

DODGE COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS

NEWS & INFO UPDATE - DECEMBER 2020

SAVE THE EARTH...STOP FACTORY FARMS

TURNING OUR MISSION INTO A MOVEMENT

"THE SCOOP" - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS

Dodge County Concerned Citizens E/I/E Newsletter
[Educational, Informational & Entertaining]



BEST OF THE MONTH

The FoodPrint of Pork | FoodPrint <https://foodprint.org/reports/the-foodprint-of-pork/>

'A savagely broken food system': Cory Booker wants radical reform ... now | Environment | The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/15/a-savagely-broken-food-system-cory-booker-wants-radical-reform-now>

[This emotional statement from Van Jones after the Biden-Harris win made me cry and should all of us](#) | Daily Kos

Ag Insider Nov

3 - Farm finance and trade issues loom over presidential election; U.S. 'stabilizes' H-2A wages through

2022 | FERN <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-nov-3-farm-finance-and-trade-issues-loom-over-presidential-election-us-stabilizes-h-2a-wages-through-2022?e=7568fe7c73>

Food is politics | The Counter <https://mailchi.mp/newfoodeconomy/no-one-wants-filet-mignon-right-now-2057994?e=455b8afa79>

Homegrown News | City of

Minneapolis <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/2aa0f3e>

North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education -

Minnesota | <https://northcentral.sare.org/State-Programs/Minnesota/>

Socially Responsible Agricultural Project

SRAP LIVE! PRESENTS

AGRICULTURE, ENGAGEMENT AND SOLUTIONS



VIRTUAL SUMMIT

DECEMBER 2, 4, 5, 9, 11

2:00-3:45 PM

DECEMBER 12

6:00-7:30 PM

SRAP LIVE! Presents... Agriculture, Engagement & Solutions

We are excited to announce SRAP LIVE!, a free virtual summit to be held over six days in early to mid-December.

Multiple panels will feature experts addressing a variety of issues such as environmental injustice, industrial agricultural production, community engagement, regenerative agriculture, and more.

REGISTER NOW

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

Dec. 2 from 2:00 to 3:45 PM EST

- PANEL: The Hidden Harm in Right to Farm
- PANEL: Nitrates - What's in Your Glass of Water?

Dec. 4 from 2:00 to 3:45 PM EST

- PANEL: Emissions and Why it Matters
- PANEL: Biogas - Is it Really Green?

Dec. 5 from 2:00 to 3:45 PM EST

- WORKSHOP: The Power of Story to Create Change
- WORKSHOP: Citizen's Guide to Environmental Advocacy

Dec. 9 from 2:00 to 3:45 PM EST

- PANEL: Solutions are in the Farm System Reform Act
- PANEL: The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware Nations Discuss Regenerative Agriculture

Dec. 11 from 2:00 to 3:45 PM EST

- PANEL: Community Empowerment Matters!
- PANEL: Green Amendment - Why Your Constitutional Right to Clean Air and Water Matters

Dec. 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM EST

- FINALE AND LIVE MUSIC: The Role of Art in Social Justice

[Register today!](#)

Then: You will receive an email that contains a password to access our livestream beginning on Dec. 2.

The first 100 people to register for this event will receive a free digital download of award-winning Eastern Shore singer/songwriter [Bryan Russo](#)'s new song "Mr. Tindley."

*All panels subject to change. Further details to follow.



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Just 1 Week Before Conference! | Acres

U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/2020-eco-ag-conference-1-week-until-conference?e=e49f04f0fe>

Ag Insider Nov. 10 — 2021 farm income cushioned by higher commodity prices; planning for food system workers to get early Covid-19

vaccine | FERN <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-nov-10-2021-farm-income-cushioned-by-higher-commodity-prices-planning-for-food-system-workers-to-get-early-covid-19-vaccine?e=7568fe7c73>

The Fuhrer is Furious - Trump Melt

Down | YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMHCiz5VRLU&t=27s>

Ag Insider Nov. 13 – Trade expert sees steady increase in China ag purchases; Colorado’s wolf reintroduction plan could be a conservation

blueprint | FERN <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-nov-13-trade-expert-sees-steady-increase-in-china-ag-purchases-colorados-wolf-reintroduction-plan-could-be-a-conservation-blueprint?e=7568fe7c73>

