



## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

### **The USDA: Friend or Foe?**

By Taylor H. Haynes M.D. President,  
Organization for Competitive Markets and Consumer Protection.

In newsletter articles during the past year, I've pointed out areas where the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) can once again become a friend to the consumer and producer.

For example, the USDA should make the commodity Checkoff programs transparent and true to the mission by conducting audits by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and publishing the results.

Let's just look at the Beef Checkoff program which took effect in 1987 and has been quite detrimental to producers and consumers. It is one of the largest Checkoff programs and was included in the 1985 Farm Bill. Since then, we've lost over 300,000 family style independent cattle farms and ranches, and over 85,000 small feedlots, reducing competition for feeder cattle. Beef consumption has been diminished by half.

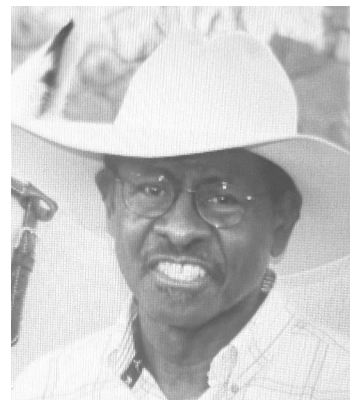
The beef checkoff program is the only taxpayer funded program not audited by the OIG. Their internal audits are not published and would not meet Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) because they are internal, thus causing a conflict of interest.

These funds which are paid by the producer for each head of cattle sold and are not to be used to influence public policy. However, the largest recipient of these funds, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has 90 plus member staff in Washington DC, although the organization is headquartered in Centennial, Colorado. This so-called cattlemen's organization has been staunchly against Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL). Even though beef from countries like Brazil, where there is still Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) and "Foot-In Mouth" disease, is being imported and repackaged as product of the USA. Checkoff dollars clandestinely funneled through the Cattlemen's Beef Board may have been used to influence congress to repeal MCOOL in 2015. A 90-member staff must be doing something. Beef and Pork are the two commodities not specifically labeled as to origin by law.

Congress has expressed reluctance to audit all the commodity checkoff programs claiming its cost prohibitive. A possible solution would be to make all checkoff programs "voluntary participation". This would negate the need for audit and would be the most accurate way to determine the value received by producers.

The next area critical to producers is the repeal of the ambiguous electronic identification ear tag rule (EID).

The claim that this is for rapid traceback in case of a disease outbreak is false as it is unnecessary. In the western United States, livestock are sold with a brand inspection producing a transfer of title from owner to new owner. Brands were introduced into the



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(Haynes Continued from Page 2)

US in the 1800's, and since then brand papers and brands have provided for rapid trace of origin very well. The incorporation of the "Brand System" across the country is all that is needed.

RFID tags are a convenience for the large feedlots. The only disease outbreaks affecting beef have been at the multinational meatpacking facilities. This is largely due to scrapping traditional meat packing inspection and adopting Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point system instead of meat inspectors on the plant floor.

RFID technology can receive and transmit information, which is evidenced by the proliferation of RFID-proof wallets. This technology can be used to spy on individuals and therefore forced use of this technology violates the fourth Amendment of The US Constitution.

OCM urges the new secretary of the USDA to investigate and correct the noted malfeasances



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### OCM and CMA Advocacy and Lobbying Status Report

*By Marty Irby and Vinnie Trometter*

The ringing in of Trump's second administration brought a renewed effort by the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) and Competitive Markets Action (CMA), the lobbying c-4 affiliate of the Organization for Competitive Markets, to drive policies on Capitol Hill that help producers compete against sector-consolidating agribusinesses.

In the first month of Trump 2.0, we focused on meeting with new members of Congress and the Administration to get them up to speed with OCM's priorities. We have met with over 30 such freshman members and are in interaction with the novel Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement. We also launched a major ad \$100K ad campaign against the EATS Act, thanks to a generous donor, with ads in Politico Morning & Weekly Ag, the Daily Caller, and on the billboard truck that will drive around Capitol Hill for the next three months. Below are the latest on our issues.

*(Irby Continued Page 3)*

### Defeating the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act:

Front in center is defeating the unconstitutional Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, a bill led by Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-IA, in the House, and Sen. Roger Marshall, R-KS, in the Senate. The EATS Act seeks to destroy states' rights by striking away every state's authority to restrict any aspect of the sale of USDA-inspected meat imported within their jurisdiction.

As we know, there are some scales of production and efficiency that small and independent producers cannot dream of competing with. As packers get larger and larger, it can be well within a state's interest to restrict the importation of meats to protect their producers and consumers. Two states that did this, California and Massachusetts, passed ballot initiatives, Prop 12 and Question 3, respectively, in 2018 which were [upheld](#) by the Supreme Court in 2023. These ballot initiatives focused on barring the sale of pork if the sow came from a gestation crate. The EATS Act is a way to reverse the Supreme Court decision, but in doing so, it also eliminates every state's authority to do what California and Massachusetts did for any commodity.

