found guilty, as well as other state associations abusing and handling these funds. Laundering is well hidden, which is partly why it is so secretly guarded by those controlling it. OCM had to file for disclosure of all documents a few years ago, and they did not cooperate in giving the

**Continued on page 3**

## FOOD ANYONE?

*Continued from page 1*

humans but provides the important fiber humans need for healthy digestive function. It is, however, a primary food source for animals we and the planet need. Cellulose is the base compound for many essential items from paper to plastics and other synthetic fibers. Commercial greenhouses add CO<sub>2</sub> into their working spaces to enhance plant performance. Co<sub>2</sub> is therefore an important plant food. The Carbon/Carbon Dioxide cycle-recycle has been in effect since the planet was formed. Carbon Dioxide does all of this great work and is only 0.04% of atmospheric gases.

So, what is the logic behind the attack on Carbon and CO<sub>2</sub>? As you can see it is not logical. In fact, it is insane. If somehow Carbon and Carbon Dioxide were removed from our atmosphere the human and animal life we know could not exist.

Having established no scientific basis for the war on Carbon and Carbon Dioxide one must conclude it is political. They are easy to measure and thus the measurements can be used for control of the populous. There is profit to be had by forcing people to comply with ridiculous standards.

Note this war is also a war on Agriculture which is the process by which the people are fed, clothed, and housed. We in Agriculture love the land and the animals we care for. We spend our lives improving our procedures for production.

Whether one is vegan, vegetarian or omnivore we need the Carbon-Carbon Dioxide complex for basic survival. Carbon Dioxide does all its great work and is only 0.04% of atmospheric gases.

Every living breathing creature on the planet exhales CO<sub>2</sub>. Should we collectively hold our breath to extinction to save the planet? Nah, let's keep breathing if only to spite them.

# TAPPPS

*Continued from page 2*

requested information. Go to the Checkoff Beef Board ([www.beefboard.org](http://www.beefboard.org)) and review the laundering of cash to these organizations under the link "Authorization Request" for 2023. A few examples are 2011-R's Study of Pandemic Buying Behaviors for over \$8.25 million and 2311's Education of Food Safety on Pathogens for another \$8.1 Million. Don't we have better things to do with this money? Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) does food safety! There are two zones for money on a single request—direct costs and implementation costs. It is a cash cow for NCBA, and they use it against many of us to promote their agenda of failures.

Recently the CEO of NCBA claimed that they had firewalls on these committees handling the funding request. He forgot to mention that almost everyone sitting on those boards is a member of the NCBA or state affiliates. So just how secure is that system? NCBA says R-CALF USA and OCM are not about improving the checkoff but killing it. Under its current state, it needs to be eliminated if we can't get full disclosure, transparency, and an end to laundering money for lobbying. Give me nonfraudulent MCOOL, and I would give you \$2.00 per head with board seat elections at large vs. the pay-to-play scheme like today's seats.

This past month, I attended a Farm Bill Listening session with Representative and House Ag Chairman GT Thompson and Kansas Rep. Tracy Mann (who chairs one of the advisory committees to the Ag Committee) in Gygsun, Kansas. and it seems that many of our issues have been disregarded by these legislators. Also in May, I attended another Ag roundtable in Colby, Kansas, with Kansas Senator Roger Marshall, who also sits on the Senate Ag Committee. Again, I was allowed to present these issues; however, we have yet to see much public support for these items of high importance. They all seem to be listening to the lobbying power players who dole out the cash for their elections, and many times they need to be fully educated and informed with facts. If we win on the OFF Act, the game changes overnight!

On June 1, 2023, the TAPPPS group held two press meetings on the AMP Act, and we have to get the word out if we want success!

*I hope to see all of you at the 2023 OCM Convention at the Kansas City Airport Marriott on July 28th and 29th.*

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM CAPITOL HILL

### Marty Irby

*Marty Irby is a director and board secretary at the Organization for Competitive Markets and a registered lobbyist who is the president and CEO of Capitol South, LLC in Washington, D.C..*

Today, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and other groups that continue to oppose the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, H.R. 1249/S. 557, led by Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, Cory Booker, D-N.J., Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., in the Senate, and Reps. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., and Dina Titus, D-Nev., in the House have gotten more vicious than ever. Along with their co-horts at Berman Co. they came out in full force with a campaign to oust me as Chief Operating Officer at FreedomWorks, and for a variety of reasons I chose to resign my post a few weeks ago. Is this what your checkoff dollars are being spent on?

