

**CONFLICT**ZONE

**DODGE COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS**

**NEWS & INFO UPDATE - JANUARY 2022**

**SAVE THE EARTH...STOP FACTORY FARMS**

***TURNING OUR MISSION INTO A MOVEMENT***

**Taking a Mess and Making it Our Message**

**ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS**

**Dodge County Concerned Citizens E/I/E Newsletter**

**[Educational, Informational & Entertaining]**



**BEST OF THE MONTH**



## **Book Overview: "*Animal Factory*"**

Swine flu. Bird flu. Massive fish kills. Concentrations of cancer and other diseases. Recalls of contaminated meats, fruits, and vegetables. Recent public health crises raise urgent questions about how our animal-derived food is raised and brought to market. In *Animal Factory*, bestselling investigative journalist David Kirby exposes the powerful business and political interests behind large-scale factory farms, and tracks the far-reaching fallout that contaminates our air, land, and water supply--and our food itself. In this thoroughly researched book, Kirby follows three people from small towns across America whose lives are utterly changed by immense neighboring animal farms. These farms confine thousands of pigs, dairy cattle, and poultry in small spaces, often under horrifying conditions, and generate enormous volumes of biological waste as well as other toxins. Weaving science, politics, big business, and everyday life, Kirby accompanies these citizens-turned-activists as they fight to preserve their homes and communities. *Animal Factory* is an important book about our American food system gone terribly wrong--and the people who are fighting to restore sustainable farming practices and safe natural resources.

**Families Against Rural Messes (FARM)**

Scrap Factory Farming, The Legal Challenge. | [scrapfactoryfarming.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6FyFbe14Ts) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6FyFbe14Ts>

**7:04**

Bad Seed: Mead's fight against a toxic ethanol plant | Lincoln Journal Star [https://journalstar.com/bad-seed-meads-fight-against-a-toxic-ethanol-plant/video\\_92dbce99-c0f6-50e1-b4ed-c64e3d839f96.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://journalstar.com/bad-seed-meads-fight-against-a-toxic-ethanol-plant/video_92dbce99-c0f6-50e1-b4ed-c64e3d839f96.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

**20:39**

CAFOs Uncovered - The Untold Costs of Confined Animal Feeding Operations | Union of Concerned Scientists <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/cafos-uncovered-executive-summary.pdf>

Wherever you are, Eat Well. Search over 25,000 hand-picked restaurants, farms, markets and other sources of local, sustainable food. | Eat Well Guide <https://www.eatwellguide.org/>

The Meatrix is Back! | FoodPrint <https://mailchi.mp/foodprint/meatrix?e=00430612ff>

TAKE ACTION - Ready to learn and become part of a movement of people who are fighting factory farms? | GRACE Communications Foundation <https://themeatrix.com/pages/take-action>

Climate change has destabilized the Earth's poles, putting the rest of the planet in peril | The Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/12/14/climate-change-arctic-antarctic-poles/>

Sign to End Factory Farming | World Animal Protection <https://www.worldanimalprotection.us/sign-end-factory-farming#:~:text=Pledge%20to%20stand%20up%20against,safer%2C%20more%20humane%20food%20system.>

The Importance of Soil | FoodPrint <https://mailchi.mp/foodprint/world-soil-day?e=00430612ff>

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

**U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-12-3-21?e=e49f04f0fe>**

**Impossible Foods | <https://impossiblefoods.com/>**

**Whistleblower Profile: Craig Watts | Food Integrity**

**Campaign <https://foodwhistleblower.org/profile/craig-watts/>**

**Go big or go bankrupt: Wisconsin farmers face daunting challenges as factory farms flourish | The Badger**

**Herald <https://badgerherald.com/features/2021/12/07/go-big-or-go-bankrupt-wisconsin-farmers-face-daunting-challenges-as-factory-farms-flourish/>**

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

**U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-12-17-21?e=e49f04f0fe>**

**Fighting for Food and Seed Sovereignty in Hawaii | Acres**

**U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/fighting-for-food-and-seed-sovereignty-in-hawaii?e=e49f04f0fe>**

**Good News / Bad News? | KnowCAFOs - The Truth and Consequences of Factory Hog Farms <https://mailchi.mp/225f2325b36e/good-news-bad-news?e=7f1c13979d>**

**USDA offers help for pork producers who were forced to sell on 'spot market' during COVID pandemic**

The Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program should help "the smaller end of the hog producer spectrum," Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux said.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

**Book of the Week Exclusive: Eco-Farm | Acres**

**U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/book-of-the-week-exclusive-eco-farm-december-2021?e=e49f04f0fe>**

**Farm Group Calls for DOJ Investigation Into Rising Fertilizer Prices | Progressive**

**Farmer** <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2021/12/08/farm-group-calls-doj-investigation>

**Small Farms Struggle To Survive | Star Tribune** <https://www.startribune.com/a-151-year-old-family-farm-in-nebraska-struggles-to-survive/600126069/>

**Regenerative Farming is the Next Stage of Agricultural Evolution | Acres U.S.A.** <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/regenerative-farming-is-the-next-stage-of-agricultural-evolution?e=e49f04f0fe>

**At an Annual Sustainability Gathering, Big Ag Describes its Efforts to Control the Narrative | Civil Eats** <https://civileats.com/2021/12/09/at-an-annual-sustainability-gathering-big-ag-describes-its-efforts-to-control-the-narrative/>

**NDFU meets to discuss monopolization in the meat industry | KFYR** <https://www.kfyrtv.com/2021/12/11/ndfu-meets-discuss-monopolization-meat-industry/>

**Ag Insider: ‘Spot market’ program aims pandemic aid at hog farmers | Food & Environment Reporting Network** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-spot-market-program-aims-pandemic-aid-at-hog-farmers?e=7568fe7c73>

**FERN means a lot to me. | Food & Environment Reporting Network** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/newsmatch21-aginsider?e=7568fe7c73>

**Farmers fired up at Missouri Farm Bureau meeting | Missouri Ruralist** <https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-policy/farmers-fired-missouri-farm-bureau-meeting>

**Ag Insider: Slow growth of ‘advanced’ biofuels will be a key factor in setting next year’s RFS | Food & Environment Reporting Network** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-groups-sue-epa-over-inaction-on-pesticide-coated-seeds-593734?e=7568fe7c73>

**Farm to School Programs Are Finally Making Inroads on Capitol Hill | Civil Eats** <https://civileats.com/2021/08/23/farm-to-school-programs-are-finally-making-inroads-on-capitol-hill/>

**Discovering Resilience - A Legal Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers | Farm Commons** <https://farmcommons.org/workshops/discovering->

[resilience/?utm\\_source=generallistserv&utm\\_medium=listserv&utm\\_campaign=aprildr](https://farmcommons.org/product/drwinter2022/)

**Discovering Resilience: A Legal Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers, Winter 2022 - Discovering Resilience is a legal workshop that empowers farmers and ranchers with the legal knowledge and skills they need to resolve legal vulnerabilities | Farm**

**Commons** <https://farmcommons.org/product/drwinter2022/>

**Guiding Resilience - A Legal Workshop for Farm Service Providers | Farm Commons** <https://farmcommons.org/workshops/guiding-resilience/>

**Guiding Resilience: A Legal Workshop for Ag Service Providers, Winter 2022 | Farm Commons** <https://farmcommons.org/product/grwinter2022/>