Trump spent four years gutting food and farm protections. Here's what can be reversed on day one of Biden’s term. | The

Counter <https://thecounter.org/trump-regulation-usda-epa-biden-harris/>

Farm Systems Reform Act aims to eliminate CAFOs in 20 years |

AGDAILY <https://www.agdaily.com/livestock/senate-farm-systems-reform-act-aims-to-eliminate-cafos-in-20-years/>

Hot off the press: we're going to the Iowa Supreme Court! | Iowa

CCI <https://iowacci.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/ mailing /view?reset=1&id=5164>

Iowans Deserve Clean Water | Iowa

CCI <https://www.right2cleanwater.org/>

Ag Insider Nov. 19 – USDA does an about-face on subsidy eligibility rule; report outlines agriculture’s critical role in fighting climate

change | FERN <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-nov-19-usda-does-an-about-face-on-subsidy-eligibility-rule-report-outlines-agricultures-critical-role-in-fighting-climate-change?e=7568fe7c73>

Managers at Tyson meat plant had betting pool on how many workers would get Covid, lawsuit alleges |

CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/19/business/tyson-coronavirus-lawsuit/index.html>

Mycotoxins: Something new for you to worry about | The

Counter <https://mailchi.mp/newfoodeconomy/canada-is-nervous-to-buy-our-lettuce-2058042?e=455b8afa79>

Smithfield settles suits over North Carolina farms, after losing appeal | Successful

Farming <https://www.agriculture.com/news/livestock/smithfield-settles-suits-over-north-carolina-farms-after-losing-appeal>

Ag Insider Nov. 20 – Senators unveil plan to reverse discrimination against Black farmers; its appeal denied, Smithfield settles North Carolina

suits | FERN <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-nov-20-senators-unveil-plan-to-reverse-discrimination-against-black-farmers-its-appeal-denied-smithfield-settles-north-carolina-suits?e=7568fe7c73>

Stewardship News & Actions: Virtual Love the Land, CSP Fall Newsletter and Much More! | Crawford Stewardship

Project <https://mailchi.mp/a46c4056f331/stewardship-news-actions-virtual-love-the-land-csp-fall-newsletter-and-much-more?e=a1fb55858c>

Your Weekly Acres U.S.A. Digest | Acres

U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-11-20-20?e=e49f04f0fe>

Local, national & international climate action: IATP November News | Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy <https://mailchi.mp/iatp/september-465716?e=7c2dfa7289>

Upcoming Events | Wisconsin Farmers

Union <https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/news-events>

Enjoy the weekend with Acres USA's November's Equipment Issue | Acres

U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/dec-2020-issue-is-now-available?e=e49f04f0fe>

Despite their central role in the Covid-19 crisis, meatpackers mostly regulate themselves | The Counter <https://thecounter.org/covid-19-outbreak-meatpacking-safety-osha-california/>

'Suffocating closeness': US judge condemns 'appalling conditions' on industrial farms | Meat industry | The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/20/suffocating-closeness-us-judge-condemns-appalling-conditions-on-industrial-farms>

US food additive sparks Taiwan protests as trade ties grow | DW

News <https://www.dw.com/en/us-food-additive-sparks-taiwan-protests-as-trade-ties-grow/av-55698181> **Watch video** (01:22)

Allowing ractopamine imports from the United States is triggering protests in Taiwan as the self-ruled island seeks closer trade ties.

Thousands march in Taiwan against US pork imports | AP

<https://apnews.com/article/taiwan-thousands-protest-us-pork-imports-cf76e2db33063462632bfd383e0b7dbf>

Break Up the Modern Meat Trust

[Viveca Morris](#)

This post is part of our symposium on the Law and Political Economy of Meat. Click [here](#) to read the rest of the series

America once had a competitive meat industry. Not anymore.

