

OCM

Organization for
Competitive Markets



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT —Taylor Haynes **“The Rest Of The Story”** **Connecting the Dots**

This teaser made famous by the late Paul Harvey is used here to bring into clear view the climate situation driven by the sun. Again, humans do not affect the climate. We can affect the environment. Co2 is not a pollutant causing the planet to warm! Earth's climate is driven by the Sun. It is modulated via a complex gravitational relationship between the sun, earth, moon and the planets in the inner solar system.

Most if not all of us on the planet have been dazzled by the display of the aurora borealis visible on much more of the planet than usual. A short review reminds us that this phenomenon is the result of the solar wind interacting with Earth's magnetic fields. Solar wind is simply charged particles explosively discharged into space by eruptions at the sun's surface. The more eruptions the greater the amount of energy released into the solar system.

Finally, it can't be denied that the sun is approaching a Grand solar maximum activity level. This is the end of the regular eleven year or so solar cycle. The Sun's magnetic poles flip during the cycle and, the sun's activity varies from minimum activity to maximum activity. The energy released into our solar system varies proportionate to the level of solar activity.

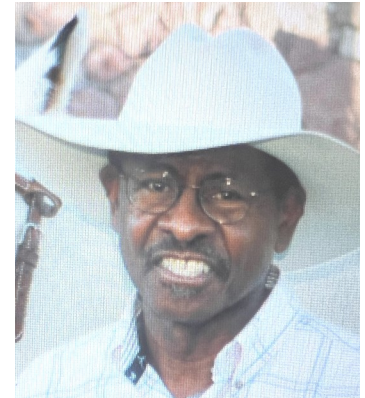
The unusual degree of the aurora borealis we've experienced recently is evidence of a greater than usual intensity and number of solar flares (Sunspots) thus the term "Grand Solar Maximum."

The inordinate amount of energy being absorbed by the earth increases the strength of storms. This was evidenced by the greater than normal amounts of precipitation in our coastal areas this last winter into spring.

This present Solar cycle is predicted to end in 2025. We can therefore expect more extreme weather from time to time in the next twelve to eighteen months. Most of us will enjoy the brilliant display of the aurora borealis as it appears. We must be aware that a Grand Solar Minimum is possible. The most notable Grand solar minimum occurred in conjunction with volcanic eruptions in the far northern hemisphere. This produced the Little Ice Age in 900 to 1300 AD.

Iceland is currently experiencing an uptick in its usual volcanic activity. The expulsion of particulate clouds into the upper atmosphere has not been threatening yet. However, continued eruption coupled with increased upper atmospheric wind strength could cause dimming of sunlight via filtering refraction. If this phenomenon coincides with markedly diminished solar activity, marked global cooling will occur. This eventuation will reduce food production.

As I discussed in a previous article, "repetition is the mother of retention". The reversal of the North Atlantic Oscillation can certainly contribute to significant cooling in Europe. The North Atlantic Oscillation is a large scale atmospheric -



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circulation pattern over the North Atlantic and adjacent areas. During its “positive” phase, characterized by a strong subtropical high-pressure cell over the Azores Islands in Portugal and a low-pressure cell over Iceland, the track of North Atlantic storms is roughly centered over the British Isles and northern Europe. During its “negative” phase, characterized by a weak high-pressure cell over the Azores and a low-pressure cell over Iceland moisture is funneled toward the Mediterranean, and cold Arctic air from Russia moves over northern Europe. (Stephen T. Jackson & John P. Rafferty)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tracks the North Atlantic Oscillation. This data is helpful to farmers for crop management.

The forced closure of 11,500 farms, the threat to close 17,000 more in Holland, the destruction of more than a million cattle in Ireland, and 30x30 here at home, all to save the climate is ridiculous and dangerous.

These wholly unscientific measures on top of natural cooling phenomena FAR beyond human control will produce mass starvation and unimaginable chaos.