**Agritourism Legal Basics - Explore common questions around the legal issues that can surface when hosting agritourism events on your farm. | Farm Commons** [https://farmcommons.org/resources/articles/agritourism-legal-basics/?utm\\_source=generallistserv&utm\\_medium=listserv&utm\\_campaign=aprildr](https://farmcommons.org/resources/articles/agritourism-legal-basics/?utm_source=generallistserv&utm_medium=listserv&utm_campaign=aprildr)

**Farm Insurance Basics - Walk through key steps of choosing insurance for your farm | Farm Commons** [https://farmcommons.org/resources/articles/farm-insurance-basics/?utm\\_source=generallistserv&utm\\_medium=listserv&utm\\_campaign=aprildr](https://farmcommons.org/resources/articles/farm-insurance-basics/?utm_source=generallistserv&utm_medium=listserv&utm_campaign=aprildr)

**Minnesota feedlot reregistration due Jan. 1; MPCA makes permit changes**

**Minnesota feedlot operators must update their registration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency every four years, with the current cycle ending on Jan. 1, 2022.**

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

**Socially Responsible Agriculture Project - LISTEN:** 🎧 **Senator Cory Booker, award-winning author Michael Pollan + sustainable farming activist Leah Penniman discuss the country's deeply flawed food and farm system.** <https://bit.ly/33obY0Z> **They break down the economic, health, and environmental harms of Big Ag, the legislative policies that have allowed them to persist, and the diverse movement working to improve the ways we produce and eat**

food. | Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sraproject/posts/10159741420509207/>

Drug, feed ingredient shortages hit U.S. livestock producers | Reuters <https://www.reuters.com/business/drug-feed-ingredient-shortages-hit-us-livestock-producers-2021-11-18/>

## **Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities**

[Minnesota Campaign Organizer](#) | Clean Water Action  
[Ecologist](#) | Friends of the Mississippi River  
[Prescribed Fire Specialist](#) | The Nature Conservancy  
[Land Protection Specialist](#) | The Nature Conservancy  
[Leola Hills Land Steward](#) | The Nature Conservancy  
[Southern Black Hills Conservation Manager](#) | The Nature Conservancy  
[Farm Beginnings Organizer](#) | Land Stewardship Project  
[Administrative Assistant](#) | Clean River Partners  
[Communications Coordinator](#) | Environmental Initiative  
[Project Coordinator](#) | Environmental Initiative  
[Project Manager](#) | Environmental Initiative  
[Executive Assistant](#) | Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
[See all job postings](#)

### **Christensen Farms, Minnesota State University Mankato partner on 'next level' ag career training**

Christensen Farms, a multi-state hog operation based in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, is partnering with Minnesota State University - Mankato to provide language, communication and leadership training to its 858 person workforce. With the help of a \$300,000 state grant, training will English skills for its workers from Mexico.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

**Antitrust Lawsuit Filed Against Pork Producers for Conspiracy to Inflate Prices**  
- Law|Street <https://lawstreetmedia.com/news/agriculture/antitrust-lawsuit-filed-against-pork-producers-for-conspiracy-to-inflate-prices/>

**Meat packers' profit margins jumped 300% during pandemic - White House economics team** | Reuters <https://www.reuters.com/business/meat-packers-profit-margins-jumped-300-during-pandemic-white-house-economics-2021-12-10/>





Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) | University of Minnesota <https://www.misa.umn.edu/ask-misa/discussion-groups/sustag>

Your Weekly Acres U.S.A. Digest | Acres U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-12-10-21?e=e49f04f0fe>

James Webb Space Telescope: Looking back in time to catch the earliest starlight in creation | CBS News <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/james-webb-space-telescope-60-minutes-2021-12-12/>

Ag Insider: Groups sue EPA over inaction on pesticide-coated seeds | Food & Environment Reporting Network <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-groups-sue-epa-over-inaction-on-pesticide-coated-seeds?e=7568fe7c73>

Deadline Extended to Apply for Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations | USDA Farm Service Agency <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/deadline-extended-to-apply-for-pandemic-support-for-certified-organic-and-transitioning-operations>

Farm-Animal Law Prompts Lawsuit | Star Tribune <https://www.startribune.com/interest-groups-sue-to-block-californias-farm-animal-welfare-law/600130257/>

Agritourism: Tips on Getting Started | Acres U.S.A. <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/agritourism-tips-on-getting-started?e=e49f04f0fe>

**Danish Unions Forced McDonald's to Pay \$22/hr**



**McDonald's worker in the US: \$9/hr**

**McDonald's worker in Denmark:**  
**\$22/hr, 6 weeks of annual vacation,**  
**a union, 1 year of paid family leave,**  
**life insurance and pension**

**Big Mac Cost:**  
• **America: \$4.80**  
• **Denmark: \$5.15**

**Would you pay 35 cents more**  
**for a stable working class?**

It's not a miracle; it's [union solidarity](#).

Dockworkers refused to unload containers that had McDonald's equipment in them. Printers refused to supply printed materials to the stores, such as menus and cups. Construction workers refused to build McDonald's stores and even stopped construction on a store that was already in progress but not yet complete. The typographers' union refused to place McDonald's advertisements in publications, which eliminated the company's print advertisement presence. Truckers refused to deliver food and beer to McDonald's. Food and beverage workers that worked at facilities that prepared food for the stores refused to work on McDonald's products.

In addition to wreaking havoc on the company's supply chains, the unions engaged in picketing and leaflet campaigns in front of McDonald's locations, urging consumers to boycott the company.

Once the sympathy strikes got going, McDonald's folded pretty quickly and decided to start following the hotel and restaurant agreement in 1989.

Agweek Podcast | [https://www.agweek.com/podcasts/Agweek-Podcast?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=sugarbeetcured](https://www.agweek.com/podcasts/Agweek-Podcast?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=sugarbeetcured)

**Animal Rights Extremists Take Their Cause to the Courtroom | Farm Journal's PORK** [https://www.porkbusiness.com/opinion/animal-rights-extremists-take-their-cause-courtroom?mkt\\_tok=ODOzLVIHQi03OTMAAAGBMJchJD8lxjKGSHAbTeg4L2j4Wc0t932gXBZdU5PVHJNFcqZlmOQKtAyV7j46e3IvwiBL3ySK4GeH3h6vbtEs3GL-LPAGtTnT2PGtFGI6-35roNLIVQ](https://www.porkbusiness.com/opinion/animal-rights-extremists-take-their-cause-courtroom?mkt_tok=ODOzLVIHQi03OTMAAAGBMJchJD8lxjKGSHAbTeg4L2j4Wc0t932gXBZdU5PVHJNFcqZlmOQKtAyV7j46e3IvwiBL3ySK4GeH3h6vbtEs3GL-LPAGtTnT2PGtFGI6-35roNLIVQ)

**Opinion | Former Montana Governor Steve Bullock Warns: Democrats Face Trouble in Rural America - The New York Times** <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/03/opinion/democrats-rural-america-midterms.html?auth=login-email&login=email>

**Two BIG reasons to give to The Counter today | The Counter** <https://mailchi.mp/newfoodeconomy/help-the-counter-end-our-fiscal-year-strong-2058834?e=455b8afa79>