For four decades, the U.S. government has watched idly as a handful of largely foreign-owned meat corporations grew horizontally by killing off or gobbling up their competitors and vertically by gobbling up their supply chains. Today four massive companies – JBS, Tyson Foods, National Beef, and Cargill – control over [80 percent](#) of America’s beef. Three companies – JBS, Tyson, and Smithfield Foods – control [63 percent](#) of America’s pork. Two of those – JBS and Tyson – also control 38 percent of poultry. The grain, seed, farm equipment, agrochemical, livestock genetics, and animal pharmaceutical industries have [likewise](#) become highly consolidated.

This isn’t America’s first time contending with a meat oligopoly.

In the early 1900s, five meat companies referred to as the [“Meat Trust”](#) dominated the U.S. meat industry. Like today’s modern Meat Trust, these companies possessed dominant market power as both sellers of meat and buyers of livestock, which they used to raise prices for consumers and lower prices paid to farmers.

At that time, roughly [one in four](#) employed Americans worked in farm occupations, compared to about [one in sixty-six](#) today. Livestock producers – fed up with being paid low prices for their animals – [demanded action](#).

President Woodrow Wilson directed the newly formed Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate anti-competitive practices in the meatpacking industry. The FTC soon produced a series of damning [reports](#) detailing how the meatpackers were “unfairly and illegally” using their power to manipulate the market, cripple competition, and profiteer.

In response, Wilson’s attorney general forced the big five meatpackers into a [consent decree](#) requiring them to divest from retail markets, cold storage warehouses, terminals, railroads, market newspapers, stockyards, and other food sectors unrelated to meat. Congress also [enacted](#) the [Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921](#), which gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) broad authority to safeguard livestock farmers from anticompetitive practices. By enforcing anti-monopoly laws, the three agencies sharing antitrust oversight of the meat industry – the USDA, FTC, and DOJ – mostly succeeded in ensuring competitive livestock markets for the [next fifty years](#).

But in the 1970s, the largest meat companies once again began to grow rapidly and absorb their competitors. Firms and processing plants began to shrink in number and swell in size. But this time the federal government did little to rein the big corporations in. Instead, it empowered them.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon appointed Earl Butz – who at the time served on multiple agribusiness boards – to lead the USDA, opening a [revolving door between](#) the industry and the agency that has swung non-stop ever since. Butz “plunged a pitchfork into the New Deal agricultural policies that sought to protect farmers from the big agribusiness companies whose interests he openly pushed,” [wrote](#) journalist Tom Philpott. Butz eliminated the supply management program that had protected farmland and stabilized food prices since the Dust Bowl and instituted a new era of “get big or get out” food policy aimed at maximizing production of commodity crops. Subsidies for fossil-fuel-intensive monocultures led to a glut of cheap grain, which in turn led to factory farmed animals. “Since factory farms could buy grain for less than it cost farmers to grow it, they could now fatten animals more cheaply than farmers could,” [wrote](#) Michael Pollan.

Meanwhile, the courts and antitrust enforcement agencies embarked upon a “get big or get out” era of their own. As Zephyr Teachout describes in [her new book](#), two new premises began to dominate U.S. competition policy and enforcement during this period, steered by the logic of “Chicago school” law and economics. The first premise is that the purpose of antitrust law is the promotion of “consumer welfare,” measured by changes in price. The second is that the appropriateness of antitrust action is a technical question best decided by the courts, [advised by professional economists](#)– rather than a [political question](#) best decided by the public and our representatives in Congress.

As Sandeep Vaheesan [wrote](#) recently on this blog, the result of this reinterpretation of antitrust laws “has been not bountiful consumer welfare, but oligarchy unleashed.”

The “consumer welfare standard” has failed on its own terms, as Austin Frerick has [pointed out](#). From the 1970s to the 1990s, as animal agriculture rapidly industrialized, meat prices did fall. But prices have [risen in the decades since](#). Food prices overall have risen faster than inflation since 2000, and the price of meat has increased faster still. In the last year, top companies in every major American meat sector – [beef](#), [pork](#), [chicken](#), and turkey – have been subject to civil suits and/or federal investigations for conspiring to keep prices high. One lawsuit estimates that chicken industry price-fixing alone costs the average American family of four [\\$330 per year](#).

