



**FROM THE PRESIDENT — Taylor Haynes**

**The United States Department of Agriculture  
(Undercover)**

The USDA was created by President Abraham Lincoln May 15, 1862, during the height of the Civil War. Companion legislation in the form of the Morrill Act was also passed, creating land grant colleges along with the Homestead Act allowing settlers to claim land. Lincoln said, “no other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought, as agriculture.”

Once dubbed the peoples department, the USDA is now observed to represent the needs of big agribusiness rather than those of the consumers and producers.

In 2004, the term USDA INC was coined to illustrate the USDA straying from its mission. Phillip Mattera, a principal at the Corporate Research Project for Good Jobs First made a presentation at OCM Food and Agriculture Conference.

The paper was conceived by the OCM, and commissioned by a working group of the Agribusiness Accountability Initiative ([www.agribusinessaccountability.org](http://www.agribusinessaccountability.org)). The following working group members helped research and edit the paper:

**SCOTTY JOHNSON**, Defenders of Wildlife [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

**BEN LILLISTON**, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
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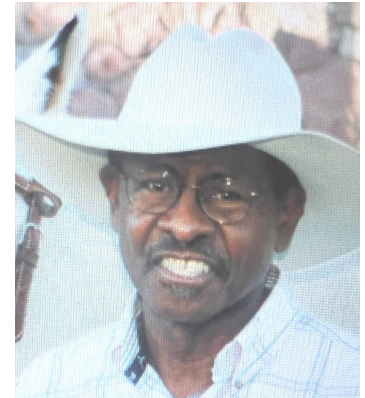
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The project was funded by the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

The term “agency capture” in reference to the USDA came about because

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of the career ties of leaders to the corporations the USDA was supposed to regulate.

**In 2004 the following individuals were senior leaders in USDA Inc.**

**Ann Veneman, Secretary Of Agriculture;** Formerly from Calgene/Monsanto

**Dale Moore, Chief of Staff;** Formerly executive director for legislative affairs for the National Cattlemen’s Beef association (NCBA) a trade association heavily aligned with multinational meatpackers.

**Deputy Secretary, James R. Moseley;** formerly a partner in Infinity Pork LLC, an Indiana CAFO that raised 50,000 hogs annually.

**Floyd Gaibler, Deputy Undersecretary;** Formerly executive director of the dairy industry’s National Cheese Institute.

**Mary Waters, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations;** Formerly senior director and legislative counsel for Con Agra foods.

**Donna Reifschneider, Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration(GIPSA);** Formerly served as President of the National Pork Producers Council; A trade group aligned with multinational meat packer interests.

**Dr. Elsa Murano, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety;** Former academic whose research was supported by Titan /Sure Beam Corp. Thus promoting irradiation for control of contamination when the much looser Hazzard Analysis and Critical Control point (HACCP) was instituted for meat inspection.

**Neil Hoffman, the Biotechnology Regulatory Services Director of USDA’S Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS);** formerly worked for biotech firm Paradigm Genetics.

**Michael Torrey, Deputy Chief of Staff;** formerly vice-President of the International Dairy Foods Association

**Under Secretary, J.B. Penn;** formerly an executive of Sparks Companies an agribusiness consulting firm.

**Under Secretary, Joseph Jen;** formerly director of research at the Campbell Soup Company’s institute of Research and technology

**Deputy Under Secretary, Floyd Gaibler;** formerly director of The National Cheese Institute and the American Butter Institute, both funded by the dairy industry.

**Deputy Under Secretary, Kate Coler;** formerly director of governmental relations For The Food Marketing Institute.

**USDA 2024**

The USDA organization chart is noticeably different. There is little divert connection of leadership to corporations. Searches for resumes are often unavailable. Following are the current positions and resumes.

**Thomas J. Vilsack Secretary Of Agriculture:**

Lawyer, politician, former President and CEO for the U.S Dairy Export Council.

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**Xochitl Torres-Small, Deputy Secretary Of Agriculture**

Lawyer, Water Attorney Politician, Bureaucrat, No Farming or Ranching background noted.

**Monica Armster Rainge, Deputy Assistant Secretary Rights for Civil Rights** formerly Director of the Land Retention and Advocacy for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ land Assistance Fund.No ranching or farming background noted.

**Adrienne Wojciechowski, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations**, formerly Government Relations Associate at the Nature Conservancy. No farming or ranching background noted.

**Janie Hipp General Counsel**, formerly CEO and President of the Native Agriculture Financial Services and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at The University of Arkansas was the Executive Director of the Native American Agriculture Fund. No farming or ranching background noted.

**Robert Farrell Bonnie, Under Secretary for Farming and Conservation**

No ranching background noted. Master's degree in forestry and Environment Management formerly with the Environmental Defense Fund. No farming or ranching background noted.

**Cindy Long, Deputy Undersecretary for Food Nutrition and Consumer Services;** Extensive Academic and bureaucratic credentials, extensive non-profit organizations work, details not available no farm or ranching background noted.

**Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban, DVM Undersecretary for Food Safety.**

A Veterinarian with extensive academic credentials, worked for the United Nations FAO/WHO, No Farming or ranching background noted. Born in Mexico

**Dr. Homer Wilkes Phd. In Education, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment;** Military service, Academic credentials unrelated to natural resources. 41 year history working with the USDA including Wetland restoration and recovery after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. No farming or ranching background noted.

**\*Dr. Basil Gooden Phd. In social Work, Under Secretary for rural Development:**

Rural development positions at the state and federal level. Owns and operates a cattle farm in Buckingham County Virginia

**Dr. Chavonda Jacobs Young PhD. Wood and Paper Science, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics**

Her Career has been at USDA in fields related to her degrees.

**Alexis M. Taylor, Undersecretary For Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs:**

B.A. in Political science and education. Military service and Director of the Oregon Department Of Agriculture Iowa Farming background

**Kumar Chandran's, Acting Under Secretary Food, Nutrition and consumer services.** Academic and private non-profit experience. No farming or ranching experience

**\*Jennifer Lester Moffitt, Undersecretary for Marketing and regulatory programs.** Former managing director at Dixon Ridge Farms. Her family's organic walnut farm and processing operation.

The leadership credentials are now heavily academic and bureaucratic. There is a paucity of people with farming or ranching backgrounds. There is an interesting degree of musical chairs across and up the organizational chart. Thus, another reason the USDA is out of touch with its original mission. Therefore, this window dressing disconnect with big agribusiness is deceptive.

Let's just look a bit deeper.

The USDA introduced the "beef checkoff" program in 1985. Cattle producers pay \$1.50 per head sold. This checkoff fee became effective in 1987. It was sold to shore up producers and the entire beef production supply chain.

Many agricultural commodities have checkoff programs.

The result is the loss of 142,000 Farms and 230,000 plus cattle farms and ranches in the past decade alone. Dairy farms have declined by 95% since the 1970s.

The USDA's attachment to big agribusiness is very evident in the absolute reluctance to institute MANDA-

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TORY country of origin labeling on beef and pork while we import Beef from countries like Brazil where Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) exists. More evidence of multinational meatpacker influence is exhibited by National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) staunch opposition to mandatory country of origin labeling as well.

The checkoff programs were deemed "Government Speech" (is a tax) by the Supreme Court. However, the beef checkoff program is not audited by the Office of the Inspector General. The USDA has refused to conduct the producer referendum on the beef checkoff which was promised at inception.

Independent food producers, both farms and ranchers are going out of business at frightening rates. Consumers face crippling food prices.

This is hard evidence that the USDA is well off its mission.

We're all hopeful that the incoming administration will take a critical look at this agency and make the changes needed to right the ship.



## In Memory of Craig Louis Vejraska

December 4, 1947—October 23, 2024

Craig L. Vejraska passed away unexpectedly October 23, 2024 while doing one of his favorite chores of watering his Black Angus cows. Craig was born in a blizzard by flashlight in Pawnee City Nebraska, December 4, 1947. He spent his early years between Nebraska and Texas then to Omak where he attended Saint Mary's Mission Catholic School and the Omak public school, graduating from Omak High in 1966.

He graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1970 with a degree in Government and was a member of ROTC. While attending EWU, he was initiated into the 1967 class of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Brothers as the 54th member of the ZetaNu Chapter in Cheney.

Craig grew up farming and ranching in Okanogan County, starting with Angus cattle in 1960 having purchased an Angus heifer for his 4-H project. He liked to say the ranch was his "run away 4-H project". He was an entrepreneur even in college selling life insurance while attending EWU. His first official job after college was as a salesman for International Harvester and he continued selling insurance. The move to the Royal Slope in 1971 was made after a long talk while selling an International Harvester Tractor to Mike Brown. Craig and his family spent years farming the ground on the slope and ranching. Craig married Mary K in 1986 and they moved to Omak in the Fall of 1988. Craig continued with the insurance business, purchasing North Valley Insurance in 1987. In the Fall of 1989 Craig became an owner in the Okanogan Livestock Market, and continued to be very involved in the cattle industry. Craig enjoyed serving on many boards of various cattle associations and other boards over the years. He was most proud of being a member of the Washington State Beef Commission representing the Cow Calf Industry, a past Okanogan County Commissioner and a Graduate of the Washington Ag Forestry Leadership Program. Craig was served as a Director on the Organization for Competitive Market's (OCM) Board from August, 2020 to the present.

Left to cherish his memory are his lovely wife Mary K; Sons- Jason (Jennifer), Todd (KatKady, Vancelenia), Scott and Ryan (Carlan). Grandchildren- Cameron, Jaxson, Kelsey, Caleb, Kacie, Arlee, Henry and Jase. Great Grandchildren Ideya and Dali.