**Small farms are producing less and becoming more financially risky | STLPR NPR** <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/economy-business/2021-12-12/small-farms-are-producing-less-and-becoming-more-financially-risky>

**The Organic Insider: Archive | USDA Agricultural Marketing Service** <https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-insider>

**Don't miss your chance to have your gift doubled | The Counter** <https://mailchi.mp/newfoodeconomy/help-the-counter-end-our-fiscal-year-strong-2058882?e=455b8afa79>

**Making lefse with 40 kids creates a joyful experience**

This week, take an idea and make it a reality.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

## **OCM NEWS ROUNDUP:**

*The week's news concerning corporate consolidation and monopoly power in food and agriculture.*

*December 16, 2021*

## **Mark your Calendar**

*OCM Annual Convention and Member Meeting, Kansas City MO, July 28-30, 2022*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/250058333833027/>

## **The Fischer-Grassley Bill, S.3229**

*S.3229 will instead be a boon to packers, allowing them to continually purchase cattle for less than their competitive value, and that means it'll be a bust for America's cattle producers," Bullard commented.*

*Bullard says his group continues to support the original cattle market protection Bill, S.949, that will allow cattle producers to benefit from a robustly competitive negotiated cash market at least at a 50% volume level.*

<https://www.kbhbradio.com/news/recent-marketing-bill-introduced-will-be-a-bust-for-americas-cattle-producers-says-industry-organization?fbclid=IwAR1C8LPG2jUZIImzzEmD-xvOb5ZF9IHlsU0Yoappje3sIWkcdl7wygHkc9yo>

## **What President Joe Biden said**

*With consolidation in agriculture, farmers pay more, consumers pay more. Only the corporate monopolies make more.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4964393040245962/?d=n>

## **White House shifting blame?**

*In a statement, The North American Meat Institute called that analysis "another desperate attempt by the White House to shift blame for record food inflation to the meat and poultry industry." Meat Institute President and CEO Julie Anna Potts said the White House is guilty of "cherry-picking" data and that it was no coincidence the blog post appeared the same day the Consumer Price Index showed gas and energy prices were up nearly 60% the past 12 months*

*which is nearly 10 times the rate of inflation for food.*

<https://www.drovers.com/news/industry/white-house-calls-out-meat-packer-profits>

### **The solution to bottlenecks?**

*Start-up or expand food supply chain activities such as aggregating, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distributing food. address supply chain bottlenecks, increase capacity, and help create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.*

<https://www.morningagclips.com/usda-launches-food-supply-chain-guaranteed-loan-program/>

### **The United States was Brazil's top beef importer in November**

*The United States was Brazil's top beef importer in November, surpassing China, according to data compiled by Brazil's Center for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics (CEPEA). Brazil shipped 17,290 metric tons of beef to the U.S. in November, setting a record high in monthly exports to the North American country. This volume was equivalent to about 17% of Brazil's total beef shipments in November.*

[https://www.meatingplace.com/Member/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fIndustry%2fNews%2fDetails%2f102478%3ffbclid%3dIwAR0MniyWwlv9IaNC-EIWvppfD\\_H\\_JGaze1sEXe5-vgjoPDlxx8ejeT-vNls&fbclid=IwAR0MniyWwlv9IaNC-EIWvppfD\\_H\\_JGaze1sEXe5-vgjoPDlxx8ejeT-vNls](https://www.meatingplace.com/Member/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fIndustry%2fNews%2fDetails%2f102478%3ffbclid%3dIwAR0MniyWwlv9IaNC-EIWvppfD_H_JGaze1sEXe5-vgjoPDlxx8ejeT-vNls&fbclid=IwAR0MniyWwlv9IaNC-EIWvppfD_H_JGaze1sEXe5-vgjoPDlxx8ejeT-vNls)

### **Government has the power to fix this.**

*Multinational corporate meatpackers can be broken up. The 100-year-old Packers & Stockyards Act was originally intended to protect poultry and hog farmers and cattle ranchers from unfair, deceptive, and monopolistic practices in the meat market. But for the last few decades, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, USDA has not fully enforced these important protections for farmers and ranchers, which has enabled rampant consolidation.*

<https://www.economicliberties.us/event/beefing-up-antitrust-enforcement-how-to-revitalize-american-agriculture-feat-ag-keith-ellison-and-usda-senior-advisor-andy-green/>

### **Congress has repeatedly extended but not reauthorized the price reporting law**

*On a 414-9 roll call, the House passed HR 5290, which extends the life of the mandatory livestock price reporting law through Sept. 30, 2022.*

*Congress has repeatedly extended but not reauthorized the price reporting law since it expired in 2020. Some lawmakers want to include far-reaching market reforms in a bill reauthorizing the reporting law.*

*“We’re going to deal with that,” said House Agriculture chairman David Scott in urging passage of the reporting bill. “We are dealing with it over in the Senate Agriculture Committee and in our House committee. However, we should not let negotiations of those reforms that we’re working withstand in the way of extending this vital program for one year.”*

<https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/house-advances-cattle-marketing-reform-bill>

### **The administration is giving traction**

*But now the Administration is giving traction to all the noise and overlooking the beef industry’s long-run success story. For whatever reason, Mr. Vilsack wants to promote disruption of free markets and voluntary exchange with more governmental oversight – all in the name of “fairness”. No one flourishes with that sort of approach. Making government the referee never goes well – nor ever really facilitates fairness. Mandates cost producers and penalize consumers. Effort towards how the pie gets sliced is wasted motion. Instead, continued success and prosperity for producers – and ever-increasing options for consumers – results only from making the pie bigger.*

*Mike Eby: Sorry but “making the pie bigger” speech no longer is working for you. It’s now time to acknowledge the existence of monopsony, which when full-term becomes obvious to consumers as a monopoly.*

<https://www.drovers.com/opinion/speer-fair-what-we-really-want>

## **Break up processors of regional processors available**

*One solution to be discussed is bipartisan federal bills seeking to break up those big companies.*

*“I know it seems like a long shot, but there is more support for this than I have seen in many, many years, so I think there is really an opportunity right now,” said Larew.*

*Shelly agrees: “In the long run, we need to either break up the large processing plants or we need to have regional processing available.”*

*The convention will reconvene tomorrow at 8 a.m. at the Bismarck Event Center.*

*The Combatting Monopolization panel will start at 11 a.m. Saturday, featuring the President of the Oklahoma Farmers Union, a representative from the USDA, and someone from the ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.*

<https://www.kfyrtv.com/2021/12/11/ndfu-meets-discuss-monopolization-meat-industry/>

## **Price gouging?**

*On Friday, the same day that inflation hit a 39-year high, the White House released an aggressive statement condemning the biggest meat processing companies for price gouging, arguing that just four large firms control the bulk of the market and are taking too big a bite out of consumers' wallets. In turn, rising grocery prices have been a huge part of the basket that made up the giant jump in inflation.*

*The Biden administration said that the price surges are harmful to consumers and farmers alike, the latter of whom they say meat companies underpay in order to maximize executive profit margins.*

<https://www.businessinsider.com/inflation-meat-companies-gouging-consumers-white-house-argues-rising-prices-2021-12>

## **Sunset Checkoff?**

*In July 2020 a petition was started to call for a referendum on the Checkoff's future. Last month, the overwhelming support that producers have for the Beef Checkoff was evident when efforts to collect signatures fell far short of the number needed to trigger a referendum.*