But the biggest problem with the “consumer welfare” standard is that it only considers supermarket meat prices. It does not account for the staggering social and ecological costs of the industry’s consolidation. Big Meat’s rise to power and ability to produce cheap meat is not the result of entrepreneurial savvy exercised in a free market, as Pollan and others have [written for years](#). The primary reason multinational meat conglomerates have flourished, and meat prices have remained artificially low, is that our government massively subsidizes them at everyone else’s expense.

Our government subsidizes Big Meat directly by allocating the bulk of federal crop subsidies to [large farms](#) growing animal feeds, by financing animal

factory infrastructure, by buying billions of dollars of their products, and much more. In exchange for this support, taxpayers get [hijacked federal agencies](#), [policies shaped by pro-industry academic research](#), [a less responsive democracy](#), and [forceful industry lobbying to keep it that way](#).

Our government subsidizes the giant meat corporations indirectly by allowing them to push devastating costs onto the public with impunity. It does this by failing to regulate the environmental impacts of factory farming, including the industry's role in contaminating [air](#), poisoning [drinking water](#), and [driving the climate crisis](#); by failing to require [safe conditions](#) for [slaughterhouse workers](#); by denying most [farmworkers](#) the rights to form unions and earn minimum wage and overtime pay; by [exempting](#) “common farming practices,” [no matter how cruel](#), from most state animal anti-cruelty statutes; and by failing to restrict the industry's use of antibiotics (used to speed growth and keep overcrowded animals alive) despite the resulting increase in [drug-resistant infections](#).

Just as these meat conglomerates use their monopoly power to raise prices for consumers, they wield their monopsony power to lower prices paid to farmers, who now receive less than 15 cents on average for each dollar that Americans spend on food. That's down from 41 cents in 1950. It is commonplace today for foreign-owned corporations like Smithfield Foods to offer rigged contracts to farmers – who often have no other buyers in their region – that treat them as “serfs on their own land” and pit them against their own neighbors. Ninety percent of chickens in America are now grown in this feudal system. Seventy percent of contract chicken farmers live below the poverty line, and most face crippling debt. Most small farmers can't even make ends meet. In 2018, farmers with sales less than \$350,000 had a [median net farm income of -\\$1,524](#). Farmer suicide rates are now [3.5 times](#) that of the general population.

The impact of industry consolidation on food animals has also been devastating. One of the many cruel experiences in food animals' lives is the [increasingly long trip](#) from the farm to the slaughterhouse necessitated by slaughterhouse consolidation. It is now commonplace for pigs ([and their diseases](#)) to be trucked hundreds of miles across the country without food,

water, bedding, protection from extreme temperatures, or adequate space. [Nearly 10,000](#) slaughterhouses served local farmers across the U.S. in 1967. Today over 95 percent of our country's cattle and hogs are slaughtered at about 60 supersized plants. [Three](#) pork plants process a whopping 15 percent of our pork.

Maximizing only for “efficiency” is problematic in other ways too. Efficiency can come [at the cost of resiliency](#), as COVID-19 has laid bare. Two dozen slaughterhouses temporarily shutting down in the 1960s would have caused local ripples in the supply chain. Two dozen slaughterhouses temporarily shutting down in 2020 [generated tidal waves of suffering for workers and their families, crushed farmer incomes, and led to the mass killing of millions of farm animals.](#)

For the last half-century, the motto of U.S. meat production has been “get big or get out.” But now a growing number of interest groups – including farmers, slaughterhouse workers, rural communities, academics, environmentalists, animal protection activists, consumer safety advocates, and public health experts – are uniting to call for a new era: “Get the big out.” This coalition is pushing for a revival of robust oversight of Big Meat’s monopolistic abuses of power. At least some members of Congress are listening.