# The Winning Side of History: World Development Drive Means Millions More Family Farms, Billions of New Jobs, No Refugees, No War

By Robert L. Baker

Dec. 1, 2024 – We are in an historic moment: we have the greatest danger ever of (needless) nuclear war – brought on by the Global NATO/World Economic Forum (WEF)/World Wildlife network of cartels. They work on behalf of the Wall Street/City of London financial empire.

At the same time, we are on the verge of what will be unprecedented world economic advancement. This comes about from the growing leadership of the Global Majority, such as the BRICS countries, which now numbers 9 nations and 13 partner nations and accounts for over half the world’s population.

Wild narratives are spinning in the media and from political honchos—both mainstream and “alt”, most of which, apart from plain ignorance, are intended to keep us dumb and mad. It’s more important than ever that citizens know what they need to and take the action they need to. Farmers, ranchers and other producers of physical necessities have a special responsibility in this, because they have the moral authority of contributing to production, science and the future. We need to speak out.

## Need to Know

There are a few, “did-you-know” matters that are urgent to communicate.

--- We know that in the November election, we here in the U.S. voted loudly against the economic collapse, and the chicken hawks making war everywhere. Did you know that in Europe, the same swing is underway? This is seen in The Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and eastern German (state) elections, and in the June 27 nation European Parliament elections.

--- Did you know that the nations of the Global South are now rejecting the dictates of the new-empire of the “Collective West” (London, Wall Street, Washington, the European Union and the World Economic Forum, the Green Cult, Soros networks, etc.) and are building their own infrastructure, Click Link!

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2024/11/24/report-development-drive-means-billions-of-new-jobs-no-refugees-no-war/>

Concrete examples: This month Peru opened the major deep water Port of Chancay, a big asset to the Western Hemisphere, and one day the terminus of a new Abraham Lincoln-style Transcontinental Railway across South America, from Brazil to the Pacific Ocean. Bolivia opened a new integrated steelworks in Mutun this year. In Africa, Zimbabwe did the same. In Egypt, they are building a new capital city, airports, nuclear power plant, expanding the Suez canal and 1700 kilometers of High-Speed Rail.

--- Did you know that this development is denounced by the gang in Washington – both the incoming Biden Administration, and likewise, unfortunately, by a few of the nominees for the incoming Trump presidency. They denounce it as favoring Communists in China, and the dictator in Moscow.

--- We do know that meantime, our U.S. economy is in breakdown, and Europe even faster. Indicative: the big-name manufacturers are downsizing, with thousands of job eliminations, and capacity loss: Siemens, Volkswagen, John Deere, U.S. Steel. Europe’s electricity rates and shortages are soaring. A mass farmers tractor protest took place in London in November. Our farmers can’t farm. The U.S. is not building up water and power infrastructure.



(Baker Continued Page 6)

## Must Know:

### Biden Approved U.S. Missile Strikes Into Russia

To cap off all the top need-to-know matters, is that after the Nov. 5 election, Biden approved U.S. military contractors deploying U.S. nationals into Ukraine, and approved Ukraine firing U.S.-made, and guided, missiles to strike deep into Russia. The ATACMS missiles. The UK also approved its Storm Shadows for that use. France has OK'd its SCALP missiles.

After the ATACMS and Storm Shadows struck in Russia the response came Nov. 21, when Russia deployed its new Oreshkin missile (it means hazel nut, for multiple warheads), in a precision targeted strike in Ukraine. The dead included



Americans and French. There are indications that Sec. of Defense Lloyd Austin and others were not even informed when Biden made this decision. The Blinken, and associated chicken hawk Republicans are pushing warfare.

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) expressed a sound reaction, calling the decision to provoke Russia like this, “Bat s \*\*t-crazy!”

A mobilization is underway, led by veterans and knowledgeable military and intelligence officers to stop the drive to all out war and doom. Scott Ritter, Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, VIPS. Click Link!

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2024/eirv51n4720241129/eirv51n47-20241129\\_006\\_international\\_peace\\_coalition\\_wh.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2024/eirv51n4720241129/eirv51n47-20241129_006_international_peace_coalition_wh.pdf)

## Global North – Join the Global Majority

We can end the dangers of nuclear Armageddon, the migrant crisis, the economic collapse and all by linking up with the Global Majority and getting in on the build-up of economies, both our own, and the homelands of those who have been fleeing the misery there. The process has started.

This will mean millions of new jobs. In the process we must put in the base for new family farms -- parity-related pricing, etc.

We need a financial system to back this up. Parity related pricing. Glass Steagall. If some of the billionaires in the new government don't get it, we must set them straight.

### Restore Our Historical Mission

Robert L. Baker, Agricultural Research,  
Executive Intelligence Review,  
Thank You, Call or Text Bob at 703-554-5397  
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## 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.

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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.

*Our wishes to all for a joyful Holiday season  
and a prosperous NEW YEAR!*

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***