*Mike Eby: Nice spin. If the program were to sunset (as it should) and those you claim are in support needed to trigger a reintroduction, it too would fail.*

<https://www.drovers.com/opinion/bohn-producer-support-beef-checkoff-remains-strong>

### **White House frustrated**

*Friday's blog - released after November consumer prices showed the largest annual gain since 1982 - reflects growing frustration by White House officials about continued increases in meat prices, an issue it flagged in September.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4949580418393891/?d=n-->

### **Calling it as they see it**

*Here is the bottom line: the meat price increases we are seeing are not just the natural consequences of supply and demand in a free market—they are also the result of corporate decisions to take advantage of their market power in an uncompetitive market, to the detriment of consumers, farmers and ranchers, and our economy.*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/blog/2021/12/10/recent-data-show-dominant-meat-processing-companies-are-taking-advantage-of-market-power-to-raise-prices-and-grow-profit-margins/>

### **Amazon's dominance**

*Amazon's dominance of online retail means that small businesses have little choice but to rely on its site to reach consumers. This report finds that Amazon is exploiting its position as a gatekeeper to impose steep and growing fees on third-party sellers. Even as these exorbitant fees bankrupt sellers, they are generating huge profits for Amazon, a fact that the tech giant conceals in its financial reports. These profits are not only the spoils of Amazon's monopoly power. They*



*are the essential fuel that feeds its market-domination strategies, enabling it to absorb massive, predatory losses designed to lock in market control and fund breakneck expansion.*

<https://ilsr.org/amazons-toll-road/>

### **So much demand**

*There's so much demand for this industry that people could be employed for the rest of their life in an industry that could be very rewarding," he added.*

*With this program, "students will be able to do it from beginning to end," VanDerPol said. "It's important that people know where their food comes from."*

<https://www.wctrib.com/news/education/7316457-Ridgewater-College-plans-to-open-meat-cutting-program-in-fall-2022>

### **Dairy Farmers**

*Join Us Every Tuesday at 8:00 pm EasternLive call: 667-770-1477 Pin 330090#*

*Gary Genske and Mike Eby discuss ways to empower farmers, ultimately seeking to improve producer pay price.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4968625809822685/?d=n>

### **mCOOL**

*The second section of the bill gets into the "other purposes" – and includes not only mCOOL but also strengthening anti-trust measures to rein in the power of the meatpacking companies. It also directs the Government Accountability Office to develop a report on the fragility of the American food system and the steps needed to build a more resilient one.*

<http://farmandranchfreedom.org/senate-bills-address-mcool/>

### **mCOOL**

*Have you joined the movement to know what your family is eating?*

[labelourbeef.com](http://labelourbeef.com)

**OCM, Organization for Competitive Markets**

[competitivemarkets.com](http://competitivemarkets.com)

*8-21-21 (2021-2022 board)*

*Vaughn Meyer, SD President*

*Dr. Taylor Haynes, WY Vice President*

*6-30-21 (2020-2021 board)*

## **PLEASE CONSIDER OCM MEMBERSHIP**

Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) is a national leader working to bring about 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 that they build. By becoming a member you will have access to the information and tools you need to join the fight.

**Select a membership option:** <https://competitivemarkets.com/membership/>

**Donation:** <https://competitivemarkets.com/donate/>

## OCM'S MOST RECENT NEWSLETTERS

<https://competitivemarkets.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/webOCMJuly-Oct21.pdf>

<https://competitivemarkets.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/webOCMApr-June21.pdf>

**Organization for Competitive Markets** | P.O. Box 6486, Lincoln NE

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## Upcycled nutrients could become possible feed alternative

Upcycling nutrients into high quality animal feed could offer livestock producers a sustainable alternative.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

## Betty's Most Popular Recipe Ever | Betty

**Crocker** [https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/ultimate-chocolate-chip-cookies/77c14e03-d8b0-4844-846d-f19304f61c57?utm\\_source=Email\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=BC\\_12\\_24\\_2021&vcode=AQAAAAEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEBFgFmD5y8k\\_mRZOBs6pSDJyOJSWKWAaksZeLAds8UTAX6r5lAp1F-dbNPXOYJeJFuyX7i8ntKj5OzOOBgdurSO==](https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/ultimate-chocolate-chip-cookies/77c14e03-d8b0-4844-846d-f19304f61c57?utm_source=Email_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BC_12_24_2021&vcode=AQAAAAEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEBFgFmD5y8k_mRZOBs6pSDJyOJSWKWAaksZeLAds8UTAX6r5lAp1F-dbNPXOYJeJFuyX7i8ntKj5OzOOBgdurSO==)

**We're off! | The Counter** <https://mailchi.mp/newfoodeconomy/mangoes-and-peppercorns-and-peaches-contaminated-with-dust-2058898?e=455b8afa79>

**MN AG EXPO - January 19-20, 2022 - Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center  
- Mankato, MN | <https://mnagexpo.com/>**

**Farm aid: Chipotle CEO Brian Niccol on America's farming crisis | Reuters** <https://www.reuters.com/business/farm-aid-chipotle-ceo-brian-niccol-americas-farming-crisis-2021-12-28/>

**Book of the Week Exclusive: A Grower's Guide to Balancing Soils | Acres U.S.A. Bookworm** <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/book-of-the-week-exclusive-a-growers-guide-to-balancing-soils?e=e49f04f0fe>

The Fed's Doomsday Prophet Has a Dire Warning About Where We're Headed | POLITICO <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/12/28/inflation-interest-rates-thomas-hoenig-federal-reserve-526177>

## Upcoming webinars

- [Poultry welfare for small and backyard flocks](#) (January 4, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Pasture grazing with multiple species, including poultry](#) (February 1, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Best Management Practices for preparing eggs for sale when you have flocks of less than 3000 hens](#) (March 1, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Re-purposing existing structures for poultry production](#) (April 5, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Controlling internal parasites of poultry](#) (May 3, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Biosecurity for small and backyard poultry flocks](#) (June 7, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [External parasites of poultry](#) (July 5, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Basics of poultry genetics](#) (August 2, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Breeding purebred poultry](#) (September 6, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Litter management for home flocks](#) (October 4, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Making your own feed](#) (November 1, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- [Overview of chicken anatomy](#) (December 6, 2022 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)

### *"Love Is Enough"*

Love is enough: though the World be a-waning,  
And the woods have no voice but the voice of complaining,  
    Though the sky be too dark for dim eyes to discover  
The gold-cups and daisies fair blooming thereunder,  
Though the hills be held shadows, and the sea dark0 wonder,  
    And this day draw a veil over all deeds pass'd over,  
Yet their hands shall not tremble, their feet shall not falter;  
The void shall not weary, the fear shall not alter  
    These lips and these eyes of the loved and the lover.

William Morris



## LSP LIVE-WIRE

December 23, 2021

### CSA Farmers: Sign-up for the Directory

#### CSA Listing Deadline Jan. 20

If you are a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmer operating in Minnesota or western Wisconsin, LSP invites you to be listed in the 2022 edition of our *Twin Cities, Minnesota & Western Wisconsin Region CSA Farm Directory*. An online version of the CSA Farm Directory will be available by Feb. 1 at [www.landstewardshipproject.org/stewardshipfood/csa](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/stewardshipfood/csa).