This fall, more than [300 diverse organizations](#) endorsed the [Farm System Reform Act](#). This bill, introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA), is the type of [bold legislation](#) needed to break Big Meat’s political and economic stranglehold on our food supply. If enacted, it would block the construction of new factory farms, phase out large factory farms by 2040, offer a voluntary buyout to contract farmers who wish to transition to more sustainable farming methods, hold corporations liable for their pollution, and strengthen farmers’ protections against abusive contracts. We need ambitious legislation like this and [more](#).

Our government has the tools – and the power to make more tools – to break up the modern Meat Trust. It’s time to put them to work.

300 Diverse Advocacy Groups Endorse the Farm System Reform Act and Urge Quick Passage in Congress - *With food and farm systems in crisis, leading food, agriculture, animal welfare and environmental groups call for a halt to new factory farms and smart investment in system market reforms.* | Food & Water

Watch <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/300-diverse-advocacy-groups-endorse-farm-system-reform-act-and-urge-quick-passage-congress>

Organizational Sign-On Letter: Support the Farm System Reform Act (S. 3221 & H.R.

6718) https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/sites/default/files/fsra_sign-on_final_copy.pdf

?

OCM Trustbusters: Week in Review, November 20, 2020



Organization for Competitive Markets

TRUSTBUSTERS:

A roundup of the week's news concerning corporate consolidation and monopoly power in food and agriculture.

November 20, 2020

Podcast with host Brett Johnson

Shonda Boyd / Facebook / November 14, 2020

"I was joined by two members of OCM, Organization for Competitive Markets whom [NCBA claimed was a domestic terrorist organization](#). OCM's Executive Director, Mike Eby and Dave Wright will be on the ANGLERPHISH PODCAST! The episode to be released the Monday after Thanksgiving"
<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3795729213779023/?extid=0&d=n>

JBS posts 778% rise in Q3 net income

Krissa Welshans / Feedstuffs / November 12, 2020

"During the third-quarter earnings call, Tomazoni also said the company is expanding 12 of its plants in Brazil in an effort to double production capacity by 2024."

To this OCM says, "Demand MCOOL".

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3812623185422959/?extid=0&d=n>

Fraud-Prone Aid program sent \$7 million to family's fake farms

Polly Mosendz, Zachary Mider, and Jeff Green / Bloomberg / November 18, 2020

"In all, the owner of the Forestview home and his family members created 72 companies with agrarian-sounding names at three Cleveland-area addresses and then used them to get approval for loans and grants totaling \$7.2 million from the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, state and federal records show. There's no sign of agricultural activity at any of the locations, or

that any of the companies were active before Feb. 1, a requirement for pandemic aid. None of them was registered with the Ohio Secretary of State's office before May."

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3812613982090546/?extid=0&d=n>

Lawsuit: Tyson managers bet money on how many workers would contract COVID-19

Clark Kauffman / Iowa Capital dispatch / November 18, 2020

"We have suspended, without pay, the individuals allegedly involved and have retained the law firm Covington & Burling LLP to conduct an independent investigation led by former Attorney General Eric Holder. If these claims are confirmed, we'll take all measures necessary to root out and remove this disturbing behavior from our company."

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3812603635424914/?extid=0&d=n>

"We're fighting for a way of life": Pandemic causes Iowa cattle farmers to lose money while consumers pay more

Donnelle Eller / Des Moines Register / 11-12-20

"The spread between prices for cattle producers and packers exploded as the pandemic spread, while meat vanished from stores, sparking calls for change."

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3802905796394698/?extid=0&d=n>

CORPORATE AGRIBUSINESS / AGRICULTURE

The Food System: Concentration and its Impacts.

NOV 19, 2020

Family Farm Action

Key Quotes:

- "Consolidation is happening across all sectors in the food system, at the national and global levels, and has resulted in a particular set of power relationships. This has resulted in numerous negative impacts on farmers, workers and their communities as well as consumers, who have experienced higher prices and less innovation."
- "These power relationships impact our food system democracy and are particularly concerning for marginalized voices and communities."
- "Crop acreage is consolidating in larger farms, while the sales midpoint for livestock has starkly increased between 1987-2017. For hogs, the midpoint of

sales has increased from 1,200 to 51,300 and in dairy, the herd size has gone from 80 to 1,300 cows.”