The Beef Checkoff has been hijacked and corrupted.

By Fred Stokes (May 14, 2024)

A research and promotion program, funded by mandatory assessments on cattle producers has become a slush fund for NCBA; used to support packer interests and put the checkoff payers out of business.

Notwithstanding the program’s utter failure in promoting beef (per capita consumption has been cut in half), the program has made an organization with a mere 3% of the nation’s cattlemen as members; (dubbed by Senator Charles Grassley as “a Packer Lucky”) the voice and principal representative of the entire beef cattle industry.



There is a blatant conflict of interest between the Beef Board and NCBA. NCBA has 10 of the 20 seats on the Beef Board Operating Committee, which among other things, awards contracts. Their veritable lock on the committee and contracting process has been used to award themselves contracts.

For the past 27 years NCBA has received some \$50 million per year of the approximately \$80 million in checkoff collections; a total of over \$1.3 billion. According to the USDA OIG Report, 83 cents of every dollar in revenue comes from their checkoff contract. This enables them to pay impressively high salaries to their senior officers and staff. In addition, this is clearly a breach of the prohibition on the use of these funds to influence government policy and action. NCBA exists only due to the checkoff funding they receive and is in fact, primarily in the business of influencing government policy and actions.

An outside audit of the NCBA checkoff activity was conducted by the Clifton Gunderson Firm and a report issued in 2020. The audit examined the equivalent of nine days of contract transactions (1% of transactions for a period of 2 years and 5 months) and found over \$300,000 in “misspent” funds (average of \$33,000 per day). Based on information available to us, the matter was settled with NCBA returning these funds and retaining their position as principal con-

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OCM 26th Conference and Membership Meeting Summary

American Family Farmers and Ranchers Rally with Mississippi Ag Commissioner, USDOJ, and USDA at Annual Organization for Competitive Markets Meeting

May 1-2, 2024

Patriotic Small Town Farmers Rally in the Deep South

BILOXI, MS – Members of the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM), met in the Southeastern U.S., for the group’s annual conference, general membership meeting, and election of officers. Members of OCM joined the conference from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The group was blessed with a raft of speakers that included Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson, Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Michael Kades, and Andy Green, Senior Advisor to the Secretary at the U.S. Dept of Agriculture.

One of the largest and most well attended annual conferences OCM has seen in more than a decade, the events and conference were planned and executed by OCM Founder Fred Stokes, a native Mississippian who resides in Portersville, and longtime office manager Pat Craycraft who drove two full days each way just to be there.



Left to right: Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the U.S. Dept. of Justice Michael Kades, OCM founder Fred Stokes, and USDA Senior Advisor Andy Green at the OCM annual conference | Photo: OCM

“The case has been made to bring small processors, feed lots, and additional infrastructure back to the Southeastern U.S. so that American food production is not centralized in the Mid-West and further consolidated with the four big packer monopoly that runs the American meat cartel,” **said Fred Stokes, Founder of OCM.** “We applaud and appreciate each of our speakers and the OCM membership for their steadfast dedication to bring fairness and regional voices from the Southeast into the fold.”

The conference was focused on expanding regional agriculture infrastructure, the continued work of OCM to create and improve competitive markets in the U.S., and how the USDOJ, USDA, and State Departments of Agriculture can address the decades-long monopolization of American agriculture by foreign interests like the Chinese-owned Smithfield and Brazil-based JBS.

OCM’s general membership meeting saw the election of former Kansas State House Representative Tatum Lee-Hahn to replace Jerika Brumeloe, reelection of Board Directors Marty Irby from Washington, D.C., Taylor Haynes of Laramie, Wyoming, and Deborah Mills of Lake City, MN as well as the reelection of the 2024 officers by unanimous consent with no opposition. Taylor Haynes will continue to serve as President, Mike Schultz of Brewster, Kansas as Vice-President, Marty Irby as Secretary, and Jonathan Buttram of Albertville, Alabama as Treasurer.