The EATS Act would also destroy established markets where smaller and independent producers are thriving. In July of 2024, the Iowa Pork Producer Association President [said](#) that "there has been enough production change to meet Prop 12 demand that it truly does not affect a producer who does not want to comply." Furthermore, after decades of flat hog prices, the USDA [found](#) that hog producers selling into California and Massachusetts receive a \$6.30 per hundred pound premium on top of the base price of the hog. Since Iowa is the largest pork producing state in the country, this not only suggests that the dust has settled in terms of producer investments for those who want to participate in the California and Massachusetts markets, but that they are also getting in a position to start gaining back market share from the big packers, like the main EATS Act backer, the Chinese-controlled Smithfield.

In the last Congress, the EATS Act made it into the House Agriculture Committee's markup of the Farm Bill. This is despite 26 House Republicans submitting letters to the House Agriculture Committee in [2023](#) and [2024](#) opposing the EATS Act.

We believe proponents of the EATS Act have taken a bite too big to swallow in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Though all evidence shows that the [avian flu epidemic](#) is surging the price of eggs nationwide, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins wants to combat high prices by going after cage-free egg laws enacted by Proposition 12. Only problem is, cage-free egg markets are [expected](#) to comprise more than 58% of all eggs sold in the United States by 2030. This is something the egg industry does not want.

### Passing Checkoff Reform through the Opportunity for Fairness (OFF) Act

The Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, introduced by Reps. Nancy Mace, R-SC, and Dina Titus, D-NV, and Sens. Mike Lee, R-UT, Cory Booker, D-NJ, Rand Paul, R-KY, and Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress seeks to inject accountability and transparency into the [cronyistic](#) USDA Commodity Checkoff programs. Right now, the bill's sponsors are working to reintroduce it in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, but we will not likely see introduction until May as Farm Bill activities are moving like molasses this Congress.

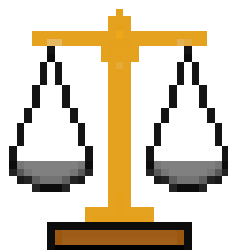
The biggest update so far this year for checkoff reform is that [DOGE is taking a look at them](#). This could mean that the future of checkoffs is in jeopardy, especially considering their [elimination was also included in Project 2025](#), and that its architect, Russell Vought, has been [confirmed](#) as the Director of the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

### Eliminating the Biden Administration's Big Brother Electronic Identification (EID) Tags for Cattle

The addition of eliminating EID tags for cattle is a new push for CMA this Congress. EID tags are not only costly for cow-calf operators, they also represent a massive data collection effort that can make it easier for packers to price fix, something that [still](#) happens today. We have gained assurances from anti-EID advocates Rep. Harriet Hageman, R-WY, Sen. Mike Rounds, R-SD, that they are introducing legislation to undo former President Biden's EID mandate in the coming months.

### CALL TO ACTION:

The more grassroots support on our issues the better. We need more farmers, ranchers, and producers to engage with OCM so OCM, in conjunction with CMA, can get them in front of their members of Congress.



# Legislation

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2025

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### Farm Groups Launch \$100K Ad Campaign to Stop Smithfield and Protect States' Rights

**Washington, D.C.** – The Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) and Competitive Markets Action (CMA) have launched a \$100,000 ad campaign to fight the imminent reintroduction of the Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression (EATS) Act. Previously led by Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) and Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS), this legislation threatens states' rights and family farms by eliminating state agricultural laws. The campaign highlights the growing concerns about foreign ownership of U.S. farmland, particularly by Chinese interests.

"If EATS or anything like it is added to the Farm Bill or passed by Congress, it will be devastating for dairy producers across America," said **Deborah Mills, former Chair of the National Dairy Producers Organization and an OCM board member.**

Enacting the Hinson/Marshall EATS Act via the Farm Bill would [eliminate hundreds of state agricultural laws](#), paving the way for increased foreign control without necessary safeguards. Without these protections, Chinese-owned corporations like Smithfield Foods could expand nationwide, bypassing regulations that protect rural communities, family farms, and consumers. Members of Congress have indicated that this legislation will soon be reintroduced.

"We must prevent any version of the EATS Act from being included in the upcoming Farm Bill and exhaust every resource available to keep this poison pill from becoming law," said **Jonathan Buttram, President of the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association and OCM board treasurer.** "U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders Glenn Thompson, John Boozman, Amy Klobuchar, and Angie Craig must reject this egregious attack on state agricultural laws."

