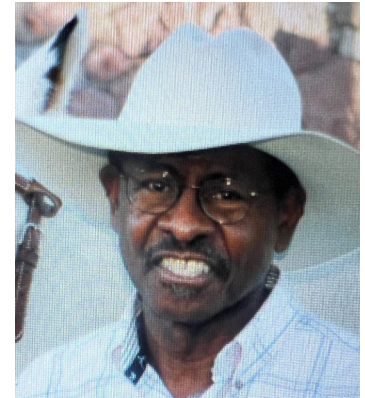




FROM THE PRESIDENT — Taylor Haynes

“Facts Are Stubborn Things”

This quip made famous by the late great Ronald Reagan is most appropriate for these times. At the risk of being redundant, I must again communicate the truth regarding the essential function of CO₂ in food production and the recycling of oxygen in our atmosphere. The depth of ignorance regarding this natural process called photosynthesis has become *critically dangerous*. Co₂ is largely stored in the oceans and the oceans cover 75% of the earth's surface. The amount of Co₂ stored in the oceans is exponentially larger than what can be stored on land. Its release is driven by the relative efficiency of sunlight striking the earth, oceans and land. This efficiency is regulated by the complex gravitational relationship between the earth, moon and the sun. This was designed and fixed into place By Almighty GOD.



INSIDE —

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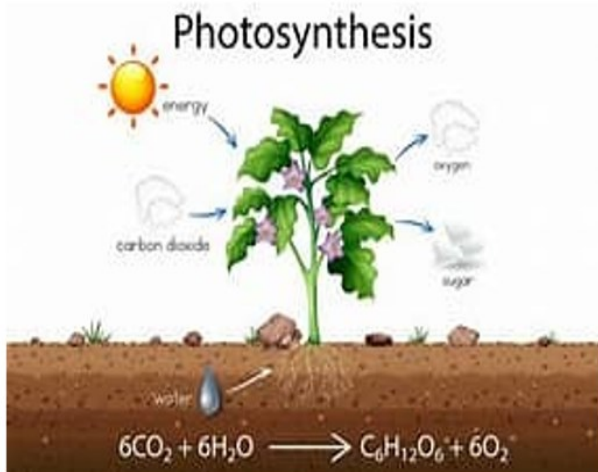
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Photosynthesis: The Amazing Process of Life

Photosynthesis is the amazing process that turns **sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide** into food and oxygen for plants, algae, and some bacteria

Carbon capture is all the rage. In and of itself, carbon capture is not new and is a good thing. It has been done for years. One use is to make dry ice, which is critical for the shipment of foods. Another use, which is not really known to the general public, is pumping it into declining oil fields to rejuvenate

(Haynes-Continued Page 2)





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(Continued from Haynes Page 1)

their oil production. This process is called Enhanced Oil Recovery. YES, Co2 is used to produce the much maligned oil. There is ongoing research funded by the Department of Energy to continually improve this technique.

One might criticize and say “lighten up” with science. The problem is the misconception has been so well established that the people believe we must take drastic measures to save the planet. These drastic measures will greatly decrease the production of food, drive global economies into depression and ultimately produce starvation and the untamable chaos that starvation causes.

What are these drastic measures? The notion that wind and solar energy can replace carbon based energy overnight is a falsehood. They have been dismal failures wherever they are employed as the base grid.

People have been freezing in the winter and suffering through the heat in summer in Texas where solar and wind are the base grid. The power companies have been forced to modulate energy delivered to individual homes and businesses as the total demand has not been met by wind and solar power. They cannot respond to the sudden increase in demand.

Even more dangerous and disturbing is the global attack on agriculture as a threat to the planet. The 30 x 30 proposed plan here in the USA would remove 30% of food and fiber producing lands from production.

The Dutch Government is proposing the outright closure of at least 11,600 farms and forcing 17,600 farmers to drastically reduce their herds. Holland is a significant source of food for Europe. Compounding the problem of food production in Europe, the Irish government is proposing the liquidation of 1.3 million cattle to meet ludicrous climate goals.

The human-caused climate hoax is now ripe for more land grabs and further reduction in food production. The New York Stock Exchange in partnership with other Global asset managers is rolling out an investment product. Landowners who sign up for this partnership will find their production curtailed and control of their land lost. The Conservation Easement scheme promulgated and made popular by the Nature Conservancy is the foundation for this diabolical initiative.

In summary, the loss of agricultural production can in short order reduce the world to a violent dreary place not known since the dark ages.