But do not fear, I am not backing down, and in fact I am doubling down in my work to enact the OFF Act and secure its inclusion in the upcoming

Farm Bill. I can promise you that Big Ag and NCBA have messed with the wrong person. My autonomy to work on the issues I care about most is far more important to me than a paycheck, so I have opened my own lobbying and public relations firm in Washington, Capitol South, LLC, to continue working on farm bill and other issues. While I am a lifelong Christian who attended Wesley Theological Seminary, I may have to go Old Testament on this one.

The OFF Act continues to build tremendous momentum with astounding support for the measure, mostly farmers and ranchers, who are sick and tired of seeing their own money used to put them out of business. Checkoffs were established to help farmers, not hurt them as we continue to see with NCBA, the National Pork Producers Council, and of course Dairy Management, Inc., where the swampiest of all swamp rats, USDA Secretary worked for the four-year period in between his stints under Barack Obama and Joe Biden. As many of you may recall, Vilsack raked in more than \$800,000 a year in salary during that time.

We expect the House Farm

Bill base text to be released to the public in August and may see a committee markup and attempt to pass the bill through the House in September, and it is likely that the Senate text will be released within weeks of the House bill. But it's going to be an uphill battle to get the votes needed to pass the Farm Bill due to the tightest margins we've seen in the House in decades, and the potential inclusion of the EATS Act, led by Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, and Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, a poison pill rider that's nothing more than an updated version of the old "King Amendment" OCM helped successfully strip out of the 2018 Farm Bill. EATS would nullify many state agriculture laws that help farmers and ranchers and is primarily focused on nullifying Prop 12 that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a few weeks ago in a decision written by Justice Neil Gorsuch.

As a result, the renewed effort to enact the EATS Act and assault on states' rights by NCBA, NPPC, Smithfield, JBS, and others, OCM has decided to launch a new campaign against the measure in similar fashion to what we did in 2018.

**Continued on Page 5**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Continued from Page 4*

We received a grant that enabled us to purchase advertisements in Politico Morning Ag, Politico Weekly Ag, Politico's website, and a full page in the print edition that have run this month. It's a big boost for OCM and we anticipate additional grants coming in to help with this cause.

We also recently saw the reintroduction of the PRIME Act, H.R. 2814/S.907, by Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, and Sens. Angus King, D-Maine, and Rand Paul, R-Ky., that would help producers revive local processing plants and curb federal regulations on intrastate hauling, slaughter, and processing. As usual, NCBA opposes this bill that would rein in the heavy hand of the USDA, and help many cattle producers in the Southeastern U.S. who are barely keeping their head above water, because increasing smaller processing facilities will be a threat to JBS, Smithfield, Cargill, and the rest of the Big Packer Cartel that NCBA represents.

We believe that the OFF Act and PRIME Act can successfully be included in the Farm Bill, and the EATS Act can be prevented from inclusion in the final product due to the strategies we've developed with lawmakers on both the far right and far left who have convinced me they are willing to hold the entire Farm Bill hostage in the House and Senate over each of these three provisions.

We are rising up, we are making headway, and the Big Packer Cartel as well as their whipping boys at NCBA, NPPC, and other groups, are absolutely scared to death. They know that if the OFF Act is enacted some of their folks could be facing indictments and jailtime, and if PRIME is enacted the Big Packer Cartel will lose a percentage of their monopolized market share. I also believe that if the EATS Act is enacted, the average family farmer in America will quickly be shut down and the Big Packer Cartel aligned with the USDA, and others in the Federal Government will further consolidate food

production and grow their monopoly, putting us all at an even greater risk of food shortage.