The ad campaign continued this week with OCM's ad buy in [Politico Morning and Weekly Ag](#) each day last week, along with CMA's ad takeover of [The Daily Caller's](#) homepage on Monday and Tuesday. Additionally, a [billboard truck](#) will be stationed on Capitol Hill each day Congress is in session for the next three months. The ads urge Americans to call their elected officials and demand they vote against any Farm Bill that includes the dangerous EATS Act. OCM and CMA will sustain this campaign throughout 2025 until a new Farm Bill is finalized and enacted. EATS is opposed by more than 2,000 individual farms, advocacy groups, and trade associations across the U.S.

"OCM is ready, willing, and able to roll up our sleeves and dig in to help prevent the EATS Act from being enacted in the upcoming Farm Bill," said **Taylor Haynes, OCM President.** "American family farmers will not stand for this attack on states' rights that could put our farms under Chinese government control."

In the 118th Congress, Reps. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), David Valadao (R-CA), Nancy Mace (R-SC), and former Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL), now the National Security Advisor, led a Republican [letter](#) opposing EATS in 2023. In 2024, Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL) spearheaded a similar [letter](#), joined by members of the House Freedom Caucus.

"The EATS Act is nothing but a Trojan Horse designed to put family farmers out of business and give multinational conglomerates like the Chinese-owned Smithfield an even greater advantage than they already have," said **Mike Schultz, Senior Vice President at OCM and founder of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association.** "It's a crying shame to see my Senator, Roger Marshall, leading this assault on producers and states' rights."

"If Congress advances the EATS provision or passes anything like it, the Chinese-controlled Smithfield, whose 2013 purchase was financed by the CCP, will own the livestock production in the United States," said **Marty Irby, CMA President and OCM board secretary.** "We'd rather have no Farm Bill than a Farm Bill with any version of the EATS Act included."

#### About the Organizations:

[Organization for Competitive Markets](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Lincoln, Nebraska, dedicated to fighting for competitive markets in agriculture. Our mission is to define and advocate for fair, honest, and accessible markets that benefit farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

[Competitive Markets Action](#) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit based in Washington, D.C., focused on advancing policy to promote sustainable agriculture and protect states' rights from federal overreach. CMA works to raise awareness about harmful policies that threaten American farmers, consumers, and the broader U.S. economy.



# “Green Steal” Going Down; Knock Out the Same Crowd’s “War Deal” and Crypto Funny Money

by Robert L. Baker

March 18, 2025 — Good news for St. Patrick’s Day this year: the “Green Steal” is on the way down and out! The financial bubble based on the science fraud that mankind’s activity has been overheating the planet (“too much” farming, industry, power generation, etc.), and must be stopped, is in disgrace. The U.S. is now out of the international climate accords. The myths are on the defensive that “CO2 is the enemy” and 30 by 30 is a must to “save biodiversity.”

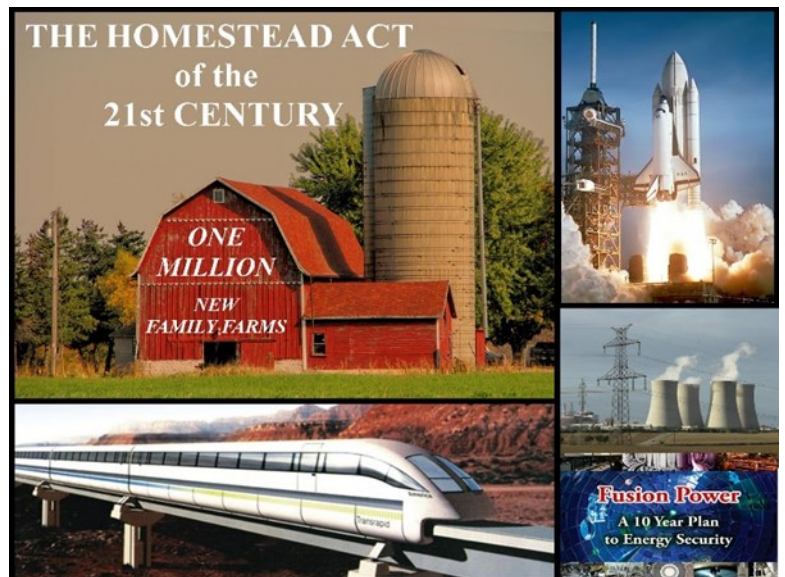
But our work is not over, even as we move to bury all forms of the Green Deal. The same mega-financial networks that foisted the financial scams based on the Big Lie that humans have caused a climate change “emergency,” are frantically pushing two related, very deadly scams: that Western economies can and must militarize, or else; and that the U.S. dollar and the Treasury market will benefit by Federal approval for crypto “currencies.” Wrong and dangerous! And against our national sovereignty.

## Target the “Financial Complex”

Who are the networks behind this? You can identify them as those in and around the World Economic Forum/World Wildlife Federation and so on. Historically, they are the corporativists or synarchists. They are the “financial complex” made up of such infamous outfits as BlackRock, Fidelity, State Street, which have holdings across all sectors, from military to pharma, to logistics, to agriculture and food.