We must press on our elected representatives to avoid these traps. They must legislate such that we continue to produce food and goods that advance civilization in a responsible manner. We must avoid giving in to those globalists who want to reduce us to working tenants on our own land.



LET'S KEEP THEM HERE

*The Southeastern states
produce a major share of the nation's beef calves
but don't realize their ultimate value.*

Due to a lack of feeding and processing infrastructure, most of these calves are shipped a thousand miles or more to facilities out West. The result is substantial discounts due to high and rising transportation costs and death loss, and sickness resulting from shipping stressors. After being fed and processed, much of the beef is shipped back to markets and consumers in the Southeast. **This is NOT a good business model, but things are changing for the better.**

In the past three years, there has been a surge in small and medium meat processing plants in the South. Lots of plants are under construction or in the process of expansion. There has also been an increase in production of corn and other feed stuffs. The ports of Vicksburg, New Orleans, and Mobile further increase the potential availability of corn and other feed stuffs.

We now have all the ingredients for a viable feeding and processing industry!

Consumers, independent grocers, and other market outlets have clearly demonstrated a preference for domestically produced beef and a willingness to pay a premium.

**THE ORGANIZATION FOR COMPETITIVE MARKETS
26TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE | MAY 1-2, 2024
GOLDEN NUGGET HOTEL AND CASINO | BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**



The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with expanding feeding and processing infrastructure in the region. There will be insightful presentations and hearty discussions. ***Come, bring your spouse and your friends.***

Contact FRED STOKES at 601.527.2459 or tfredstokesfarm@gmail.com for more information

SAVE THE DATE—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 1-2, 2024

26th Annual Food and Agriculture Conference and Membership Meeting

**Golden Nugget Biloxi Hotel and Casino
Biloxi, Mississippi**

The objective of the conference is to inspire feeding and processing more of the beef calves produced in the Southeast in that Region.

The Southeast is cow/calf country. The overwhelming majority of the calves produced here are currently shipped considerable distances to be fed and processed. Their ultimate value triples after being fed and processed into beef. By feeding and processing these cattle here, a very large source of revenue could potentially accrue to cattle producers and rural economies here in the South.

For example, if we presupposed that the block of six contiguous states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia) formed some sort of cooperating economic relationship, with the goal of finishing and processing 50% of the calves they collectively produced, the economic gain would be impressive. Assuming an 85% weaning rate, these states would produce about 3.4 million calves. The per head difference in value (value added) is approximately \$2,500! If my math is right, that would add up to about \$8.5 billion. Add the economic multiplier-effect and there would be a very powerful boost to the economies of these states.

This revenue would not come just from the extra value of the finished and processed cattle but also from the jobs created and business activity associated with these addition steps in beef production.

A feeding and processing complex has many components. These include the feeding operations, processing facilities, trucking, veterinary services, feed production, risk management, financing, and a host of others. Business activities that hopefully would be profitable and revenue generating.

OCM envisions this conference differing from the power-point lecture type. This will be more of a “meet-your-new-business-partner”. We hope for a large crowd of attendees from the full spectrum of components of the beef industry.

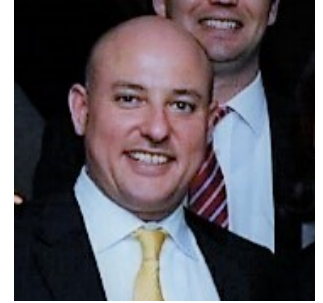
Rather than the “how-to” approach, we intend to explain the benefits of and opportunities for putting in place such a complex and then facilitating networking and business relationship-building.

There will be socializing opportunities, moderated discussions, and question-and-answer sessions.

Come and be part of a bold move forward for ranching down South.

Fred Stokes

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE By Marty Irby



Wrapping up 2023 Heading into the Farm Bill in 2024

It's certainly been a tumultuous year in Washington, D.C., and personally I'm glad 2023 is coming to an end. As many of you know, after I departed FreedomWorks back in May following the attacks against our efforts to achieve checkoff reform and pass the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, we started Competitive Markets Action, a 501 (c)(4) non-profit that's partnering with OCM to not only ensure success with the OFF Act but to also defeat the terrible so-called Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression (EATS) Act led by Sen. Roger Marshall, R-KS, and Rep. Ashely Hinson, R-IA – two Members of Congress who have been no friends to American Family Farmers.

I often wonder if Members like these, and others you know, even have the slightest clue of the damage they're doing to farmers and ranchers like you or if they just don't care. Industrial agriculture interests like the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Tyson, and Smithfield, have long-bamboozled many good Members of the House and Senate.