- “New processes of integration are occurring. In U.S. pork production, large pork producers own processors and grain elevators, while supermarket behemoths Walmart and Costco are using backward integration in dairy, beef and chicken. Kroger continues its strategy of backward integration in dairy and is supplying competing retailers. In addition, asset management firms are increasing their investments in food and agriculture, potentially reducing competition via common ownership of most of the leading firms in a number of industries.”
- “In a consolidated system, farmers, workers and the environment are interconnected, meaning that when problems hit one part, they quickly engulf others. For meatpacking, the coronavirus hit workers, and the human tragedy of over 40,000 workers with COVID-19 (189 deaths) quickly became a farm and environmental disaster. Besides the financial hit for farmers who may have euthanized between 300,000 to 800,000 hogs and 2 million chickens, the waste of the embodied resources (28,500 tons of pork, .02% of the 2018-2019 corn crop) is stunning. The inability to control the drift of the herbicide dicamba has divided communities, damaged livelihoods and ecologies, and illuminated the inability of agencies to regulate dominant firms.”
- “Agrifood consolidation reduces farmer autonomy and redistributes costs and benefits across the food chain, squeezing farmer incomes. In 2018, farmers whose primary occupation was farming but with sales of less than \$350,000 had a median net income of -\$1,524. An agriculture system without people has depopulated rural communities causing a collapse in social relationships. Communities of color bear a disproportionate burden of exposure to excessive pesticide use or large animal confinement operations.”
- “Because political democracy rests on economic democracy and vice versa, our laser focus in scholarship, praxis and policy must be on democratizing the agrifood system at local, state, regional and national scales. Working together, policy-makers, farmers, workers and communities need to fashion alternatives and policies that can help to curb monopolistic tendencies in the agrifood system, to shine a racial lens in scholarship on agrifood system power and consolidation, to prioritize resilience and redundancy, to rethink core assumptions such as efficiency and property rights, and to encourage the development of alternative production and consumption arrangements.”

Five actions Biden should take to build a more humane food system | The Hill <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy->

[environment/526342-five-actions-biden-should-take-to-build-a-more-humane-food-system](#)

Five actions Biden should take to build a more humane food system

President-elect [Joe Biden](#) has the power to make American agriculture more humane. Biden can help bring an end to the most extreme and widespread animal suffering in human history, while at the same time improving the welfare of agricultural workers, farmers, rural communities and the health of our environment and planet.

Today a handful of giant meat conglomerates, many of which are foreign-owned, completely dominate our food system. These corporations wield their massive economic and political power to tilt the playing field to their extreme advantage at terrible cost to animals, farm workers, independent farmers, our environment and to the successful development of more humane and sustainable alternatives.

For the past four years the Trump administration has [empowered](#) these giant agribusinesses to [write the rules](#), [gutted](#) the environmental protections upon which human and animal lives [depend](#), failed to enforce [animal welfare](#) and [worker](#) protections and [greenlighted](#) barbaric [practices](#) that past administrations disallowed for good reason.

With the following five actions, Biden can start to reverse this course and set us firmly on the path to developing a more humane, sustainable and healthy food system:

One, shut the revolving door between the USDA and “Big Ag.” Former North Dakota Sen. [Heidi Heitkamp](#) (D) is [reportedly](#) a frontrunner to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). She would be a terrible choice. Heitkamp has a [track record](#) of prioritizing the interests of multinational corporations over independent farmers, rural communities and the living world. Instead of appointing yet another pro-big-agribusiness USDA secretary interested in maintaining the [status quo](#), Biden should appoint regulators who have a

history of working to transform the food system to be more humane, fair, resilient and sustainable and who have the courage to take on the big corporations that are [colonizing](#) rural America. Rep. [Marcia Fudge](#) (D-Ohio), another of the USDA contenders mentioned in recent press, would be a better choice for both people and animals.