What does this all mean for farmers? The same thing it means for every productive, useful sector: We all deserve to enjoy and pass on to future generations, a high-functioning physical economy. We must end the waves of bubbles, public-opinion control, and looting by the “financial complex” based in the City of London/Wall Street and branch sites.

Farmers have special authority to lead this fight, producing our daily bread. Now is the time we must use that authority. The “solution” to fight for? Build the physical economy. Restore a sound banking system with the principle of Glass Steagall. Issue credit to increase productivity in the economy. Build infrastructure and make it high-tech: water systems; power generation and distribution, especially nuclear; transportation; medical provision; and so on, especially with science “drivers” at the front end, which means space exploration and taming commercial fusion. This all demands busting up the monopolies and putting in a parity-based pricing system for food and fiber production, and in other sectors of the economy.



## “War Economy” Threat

It is an historic gain for humanity that President Trump and President Putin have resumed U.S.-Russia direct diplomatic relations, with their phone calls Feb. 12 and March 18, and meetings by their delegations. Besides the prospect of resolving the Ukraine crisis, the U.S.-Russia contact brings down the danger of all-out war, through accident or escalation, which has been growing from Global NATO’s spread, pushed by the military-financial-industrial complex. Plus, U.S.-Russia hockey will start up!

(Baker Continued—Page 6)

(Baker Continued from Page 5)

However, there is a crazed push in Europe to prolong fighting in Ukraine, with visions of converting all-Europe into a war economy. The neo-empire London crowd is leaning on Washington publicly and covertly to fall into line. London started a “coalition of the willing” gaggle to arm to the teeth. The “green Warhawk” President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (a non-elected position), who pushed the Green Deal through the EU in May 2020, now is demanding the “ReArm Europe Plan.” It calls for raising and spending \$817 billion in the coming period, to arm Europe against what they say is Putin’s plot to over-run them. A lie like the lie CO-2 is your enemy.

The military-financial-complex is raking it in! Germany’s lead arms contractor Rheinmetall, for example, saw its stocks soar 1000 % since 2022. BlackRock is the top, or near top shareholder in Rheinmetall. BlackRock Germany’s former executive Friedrich Merz is maneuvering to be the next German Chancellor.

This month Euro farmers had their tractors on the streets against the EU approval of Ukraine dumping grain onto their countries, done by the agro-financial-cartel firms ADM, Bunge, Cargill et al. Farmers came out from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Rumania and more.

## Target the Crypto Swindle

In the U.S. the financial-crypto-complex is in full mobilization to get Federal OK for crypto currencies to buy and sell in the market for U.S. Treasuries. Their wild claim is that this will help boost the demand for Treasuries, since it can be simply “decreed” as stablecoin issuers are doing, that crypto will be “backed” by the Treasuries it will buy and hold. Snake oil is a better deal. In one instance in 2023, Circle’s stablecoin token USDC, dropped from its promised \$1 value to just 9 cents. Circle attended the rah-rah March 7 White House “crypto summit.” BlackRock is on the move to set up the dominant crypto platform in Europe.

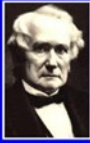


## The American System. One Million New Family Farms

Instead of swindles, empire-geopolitics and war, bring back the American System, as it was called in the 1800s. We can “nationalize” the Federal Reserve and create credit for everything from the North American Water and Power Alliance, in the west, to a modern national, high-speed rail system. Build the un-built TVA-type dams in the Appalachians, to prevent flood devastation. Build so many things long overdue.

We can upgrade decrepit cities, build new ones, and envision a million new family farms. The legal support for that can be worked out. What is needed is anti-trust, parity-based pricing, and local communities mobilizing to support their countryside.

The wonderful paradox is that the Global Majority—the BRICs nations and others—is throwing off geopolitics and going with their own versions of the American System. Let’s join them. Dump the stinking colonialism that has been destroying us at home for decades and build the future.

**Robert L. Baker,**  
**Agricultural Research, Executive**  
**Intelligence Review,**  
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	<b>The American System Vs. The British System</b> by Henry C. Carey	
<b>“Two systems are before the world...</b>		
One looks to pauperism, ignorance, depopulation, and barbarism; the other in increasing wealth, comfort, intelligence, combination of action, and civilization.		
One looks to-wards universal war; the other towards universal peace.		
“One is <i>the English system</i> ; the other we may be proud to call <i>the American system</i> ,		
for it is the only one ever devised the tendency of which was that of elevating while equalizing the condition of man throughout the world.		
	<b>“Such is the true mission of the people of these United States...</b>	
<b>To raise the value of labor throughout the world, we need only to raise the value of our own...”</b>		

## 2025 OCM 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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### 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.