During the annual meeting Fred Stokes, Tatum Lee-Hahn, and others discussed planning for the 2025 convention and it was decided a committee would be appointed by President Haynes to secure a location in the Southeastern

(Conference Continued on Page 4)

U.S. again next year. The groups also received commentary from board member Dave Wright of Neligh, Nebraska, spoke about the continued concentration in the marketplace and Stokes spoke about the long-term damage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) continues to cause to Southeastern markets and the need for Congress to recognize that NCBA only represents 3% of the cattle industry which is barely a fraction of the market and producers in the space.



Keynote Speaker Andy Gipson, the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce speaks at the OCM evening dinner | Photo: OCM

"I'm honored to be selected to serve as President of OCM for a third term and appreciate the membership's confidence in our leadership," said **Taylor Haynes, President of OCM, and founder of Wyoming's Independent Cattle Producers Organization.** "We've made astounding strides over the past year and I'm especially encouraged by the outpour of support for our efforts and collaboration with Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson, the U.S. Dept. of Justice, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and others who now see the agriculture model in the U.S. must be changed. I applaud the work dedicated to the organization by Marty Irby and congratulate him on receiving the Helmuth Award this year – OCM's highest honor."

"Many thanks to the members of OCM for giving me the opportunity to serve as Vice-President for another year," said **Mike Schultz, Vice-President at OCM and founder of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association.** "The groundswell of support for OCM has put us in a stronger position than we've ever been, and industrial agriculture interests that have put countless American family farmers and ranchers out of business are on the run."

"The groundswell of support OCM has seen in the past year from producers and elected officials across America is astounding and we're making more of a difference in Washington, D.C. than I've ever seen before," said **Jonathan Buttram, OCM Treasurer and President of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association.** "Our finances are in great shape and we have the opportunity to make greater change and have more impact than we ever have in the upcoming Farm Bill – I appreciate the membership's confidence in reelecting me to serve another term."

The annual Helmuth Award – OCM's highest honor named in remembrance of OCM's late co-founder John Helmuth was awarded to Board Director and Secretary Marty Irby.

"I am deeply humbled to receive the John Helmuth Award and have never been more surprised to have such a distinguished honor bestowed upon me, and truly believe that God is with us," said **Marty Irby, Secretary at OCM and President at Competitive Markets Action who is leading the group's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.** "If the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Berman Co. believe their recent slanderous

(Conference Continued on Page 5)

personal attacks against me are working for them, they should take note their actions only further fuel my desire to work harder and make dramatic change that will improve the lives of the American family farmers that keep this country fed.”



USDA's Andy Green speaks at the OCM conference | Photo: OCM

Farm Bill Woes and Foes By Marty Irby

The past year has been quite interesting and we've seen a wide array of discussions in the more than 400 in-person meetings OCM has conducted on Capitol Hill in support of the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act and against the so-called Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression (EATS) Act that's being forced upon American family farmers by U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson, R-PA, and his cohorts at the Chinese multinational conglomerate Smithfield, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

We continue to face personal attacks from these groups because they can't win on the merits of the argument in a policy debate and I honestly have to wonder if they've just flat out bought and paid for Chairman Thompson like many of the other politicians in the swamp. Thompson's House Farm Bill that was marked up in the Committee last month not only contains a version of the EATS Act that would nullify hundreds of state laws including California's Prop 12 and Massachusetts' Question 3; but it also fails to address the scandal-ridden USDA Commodity Checkoff Programs that have long-been illegally lobbying against your interests and in support of policies that benefit the Big Four Packer Mafia that runs the American Meat Cartel.