Two, break up the modern meat trust. Reining in Big Agriculture's monopoly and monopsony power will have cross-cutting benefits for people, animals, the environment, rural communities and the responsiveness of our democracy. Even without Congress, the Biden administration can do a lot to enforce and strengthen competition policy through executive orders and through actions of the USDA, Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission. To start, Biden should only appoint leaders of these agencies who are committed to investigating and reforming anti-competitive conduct in the meat industry. Biden should also create an interagency council by executive order to tackle meat industry competition and propose specific regulatory and enforcement actions for each agency. Earlier this year, a diverse coalition of advocacy groups published a [list of actions](#) that should be taken to restructure the animal protein industry to improve competitiveness, transparency and fairness. Biden should take these actions.

Three, treat factory farms like factories. Make them pay their externalized costs. This includes their role in polluting our air, water, and soil, exacerbating climate change, abusing animals, exploiting workers and contract farmers and sickening rural communities. Biden should issue an executive order directing the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Interior and other agencies to catalog all the regulatory and enforcement [exemptions](#) currently bestowed on factory farms, and to develop a regulatory action plan to bring environmental, labor, animal welfare and climate accountability to this industry. Biden should also direct his climate action team to incorporate animal agriculture, which is responsible for around [15 percent](#) of global greenhouse gas emissions, into climate policy and regulation. To date, the EPA has [failed to measure](#) (let alone regulate) the air pollution of factory farms. Biden's EPA should list greenhouse gas emissions from industrial animal agriculture as pollutants under the Clean Air Act, and

develop a reliable emissions reporting system for industrial animal farms that yields comprehensive and transparent data.

Four, shift federal financial and technical support toward more just and sustainable food production. The [current system](#) of agricultural research, technical advice, federal loans and loan guarantees is almost exclusively focused on expanding and maintaining the factory farm model of production, despite [overwhelming national concern](#) with its negative impacts. The Biden administration should redirect these resources toward incentivizing the development of alternative production systems, such as small-scale regenerative agriculture and plant-based meats. This could begin with issuing an executive order halting all further technical and financial support for the creation or expansion of large factory farms, pending regulatory reform. Biden should also appoint a food justice czar at the USDA to coordinate policy at the intersection of food, health, labor, climate, animal welfare and environmental justice, and make specific recommendations on how to use federal agency authority to promote sustainable and humane protein production systems.

Five, act swiftly to stop slaughterhouses from sacrificing workers, public health and animal welfare. As the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare, the nation's slaughterhouses are [desperately in need](#) of immediate regulatory reform to protect workers from illness and injury. The Biden administration should issue an emergency rule mandating enforceable standards for proper social distancing, PPE and other protections for slaughterhouse workers, and requiring slaughterhouses to publicly report data on their cases — something meatpackers and the Trump administration [flatly refuse to do](#). Biden should immediately halt further authorizations to increase [slaughterhouse line-speeds](#), which endanger workers, consumer safety and animal welfare. Biden should also direct the USDA secretary to issue an order designating poultry as a species regulated by the [Humane Methods of Slaughter Act](#), putting an end to the six-decades-long [exemption](#) of poultry from even the most basic humane slaughter requirements.

Building a food system that treats people, animals and the planet with decency will benefit and strengthen our nation now and for generations to come. Taking these actions would be a powerful start.

Viveca Morris is the executive director of the [Law, Ethics & Animals Program at Yale Law School](#). Jonathan Lovvorn is the program's faculty co-director and co-director of Yale's [Climate, Animals, Food and Environmental Law and Policy Lab](#)

S.D. farmers raise 'heritage turkeys' to preserve ancient breeds and meet growing consumer demand



Now known as “heritage turkeys,” many of the ancient breeds almost went extinct in the late 1990s. But those colorful, playful and spritely bird breeds are on the rebound as a small group of niche farmers in South Dakota and beyond are once again breeding, raising and selling heritage turkeys as part of a growing farm-to-table agricultural movement. [...]

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

People With A Spiritual Gift Are Affected By These 10 Strange Things | YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b3YyeQSIHw>

The 33 Hottest Gifts of 2020 | <https://go.zangdeal.com/hottest-gifts/?s=vm>

For More News & Info, Please See Link(s) and/or Attachment(s) Above and/or Below



Sent by: Brad Trom, Director & Newsletter Editor

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