Marshall himself, has been an ally to me on some other unrelated issues in the past that I've worked on and I've always thought he was a reasonable guy until he came out swinging with the EATS Act. Perhaps OCM's Vice-President Mike Schultz, one of Marshall's constituents said it best back in June "the EATS Act is nothing but a Trojan Horse designed to put family farmers out of business and give multinational conglomerates like JBS and Chinese-owned Smithfield an even greater advantage than they already have. It's a crying shame to see my Senator Roger Marshall leading this assault on producers and states' rights."

But despite multinational conglomerates, NCBA, and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) pouring tons of resources into advancing EATS, they've failed to make much progress to date. Marshall even openly admitted to RFDTV that he's losing when he said "We're getting the heck beat out of us," following OCM's July Farm Bill Summit on Capitol Hill where we executed more than 90 in-person meetings in a matter of 3 days. Even House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson told NPR this week that the EATS Act is "dead as a piece of legislation." But that only means "EATS as written," because House Agriculture Committee staff continue to press for some alternative to be included in the Farm Bill that would nullify state laws enacted by the will of the people, including California's Prop 12 now in the implementation stage. And, one of the key House Agriculture Committee staff who poisoned the well against us has recently moved over to work on the Senate Agriculture Committee. That's a very concerning move.

It's quite alarming that some Members of Congress are still beating the EATS drum with Clemens Food Group, the fourth largest pork producer in the U.S., as well as Niman Ranch, Heritage Foods, and Butcher Box, have all come out against EATS in public fashion. At the end of the day, I have no doubt we'll ultimately defeat this assault on states' rights and family farmers, but it's going to take all of us continuing to roll up our sleeves and work hard to do it. We've been fortunate to have received some great resources and grant funding to defeat EATS, and it's rejuvenated many of us at OCM and beyond. We aren't backing down now and are looking forward to our next fly-in in February.

On the checkoff front, we haven't been so lucky. To date, we've only raised a little over \$2,500 this year to help with our campaign to secure the enactment of the OFF Act in the Farm Bill, and we've struggled to keep the campaign afloat. I'm not really sure if people don't understand the issue, don't have the money, or just don't care, but we must secure some more resources to help with this issue if we are going to win.

(Continued Page 7)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

2023 Tax Deduction



MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The 2023 Year is ending soon.

Please consider OCM as a tax deduction donation this year.

I would like to make a **2023 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.**

NAME _____

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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.

(Irby Continued from Page 5)

OFF has the right leaders in place with Sens. Mike Lee, R-UT, Rand Paul, R-KY, Cory Booker, D-NJ, and Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, leading the Senate bill, and Reps. Nancy Mace, R-SC, and Dina Titus, D-NV, leading the House version, and we've picked up more cosponsors than we've ever had before – a raft of Republicans and Democrats alike. It's a rare circumstance that we see these Members of Congress from such opposite ends of the spectrum come together, but they are working for you, and working to help keep each of you in business.

OFF would bring transparency to the scandal-ridden checkoffs, create a system of checks and balances with auditing, prohibit the disparagement of one product over another, and prohibit checkoff funds from being used to lobby against your own best interests. It's astounding that such a corrupt system has been in place for so many decades, and if we're going to win the war then we need your help and financial support.

We continue to keep an eye on efforts to bring back Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL), but the prospects look very slim, and we're still backing the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption (PRIME) Act by Reps. Thomas Massie, R-KY, and Chellie Pingree, D-ME, in the House and Sens. Angus King, I-ME, and Rand Paul, R-KY, in the Senate. The legislation would cut federal red tape and help bring new smaller processing facilities across America. OCM Founder Fred Stokes has been a tireless champion of these efforts for longer than I've been alive, and this issue will be one of the main focuses at our 2024 OCM Convention in Biloxi, MS next year. I applaud his will and persistence and each of you should too.

With the Farm Bill now officially being extended through September 30 of next year, we've got a long road ahead, and a lot of work to do. I'm confident we'll get some wins for each of you next year, but again, we're going to need your help. Today, the most important thing you can do is call 202-224-3121 and ask your Members of Congress to cosponsor and support both the OFF Act, S.557/H.R. 1249, and the PRIME Act, S. 907/H.R. 2814, and to strongly oppose the EATS Act, S. 2019/H.R. 4417 – you can and will make the difference.

Marty Irby is a director at board secretary at the Organization for Competitive Markets and president of Competitive Markets Action. He resides in Washington, D.C. and can be found on Facebook, Twitter (X), and Instagram @MartyIrby



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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.

October—November—December

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happy
holidays!



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