And to top it off last week Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman, R-AR, included language in his Farm Bill outline that appears to mirror the House EATS provision Thompson is pushing. One of the key problem children on Capitol Hill on this issue is a staffer named Caleb Crosswhite – who now works on Boozman's Committee staff and previously worked for Thompson's Committee in the House. In the absolute worst meeting, I've ever had on Capitol Hill last year, Crosswhite treated the board members at OCM, and leaders of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association, National Dairy Producers Organization, Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias, and Kansas Cattlemen's Association with such disrespect that it was clear we wouldn't be making any progress with Thompson's team. Now with Crosswhite on the Senate side we face an even greater uphill battle.

At this stage in the game the Farm Bill is skating on thin ice and may or may not see action on the House floor this year. If no action is taken by the end of September then another extension will be necessary, and we won't likely see a final Farm Bill until the

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Left to right: OCM president Taylor Haynes (WY), Mark Meadows, and OCM member Louis Schmoll (AR) at the OCM dinner held at the Conservative Partnership Center

The Global Majority Is Rejecting Colonialism, Restore the American System

by Robert L. Baker

June 16, 2024—Events are happening fast and furious; they seem from all directions. What do the farmer mass protests in Europe have to do with the Russian naval ships just in Cuba? What do the strung-out debates on the U.S. farm bill, and the European Green Deal have to do with the terrible, strung-out combat in Ukraine and Gaza? The truth is that the economic crises, and the strategic crises are all a “one.”

We need to know the Big Picture. We are in an incredible time in history. There is both extreme danger, and great potential for advancement. One core factor of danger is that those political/financial interests—the Wall Street/City of London crowd—which imposed decades of financial looting policies, taking down economies, have finally got us into an end-stage of breakdown. The U.S. has \$34 trillion of unpayable debt outstanding; the world has in the range of \$300 trillion. Instead of infrastructure and productivity development over the last half century—by means of which we could profit and be able to service (worthy) debt, instead, we have had deregulation, “free” rigged trade, crazy “green” anti-development policies, casino speculation, and outright theft through Wall Street bail-outs.

However, instead of willingness to confer on a new system, based on principle, as our “American System” once was, this gang is backing Global NATO to the hilt, and creating and prolonging warfare—both financial warfare and hot war. Another way to say it, is that the “military industrial complex” and the “agriculture industrial complex” and similar control networks in other sectors, are all parts of the mega financial complex, demanding our obedience to their economic and military looting and killing.

The good news—great news—is that nations are opposing this from the Global South, better called now, the “Global Majority.” They are working towards an alternative path and system for world economic benefit. They are saying, “Get lost” to the U.S./Global NATO sanctions, and seizure of nations’ assets, and other ways the dollar has been weaponized. For example, Saudi Arabia has announced ending its use of “petro-dollars.” It will now value its oil sales in Chinese yuan and any currency it wishes. Associations such as the BRICS (now with nine nations) are promoting credit for major infrastructure and agro-industrial projects, outside the Global NATO control. There are railroads, nuclear power plants, dams and more.

Nuclear Chicken-Game

The bad news—very bad—is that the Global NATO hawk faction, instead of willingness to start talks for ceasefire and settlement in Ukraine, Gaza and their other zones of confrontation, they have initiated a nuclear chicken game.

In late May, the first of what has been three drone attacks came out of Ukraine against three nuclear early warning installations in Russia, out of 10. Two were damaged—one in the state of Krasnodar, and one in Orenburg. This is madness. World safety, shaky as it is, depends on the functioning of nuclear early warning in the nine nations with nuclear weapons, especially the U.S. and Russia. They should not be blindsided. Note—the Russian nuclear warning radar have no role in the military combat in Ukraine.

On June 12, three top U.S. military and weapons experts gave a briefing] <https://www.youtube.com/live/aOrmFJXyAVI> on this danger at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., and called upon people everywhere to activate to demand this stop. The video is now circling the globe. Speaking were Scott Ritter, former U.S. Marine intelligence officer and weapons inspector; Col. (ret.) Richard H. Black, Vietnam combat veteran, and U.S. Army law expert; and Col. (ret.) Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff to U.S. Sec. of State Colin Powell. Their message: Start negotiations to roll back the wars and dismantle the military industrial *financial* complex.