To submit a listing for your farm by Thursday, Jan. 20, [click here](#).

### LSL, Factory Farm Win, Podcasts



#### Latest LSL Online

The latest [Land Stewardship Letter is now online](#). Check out our 2022 Minnesota legislative preview, a methane-manure Myth Buster, a new Farm Beginnings profile, a report on land access alternatives, travelogue on the 2021 field day season, a review of *Building Community Food* webs, and more. The paper version will be out in the mail in coming days.

#### Winona County Denies CAFO Variance

Earlier this month, the voice of the people in Winona county prevailed against an attempt by a factory dairy farm to blow by local, sensible limitations on the number of animals (and thus the amount of manure) that can be housed in one location. After thoroughly considering the evidence, the Winona County Board of Adjustment once again denied a request brought forward by Daley Farm for a variance to the Winona County animal unit cap. [Details are here](#) and [here](#).

By the way, interested in learning about local, state, and judiciary levers available to stop factory farms in your community? Join LSP's "Fighting Factory Farms" cohort this winter. The cohort will meet three times in January and February. [To register, click here.](#)

## A Plethora of Podcasts

LSP has recently uploaded a number of episodes of its award-winning *Ear to the Ground* podcast. Check out our [podcast page](#) for some fun, insightful discussions on soil health, fungi, farming with the wild, pollinators, and creating opportunities for the next generation of farmers.

## LSP Events

### Resiliency Workshops

LSP and University of Minnesota Extension will be holding a series of four "Resiliency Forums" for specialty crop farmers this winter. A variety of topics will be covered:

- Jan. 13, noon-1:30 p.m., **Time and People Management with Julie Arnold of Shepherd Moon Farm.** [Register here.](#)
- Jan. 27, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., **Irrigation Systems with Andrew Ehrmann of Spring Wind Farm.** [Register here.](#)
- Feb. 10, noon-1:30 p.m., **Incubating Beginning Farmers for Alternative Land Access with Moses Momanyi of Dusk to Dawn Farm and Dayna Burtness of Nettle Valley Farm.** [Register here.](#)
- March 10, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., **Whole Farm Resiliency Planning with Farmers (TBA).** [Register here.](#)

For more information, e-mail LSP's [Nick Olson](#) or [Annelie Livingston-Anderson.](#)

### 'How Grazing Brought a Ranch Back to Life' in February

Cattle producer Alejandro Carrillo will tell the story of how he has used regenerative grazing to build soil health and bring his ranch back to life during a series LSP events in Minnesota and western Wisconsin the first week of February. Carrillo has increased his ranch's water infiltration rate to 18-20 inches per hour; the neighboring ranch has an infiltration rate of only two inches per hour.

Each event will feature local farmers talking about they are utilizing soil building practices to manage for drought and high input costs. Here are the details on the four events:

- [Feb. 1, Willmar, Minn., 9 - 12:30 a.m.](#)
- [Feb. 2, Saint Charles, Minn., 2 p.m.- 5 p.m.](#)
- [Feb. 3, Mazeppa, Minn., 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.](#)
- [Feb. 4, River Falls, Wis., 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.](#)

Speaking of soil health and precipitation, [a new LSP video](#) describes a simple infiltration test that can gauge how well your soil is managing moisture. The results featured in the video are pretty eye-opening.

[Check Our Events Calendar](#)

## 2022 MN Legislature, Farmland Clearinghouse, LSP Membership, Creature Feature

### LSP Legislative Priorities

The 2022 session of the Minnesota state Legislature convenes Monday, Jan. 31, and for the past few months teams of LSP members have been working together to develop a legislative agenda focused on ensuring all people can thrive on the land, no exceptions. Check out our [latest blog](#) for a summary of LSP's priorities during the upcoming session.

Want to get involved? LSP will be holding three virtual organizing meetings in January:

- Jan. 19: [Caucus for People & the Land](#)
- Jan. 25: [Soil Health & Climate Campaign Kick-off](#)
- Jan. 27: [Healthcare Town Hall with Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison](#)

### Farmland Clearinghouse

Are you a beginning farmer looking to rent or purchase farmland in the Midwest? Or are you an established farmer/landowner in the Midwest who is seeking a beginning farmer to purchase or rent your land, or to work with in a partnership situation? Then check out LSP's [Farmland Clearinghouse](#) for the latest listings and for details on getting your own information posted.

### New & Retiring Farmer Resources

By the way, our new web page has resources for [beginning farmers](#) as well as [retiring farmers and other landowners looking](#) to pass their legacy on to the next generation.

### Young Farmer Survey

If you're a working farmer, farmworker, or former farmer, LSP encourages you to take the [National Young Farmer Survey](#) and add your voice to young and BIPOC farmers across the country calling for major change in federal farm policy.

### Become a Sustaining LSP Member

Thank you for your LSP membership — it makes our work for stewardship, democracy and justice on the land possible. To strengthen LSP, we aim to grow our sustaining membership this year. Sustaining memberships provide efficient, reliable financial support each and every month. Such memberships also keep LSP's costs down, which means more of your \$15, \$35, or \$50 pledge (or another amount that works for you) is going directly to the work.

To sign-up as a sustainer, [simply sign-up on LSP's website](#) with your checking account or credit card information and the amount of your monthly pledge.

By the way, as the end of 2022 draws near, consider making LSP a part of any [end-of-year donation plans](#) you may have.

If you have any questions about your membership or Supporting LSP financially, [e-mail](#) LSP's Clara Sanders.





### Got Your Calendar Yet?

A new year means a new way to mark the days. What better tabulator than the beautiful 2022 Farm Creatures of LSP Calendar? Warning: although not all of the animals featured here are of the porcine variety, these models are definitely hams. [Order your copy here.](#)



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United States

**A New Day Dawns for a Fair Farm Bill: Sonja's Story | Family Farm Alliance** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l155vPou8Y>

## OCM in the News, 2021 Year in Review



### OCM 2021 NEWS ROUNDUP:

*The year's news HIGHLIGHTING THE EFFORTS OF OCM concerning corporate consolidation and monopoly power in food and agriculture.*

*JAN - DEC 2021*

**January 11, 2021**

### **Three major focus areas**

*“The **Organization for Competitive Markets** has outlined three major focus areas for a policy they want to be enacted at the national level. OCM Executive Director Mike Eby says they’re backing the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, a bill that would increase transparency in checkoff programs.*

*He also is optimistic about working with the new Biden administration on strengthening antitrust enforcement at the Department of Justice to help improve competitiveness in markets.*

*Eby says their third priority is to attempt to get the mandatory country of origin labeling reinstated to guard against the influx of beef coming in from outside the United States.*

*Eby says the problem with a voluntary country of origin labeling program is that it allows too many loopholes that would harm the profitability opportunities for U.S. cattlemen. “*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/3947866811898595/?d=n>

**January 28, 2021**

### **OCM Letter to President Biden on "Made in America"**

*United States President Joe Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500 Dear Mr. President: On behalf of independent cattle farmers and ranchers in the United States, we appreciate the “Made in America” executive order you signed on Monday, which strengthens U.S. purchasing regulations and ensures that U.S. workers have a future. However, please note that since the repeal of the U.S. mandatory country of origin labeling law (m-COOL) in 2015, USA...*