Please stay tuned as there will be many twists and turns along the road to the Farm Bill's enactment which will at the earliest occur in December, but may likely be punted into 2024 if Congress decides to extend the existing 2018 law to give them more time to overcome the many obstacles this Farm Bill faces.



*"No nation has ever achieved permanent greatness unless this greatness was based on the wellbeing of the great farmer class, the men who live on the soil."*

-THEODORE ROOSEVELT



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## OCM 25th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference and Membership Meeting



*"2023 Farm Bill Challenges for Producers and Consumers"*

### Marriott Kansas City Airport July 28 to July 29, 2023

Marriott Kansas City Airport, 775 Brasilia Avenue, Kansas City, MO  
 Call in for Reservations 816-464-2200 – OCM Block (Rate \$139.00+ ) **Deadline 7/01/23**  
 Or make your reservation on the OCM website: [competitivemarkets.com](http://competitivemarkets.com)  
 A REGISTRATION Form is available on our website.  
[Book your group rate for ORG FOR COMPETITIVE MARKETS](#)

This year's focus is, **"The 2023 Farm Bill,"** and the challenges and opportunities it presents for consumers and producers. Our conference objective is to point to introduced and proposed bills. They will shore up production and improve the survival of independent family-style producers who are key to food security.

Prosperous independent production and delivery systems guarantee abundant affordable food. The frightening plight of independent Dairy and Poultry Farmers will be elucidated. 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 will show examples of supply chain connections made in the southeast that can be replicated nationwide. Such efforts organized by OCM will be highlighted during panel discussions.

Also, during the conference, speakers including farmers, ranchers, policymakers, researchers, and organizers will share their expertise and experiences in their endeavors for fair and competitive markets.

A panel with **Chuck Gabbert** presenting the **AMP Act (Agriculture Marketing Protection Act)**; **Marty Irby** on the **Off Act (Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act)**, a part of the Farm Bill; **Rep. Nancy Mace by Zoom**; **Deborah Mills** and **Joaquin Contente** on issues for Dairy Producers; and **Mike Weaver** and **Jonathan Buttram** on poultry issues. After lunch, **Dr. Max Thornsberry D.V.M.** will discuss mRNA injection in the food supply and Foreign Animal Disease.

In the afternoon, **Chip Perrin** of the Coastal Plains Meat Company, **Dave Carter** USDA, **Todd Vowell** of Vowell's Markets, **Lamar Steiger** Consultant and **Todd Clemons** of Okeechobee Livestock will present the developing Southeastern independent beef Supply chain.

Retail opportunities will be discussed presented by Frankie Greco Beef Procurement and Restaurant Owner, **Beau Sheets**, Coordinator/ OCM Packers Project, **Taylor Haynes** OCM President, **Vaughn Meyer** OCM Director and **David Wright** OCM Director.

The day will wrap up with an open discussion on Politics in D.C. led by Marty Irby. And finally, at the banquet we will introduce **Andy Greene from USDA as our Keynote Speaker.**

**Register TODAY – you will not want to miss this information.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**OCM 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Conference**  
**And Membership Meeting**

***“2023 Farm Bill Challenges for Producers and Consumers”***

**July 28, 2023**

**Marriott Kansas City Airport, 775 Brasilia Avenue, Kansas City, MO**  
**Call in for Reservations 816-464-2200 – OCM Block (Rate \$139.00+) **Deadline 7/07/23****  
**Or make your reservation on the OCM website: [competitivemarkets.com](http://competitivemarkets.com)**

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**REGISTRATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending OCM Conference @ \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, July 28, REGISTRATION - 7:30 AM  
Meeting starts at 8:15 AM

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending 2023 LUNCH @ \$38.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, July 28 – 12:00 Noon (Buffet)

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending 2023 RECEPTION/BANQUET @ \$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, July 28, Reception 5:15 PM, Banquet 6:00 (Buffet)

**TOTAL Registration & Meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Attending Membership Meeting, Saturday July 29 – 8:00 AM**

**Make check payable to OCM,**  
**P. O. Box 6486,**  
**Lincoln, NE 68506**

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ORGANIZATION FOR COMPETITIVE MARKETS

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE?****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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