U.S. Economic Breakdown

Look around us at the condition of our agriculture, thanks to this same *financial complex*. Concentration increases, family-scale farming decreases, causing overall restructuring of farm country. For example, as of last Winter, 69% of the nation’s hog breeding inventory was under control of the 36 Pork Powerhouses, with 4,164 375 head (USDA “Hogs & Pigs” report, December 2023). Hog production for the average farm was not profitable at all last year, with producers losing, on average, \$32 to \$58 per head. Mega-meat processors shut down, and otherwise operate, as blatant monopolies. In 2023 Tyson closed eight meat-packing plants, six of them chicken, and two beef, laying off more than 4,200 workers across all its plants last year. In Iowa 30 years ago, 80% of the farmland was still held by sole-owners or in joint tenancy; in 2023, this was down to 52% and falling fast. Family-scale dairy farming is on the line for extinction, unless there is intervention. Meantime, the U.S. has become a net agricultural importer, in money terms.

Lincoln’s “American System”

Step back and look at the principles for a new system. Pres. Abraham Lincoln’s economist, Henry Carey (1793-1879), wrote many books on this. Against the British system of imperial “free” trade run by the “financial complex” of that time, he wrote about the virtues of developing every area to its maximum, and preventing price-gouging and speculation. In *The Principles of Social Science* (1858, Ch. 28), he wrote, “The closer the approximation of the prices of raw materials and manufactured commodities, the more does society tend to assume its natural form—the greater is the tendency to stability and regularity of movement- and the more rapid is the advance in civilization, wealth and power. The more those prices tend to recede from each other, the more does society tend to take the form of an inverted pyramid, the less is the regularity of movement, the greater is the

(Baker Continued—Page 7)

(Stokes continued from Page 2—**The Beef Checkoff has been hijacked and corrupted**

ractor. This rather strange settlement seems to have assumed that NCBA had never previously misappropriated checkoff funds and would not do so in the future. Both the President and Executive of the Beef Board were both summarily relieved of their office after authorizing this embarrassing outside audit. Both have been very reluctant to discuss the matter.

In February of 2011, at the urging of OCM, an audit of the Beef Checkoff was commenced by USDA OIG. The investigation phase was completed in December of that year. The “first” final report was in March of 2013. After fifteen months and over 3100 pages of drafts, a scant seventeen-page report was issued which absolved NCBA of any wrongdoing. After lots of pushback a “second” final report was issued in January 2014 which was essentially unchanged except the NCBA exoneration was removed. My view is that the OIG Audit was a whitewash and coverup! This is buttressed by a statement by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter stating that at the 2012 joint NCBA/Beef Board Convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, he overheard a USDA AMS person tell an NCBA representative that he had seen the draft OIG report and there was some “bad stuff” in it but; not to worry, he fixed it!

There are numerous instances where NCBA has acted clearly in the interest of the Packer and contrary to that of checkoff-paying cattlemen. This includes their litigating against the implementation of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL), issuing a brief favoring Tyson in the Pickett Trial (Pickett vs Tyson Foods, 2005) and very strong opposition to the GIPSA Rule which would have restored strength to the Packer and Stockyards Act of 1921 (commonly known as the producer protection act).

In sum, NCBA’s lifeblood is the checkoff! They are clearly a promoter of packer interests to the detriment of cattlemen who fund the checkoff and a stumbling block to the needed reform of the cattle market.