[Read More ...](#)

**February 4, 2021**

**News Media picked up OCM letter to Biden**

*In a letter to Biden, Mike Eby, OCM executive director, said because of COOL's repeal, "USA beef is no longer distinguishable from imported beef."*

*"How then can American family farmers and ranchers participate in, much less benefit from, your order?" Eby asked.*

*He is asking for Biden's administration or Congress to reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling. He wrote Biden that OCM hopes to work with his administration "to ensure that American family-owned cattle farmers and ranchers can participate in building a future you envision through your executive order."*

*"What is most disturbing is the fact that as policy stands, federal procurement programs — including school lunches — will be receiving beef from foreign cattle," Eby said.*

*He said **OCM** advocates for markets that are fair, honest, accessible, and competitive for all citizens.*

*"Having beef labeled of the country from which the animal was born, raised, and slaughtered is the first step in being honest." Eby wrote.*

[https://theindependent.com/news/local/fischer-supports-vilsack-as-next-ag-secretary/article\\_e640dbd6-6696-11eb-b3f0-af8b60931e76.html](https://theindependent.com/news/local/fischer-supports-vilsack-as-next-ag-secretary/article_e640dbd6-6696-11eb-b3f0-af8b60931e76.html)

**February 9, 2021**

**Aided and abetted**

*The bottom line is, "your Beef Checkoff has aided and abetted the demise of nearly 400,000 producers since 1984." A huge proportion of your annual 80 million dollars transcends that superficial fake firewall between checkoff affairs and policy lobbying procedures; lobbying efforts that have escalated packer profits to new highs at producer's expense.*

*U.S. agriculture is experiencing some of the toughest economic conditions of the past 90 years resulting from control of production agriculture by a few monopolistic global corporations who ultimately dominate marketing and much of the daily production inputs. Our only hope for survival is to get involved and demand checkoff and market transparency.*

*Vaughn Meyer, **OCM** President*

*Reva, SD*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4026464820705460/?d=n>

**February 16, 2021**

### **FOIA Claim**

*Nearly 6 years and still NCBA and USDA refuse to release how federally mandated beef checkoff assessments paid by U.S. cattle producers are being spent.*

*See for yourself, court documents linked.*

<https://competitivemarkets.com/ocm-foia-claim-regarding-beef-checkoff-program/>

**April 22, 2021**

**Dear Secretary Haaland,**

*The **Organization for Competitive Markets** (OCM) requests your consideration of this opportunity to express our concerns relating to communications recently directed to your office (dated April 9, 2021) by multiple organizations and individuals, advocating for the elimination of livestock grazing on BLM Herd Management Areas (HMAs) OCM is a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization founded in 1998 by farmers, ranchers, and other industry leaders focused upon the explicit mission statement, “To establish fair and competitive markets for agricultural products and to protect those markets from the abuse of power.” Our work in establishing and protecting markets for farmers and ranchers also encompasses our responsibility to advocate for farm family production as well as the marketing of their produce. OCM, in concurrence with its mission, opposes the prior multi-organizational request to cease farmer and rancher grazing on both current and future federal HMAs. OCM also does not support the taking or devaluation of producers’ grazing preferences (allotments). Producer granted allotments have been long established as private property with rights protected by the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty, the Organic Administration Act, the Taylor Grazing Act, and by the doctrine of custom usage as laid down by the Supreme Court. In addition, the United States Internal Revenue Service also recognizes these grazing preferences as private property subject to taxation codes...*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4237357342949539/?d=n>

**April 23, 2021**

**OCM Barn meeting**

*Thank you so much for those who presented today at the barn meeting, EMPOWERING DAIRY FARMERS! Gary Genske & Joe Arens NDPO, Karina Jones R-Calf, Bernie & Sherry Bunting, [97milk](https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4241180069233933/?d=n), Marty Irby, D.C. OCM, Dick Bylsma, NFO, Kristen Ranger Michigan*  
<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4241180069233933/?d=n>

**May 25, 2021**

**“Bearing false witness”**

*That is what OCM Director David Wright claims is happening when imported beef is sold to American consumers who are none the wiser.*

*Labeling or not labeling has “economic value”. Currently, packers are exploiting the lack of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling laws on beef. Both the consumers and ranchers lose.*

*Listen to Dave Wright and Tatum Lee explain how this can and must be remedied on the Dave Nabity radio show.*

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/9808558/dave-nabity-5-22-2021>

**May 27, 2021**

**Mike Eby introduces Karina Jones**

*Jones spoke to attendees live and virtually about the beef checkoff referendum petition. Jones was part of a panel of speakers on various topics during the daylong "Empowering Dairy Farmers" barn meeting at Eby's farm in Lancaster County, PA on April 23. By Sherry Bunting, Farmshine, May 14, 2021, GORDONVILLE, Pa. – “Beef it’s what’s for dinner.” Remember that line?...*

<http://agmoos.com/2021/05/27/producer-see-checkoff-vote-and-transparency-as-fake-food-transformation-ramps-up/>

**June 1, 2021**

### **NAMI, Myth or Fact?**

*Recently, the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) published a list of facts on common beef market myths which was sent to Congressional constituents in an attempt to derail ongoing support for the Senators Rounds and Smith letter to Attorney General Garland. The Rounds/Smith letter directs the government, specifically the Attorney General Office, to investigate the meatpacker stranglehold over our meat processing markets and if any violations of anti-trust laws and fair competition principles are occurring. In their letter...*

[Read More ...](#)

**June 3, 2021**

### **USDA/AFPC Workshop on Cattle Markets**

*Executive director Mike Eby representing the board of **Organization for Competitive Markets**. A common theme among USDA presenters: "Be very careful about making changes." Most acknowledge a thinly traded cash market exists, yet are not alarmed. OCM does not share their complacency.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4364523863566219/?d=n>

**June 5, 2021**

### **Terminating checkoff?**

*IARN — National Cattlemen's Beef Association CEO Colin Woodall says terminating the beef checkoff would hurt cattlemen.*

*R-CALF USA and the **Organization of Competitive Markets** petitioned the USDA to terminate the National Beef Checkoff program last July. Woodall said the referendum is about killing, not improving, the checkoff.*

*“That’s something that we need to make very clear,” Woodall said. “The referendum is not about changing the checkoff, or improving the checkoff, the referendum is about killing the checkoff, period.”*

<https://kiwaradio.com/ag-news/two-groups-petition-for-termination-of-national-beef-checkoff/>

**June 6, 2021**

### **OCM responds to NCBA**

*LINCOLN, NE: Recently, Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network in conjunction with KIWA Radio aired an interview with National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) CEO Collin Woodall who misspoke saying, “R-CALF USA and the **Organization for Competitive Markets** petitioned USDA to terminate the National Beef Checkoff program last July.” Vaughn Meyer, president of OCM appreciates Mr. Woodall’s attempt to credit OCM with the noble initiation of requesting a referendum vote for the first time in the 35 year beef Checkoff history. However, that credit rightfully is attributed to the South Dakota Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) along with other state’s livestock marketing entrepreneurs...[Read More](#)*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4385960531422552/?d=n>

**June 7, 2021**

### **JBS cyber attack**

*The **Organization for Competitive Markets** says the JBS cyber attack highlights the intense concentration within the meatpacking industry. Claiming our food security has been jeopardized, this group is calling on the Biden Administration to end the monopolization of agriculture. JBS is the world’s largest meat producer, accounting for nearly 25 percent of the beef packing capacity in the United States.*



<https://www.rrfn.com/2021/06/02/ocm-says-food-security-hurt-by-cyberattack/>

**June 9, 2021**

### **Crushing small ranchers**

*According to Stokes, the Mississippi rancher and founder of OCM, there's been almost no relief for small-scale, independent farmers. "There's nowhere near a fair apportionment of the beef dollar," he said. "We don't want any preferential treatment. We just want a fair game."*

<https://prospect.org/power/big-four-meatpackers-crushing-small-ranchers/>

**June 12, 2021**

### **Demonstrate harm to competition**

*LINCOLN, NE: Yesterday the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began work on three proposed rules to support enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, the 100-year old law that was originally designed to protect poultry and hog farmers and cattle ranchers from unfair, deceptive, and anti-competitive practices in the meat markets. USDA's pending action was noted in the Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions released today by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).*

*"The third proposed rule is the most needed to the P&S Act", according to **Mike Eby, OCM's executive director**, "as it promises to clarify the scope of the law with regard to competitive injury. Currently, Farmers who have been allegedly harmed by unfair practices must prove marketwide suppression. This regulation would clarify that parties do not need to demonstrate harm to competition in order to initiate legal action." Eby continues, "This empowers farmers in ways the 1921 P&S Act had originally intended."*

***Mike Weaver, OCM Board member** and President of Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias, is quoted as stating, "Poultry growers nationwide welcome the proposed Biden Administration changes to the PSA and the strengthening of enforcement of these regulations. For too long now poultry growers have been forced into abusive contracts and other practices by poultry integrators that should be illegal. Contract Poultry Growers*

*Association of the Virginias and OCM are ready and willing to assist with these changes to the greatest extent possible."*

***Fred Stokes, the founder of OCM** states, "Secretary Vilsack has announced his plans to pursue issues that OCM has worked tirelessly on for decades. Especially exciting is the initiative to resurrect The Producer Protection Act (PSA1921) and the effort to incentivize an expansion of independent meat processing". Stokes applauds this bold move and pledges to do everything he can to be supportive...*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4390699994281939/?d=n>

**June 15, 2021**

### **Meat and Poultry article**

*The third proposed rule is the most needed to the P&S Act as it promises to clarify the scope of the law with regard to competitive injury," said Mike Eby, executive director of **OCM**.*

*"Currently, Farmers who have been allegedly harmed by unfair practices must prove marketwide suppression. This regulation would clarify that parties do not need to demonstrate harm to competition in order to initiate legal action."*

<https://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/25093-usda-to-update-packers-and-stockyards-act-enforcement>

**June 17, 2021**

### **OCM Testifies at Public Hearing on Federal Prohibition of Whole Milk in Schools**

*LINCOLN, NE: Yesterday, OCM's executive director Mike Eby, testified at the Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee hearing on the federal prohibition of whole milk in schools. Eby claims, "Dairy farmers have lost a generation of milk drinkers since whole milk was removed from schools in 2010". He continues, "In my many interactions with other farmers and consumers, having done many outreach programs through my industry [Read More ...](#)*

*Eby serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union. At the national level, he serves as chairman of the National Dairy Producers Organization and also is the executive director of the **Organization for Competitive Markets**.*

*Eby says, "In my interactions with farmers and consumers, having done many outreach programs through my industry involvement, I see the divide that keeps farmers and consumers apart—on knowledge, markets fairness, and choice.*

link to recorded hearing <https://policy.pasenategop.com/mp-061621/>

**June 30, 2021**

### **OCM's Press Conference of OFF Act to Reform USDA's Runaway Checkoff Programs**

*Reps. Dina Titus and Nancy Mace Applauded by OCM, Organization for Competitive Markets for Introducing OFF Act to Reform USDA's Runaway Checkoff Programs.*

<https://youtu.be/lhDXpYR8hQM>

**June 30, 2021**

### **OCM Board in Washington, D.C.**

*On June 29th and 30th, eleven **OCM board members** and executive director Mike Eby gathered in Washington D.C. to further the cause of the OCM Mission. Located in a hotel conference room two blocks from Capitol Hill offices, members of Congress or their staff were invited to discuss our concerns regarding an array of issues, with a focus on packer concentration, country of origin labeling (COOL), and check-off programs.*

*Over two days, thirty-minute meetings were conducted with each of 17 Congressional offices, over half of these in person, and the rest online. Meeting at a nearby hotel as a result of Covid restrictions at Hill offices. Director Dave Wright stated, "I don't think I have ever seen a more efficient way to lobby Congress than what we accomplished this week, meeting in person, face to face."...*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4473546392663965/?d=n>

**July 2, 2021**

**Egregious and illegal activities**

*Mike Eby, executive director at OCM and chairman of the National Dairy Producers Organization comments: "The checkoff is an example of how farmers lost their voice. We are disappointed that historically, the USDA and Congress appear to have little regard for the millions of farmer dollars that are being used for purposes that are not being made public."*

*"OCM stands firmly in support of putting more farmers back on the land and reigning in the egregious and illegal activities National Cattlemen's Beef Association continues to engage in," said Vaughn Meyer, president of OCM and a lifelong cattle producer from Reva, South Dakota. "The OFF Act is proudly supported by more than 250,000 farmers nationwide and the U.S. House should swiftly hold a hearing to address checkoff reform."*

<https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/farm-policy/checkoff-reform-legislation-reintroduced>

**July 7, 2021**

**Checkoff**

*Mike Eby, executive director of OCM, said check-offs began in the early 1980s to promote the product but said the direction had changed. Now, Eby says he really wants to know where the check-off dollars are used.*

<https://www.jioforme.com/check-off-transparency-bill-reintroduced/558956/>

**July 8, 2021**

**Reps. Dina Titus and Nancy Mace Applauded by Sustainable Agriculture and Animal Welfare leaders for Introducing OFF Act to Reform USDA's Runaway Checkoff Programs**

*WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the **Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM)**, **Animal Wellness Action (AWA)**, **Animal Wellness Foundation (AWF)**, and **National Dairy Producers Organization (NDPO)** applauded U.S. Reps. Dina Titus, D-Nev., and Nancy Mace, R-S.C. for*

*introducing the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act, designed to reform and bring accountability and transparency to reform the USDA's Commodity Checkoff Programs that have long been plagued by scandal after scandal for misappropriation of funds, lack of transparency, and misusing farmer and rancher tax dollars [Read More](#)*

**July 9, 2021**

### **Belly Up**

***Organization for Competitive Markets** reports that enforcement of the act during the next five decades resulted in the four largest U.S. meatpackers controlling only about 25% of those markets. Since 1980, when courts began whittling away the protections of the act, 90% of U.S. hog farmers and 41% of U.S. cattle producers have gone belly-up, **OCM** reports, and more than 1 million "family farmers have been driven off the land."*

[https://www.muskogeejournal.com/opinion/columns/off-the-cuff-power-to-change-the-future/article\\_29344f63-0ed7-5ae3-a808-bdb27e1d1052.html](https://www.muskogeejournal.com/opinion/columns/off-the-cuff-power-to-change-the-future/article_29344f63-0ed7-5ae3-a808-bdb27e1d1052.html)