Having access to the multiple millions each year makes them resistant (impervious?) to reform. OCM believes that a CONGRESSIONAL HEARING is required to reveal all the relevant facts and bring about needed support for termination of their contract by Secretary, USDA and/or remedial

Baker Continued from Page 6—Restore the American System

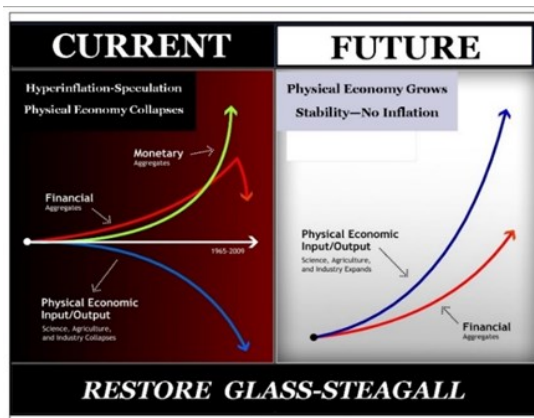
tendency towards barbarism, and more rapid is the decline in wealth and power.” Even the soils are exhausted, he goes on to show. The “Henry Carey/Lincoln Principles” are embodied in the 2014 proposal by statesman/economist Lyndon LaRouche (1922-2019), he called [“Four Laws” of economy](<https://schillerinstitut.dk/si/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/LLR-Four-Laws.pdf>), now looked to in many nations.

Competitive Markets in the Common Interest

We are called upon to lead the charge to put principle back into play in elections, diplomacy, law and practice. The update from our fellow farmers and ranchers in Europe is that on June 3, they held a mass tractor rally in Brussels, to demand changes to restore the economy. Days later, the established office holders got dumped in a landslide in the European Parliament elections in 27 European Union member nations! French Pres. Macron has called new elections for June 30. It is wide open. This week, the largest French farmer group FNSEA (Federation Nationale des Syndicats d’Exploitants Agricoles) will decide when to resume protests, after the French government reneged on pledges made last March.

In Mexico, farmers are demanding principles be restored to their economy, in common interest with us, and farmers everywhere. We can lead the charge!

*Robert L. Baker, Agricultural Research, Executive Intelligence Review, Thank You,
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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 Table” food systems in communities across America. OCM’s actions will stimulate local commerce while making food availability and food safety more certain.

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(Irby continued from Page 5—Farm Bill Woes and Foes)

119th Congress that begins in 2025. With the current landscape, no new Farm Bill might be the best case scenario for our cause as the current language would put countless farmers and many of our members out of business. Make no mistake, agriculture committee leaders are not working for you or the American people, they are working for China, the Chinese Communist Party, NPPC, NCBA, and the Four Big Packer Monopoly that runs the American Meat Cartel.

On the upside, our fourth Farm Bill Summit and Fly-In held in May continued the momentum OCM and our sister c-4 Competitive Markets Action has built and amplified your voices in Washington. We conducted nearly 80 meetings in-person on the Hill and had a superb event at our new offices located at the Conservative Partnership Center with President Trump’s former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, who is also a former Member of the House and longtime friend I know from a men’s small group at church, joined our dinner and cocktail hour on the final night. He’s truly a states’ rights and limited government ally and is one of the few heavy hitters in Washington who actually understands the complex issues each of you face in rural America.

At the very least between our work on Capitol Hill, and the terrific annual meeting recently held in Biloxi, Miss., that was organized by OCM founder Fred Stokes, we have certainly put OCM back on the map and people are paying attention to our work. While the current Farm Bill situation looks grim, there is always hope and we have winning strategies developed for both the OFF and EATS Acts once the Farm Bill hits the House floor and Senate committee for a mark-up.

The most important thing you can do today to help is call your Members of Congress at 202-225-3121 and ask them oppose the House Farm Bill in its current form due to the inclusion of the EATS language and lack of attention to checkoff reform.

In closing, and a more positive note, I also want to thank the officers, board directors, and members at OCM for granting me the great honor of receiving this year’s John Helmuth Award at the annual convention – it was truly a pleasant surprise that I never saw coming and I am deeply humbled to have been granted such distinguished honor. The work I do each day is very rewarding – despite the personal attacks – because I know that we are on the right side of history and that God is with us.

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