**July 9, 2021**

### **Executive Order to Promote Competition**

*LINCOLN, NE: The **Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM)** is pleased to announce that today the President signed an Executive Order to promote competition in the American economy. The Order includes 72 initiatives by more than a dozen federal agencies to promptly tackle some of the most pressing competition problems across our economy.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4466156943402910/?d=n>

**July 12, 2021**

### **Executive Order to Increase Transparency**

*"The **Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM)** applauds President Biden's Executive Order which includes directives to increase fairness, competition, and transparency within*

*Agriculture markets. These Biden Administration directives will initiate long-overdue support for producer rights in marketing and consumer choices at the marketplace. The President's order coupled with Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack's commitment to invest \$ 500 million for new independent packing infrastructure signals a new beginning in marketing fairness for livestock producers and breaking up the current corporate stranglehold on American agriculture."*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4472889439396327/?d=n>

**July 13, 2021**

### **OCM Vice-President Stokes quoted in Bloomberg**

By Deena Shanker, Bloomberg/Newsroom

*Currently, if a farmer wants to sue a company for anticompetitive behavior under the act, the farmer would need to show the company's actions hurt not only him but the entire industry. That creates a very high bar that the Obama rules would have lowered. But the Trump administration withdrew the rules, leaving groups like the Organization for Competitive Markets disappointed. Fred Stokes, the founder of OCM, and a cattle rancher in Porterville...[Read More](#)*

**July 22, 2021**

### **Organization for Competitive Markets featured in FARMSHINE**

*Inequalities of agriculture and food are in their crosshairs. Washington, D.C.*

Farmshine.net

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4502478779770726/?d=n-->

**July 26, 2021**

### **OCM thanks Senators for S.2036 Sponsorship**

LINCOLN, NE: Organization for Competitive Markets, **OCM** very much supports the legislative efforts of Senator Rounds, Tester, and Grassley's Senate Bill (S.2036) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. This Act also cited as the 'Meat Packing Special Investigator Act' will establish an office of a special investigator to investigate and prosecute violations of transparent competition within the livestock industry. OCM applauds this long-overdue legislation to establish an "Office of [Read More ...](#)

**August 3, 2021**

## **CORPORATE CRIME REPORTER**

*The beef packing industry is now dominated by four large multinational corporations - Cargill, Tyson, the Brazilian firm JBS, and National Beef Packing, which is controlled by another Brazilian company. Country of origin labeling for beef was repealed in 2015. And the beef checkoff - a \$ 1 tax on the cow every time it is sold funnels millions of dollars to beef promotion groups that side with the beef packing monopolists against the farmers. For almost fifty years now, **Fred Stokes**, a cattle farmer in Porterville, Mississippi, has been seeking to give the family farmer a fair shake in the marketplace - to bring back Country of origin labeling, to bust up the big four, and to repeal or reform the checkoff. <https://www.corporatecrimereporter.com/news/200/fred-stokes-on-the-beef-checkoff-country-of-origin-labeling-and-busting-up-the-big-four/>*

**August 4, 2021**

## **United States Senate Judiciary Committee Beefing up Competition:**

*"OCM commends your Senate Judiciary Committee for taking the first steps to resolve the plight of America's farmers and ranchers and to secure our national food supplies. Your direction to Congress needs to include: 1) Solutions establishing transparent price discovery, truth, and fairness in labeling, and restricting the use of both foreign and domestic captive supplies for market manipulation. 2) The strengthening and enforcement of the GIPSA rules for producer retribution when violations occur. 3) Recommend and assist the Department of Justice*



*investigation and breakup of current monopsony powers within America's food supply chain and 4) assist with the planning and expansion of new independent food processing infrastructure..."*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4541133902571880/?d=n>

**August 12, 2021**

### **Expansion of Independent Beef Processing**

*OCM believes the most effective use of these funds is to use them to incentivize expansion in independent meat processing facilities. This would need to be accompanied by expanding access to loans, appropriately changing meat inspection rules to accommodate smaller-scale plants, and pushing enforcement of antitrust laws and PSA 1021 to prevent barriers to entry and other predatory practices. OCM is bringing together folks to brainstorm the matter, make recommendations and provide impetus.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4565120703506533/?d=n>

**August 13, 2021**

### **OCM buys signs**

*OCM sponsored the WHOLE MILK IN SCHOOL signs that were given away at Ag Progress Days*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4568598693158734/?d=n>

**August 18, 2021**

### **OCM board at R-Calf**

*OCM board directors in South Dakota at the R-CALF convention. (August 18-20) OCM open annual membership meeting 8-21-21.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4589898007695469/?d=n>

**August 21, 2021**

## OCM Annual Meeting in SD

*OCM's 2021 board of directors after the annual meeting in SD. OCM's founder Fred Stokes has retired. We welcome in his place Deborah Mills, a dairy farmer representing the state of MN. Thank you Fred for your 20 plus years of service. President Vaughn Meyer, VP Taylor Haynes.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4593377494014187/?d=n>

**September 14, 2021**

## OCM and AAI

*Mike Eby, Executive Director of OCM stated “OCM is pleased to work with AAI in this initiative. Nothing is more important to independent farming than the existence of fair and competitive markets. The strategic expansion of beef processing is a must. OCM and AAI both understand there is no better time than the present.”*

<https://www.antitrustinstitute.org/breaking-the-market-power-bottleneck-in-u-s-beef-a-roadmap-for-building-an-independent-ranching-and-processing-sector-a-joint-ocm-aai-initiative/>

**September 27, 2021**

## Senator Lee REINTRODUCED CHECKOFF TRANSPARENCY legislation. (OFF Act)

*Mike Eby, Executive Director of the **Organization for Competitive Markets**, said, “Commodity checkoffs have proven time and time again they are illegally using federal tax dollars to lobby Congress in support of policies that hurt family farmers. OCM applauds Sens. Lee, Booker, Paul, Warren, and Gillibrand for reintroducing the OFF Act that would create a system of checks and balances for oversight, transparency, and accountability in these programs.”*

<https://www.lee.senate.gov/2021/9/sens-lee-introduces-checkoff-reform-bills>

**September 28, 2021**

## USDA's runaway checkoff programs

*USDA's runaway checkoff programs must be held accountable, and family farmers have a right to know where their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent."* Marty Irby, D.C. OCM board director

[https://www.einnews.com/pr\\_news/552510266/sens-lee-booker-paul-warren-and-gillibrand-applauded-for-introducing-off-act-to-reform-usda-s-runaway-checkoffs](https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/552510266/sens-lee-booker-paul-warren-and-gillibrand-applauded-for-introducing-off-act-to-reform-usda-s-runaway-checkoffs)

**September 28, 2021**

### **Benefit the members, not organizations**

*OCM board member and Kansas Cattle producer **Mike Schultz** says check-off dollars need to benefit paying members and not other organizations. "We've not done a very good job with the checkoff being involved where we can get representation of the cattle industry. They represent the beef industry quite well," He says. "They capitalize the majority of the money going to them and I'd like to see that done."*

<https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/ocm-farm-groups-lobby-for-passage-of-commodity-check-off-reform-bill/>

**September 29, 2021**

### **OCM virtual news conference**

*Announcing the introduction of the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act in the U.S. Senate*

*Mike Eby, executive director at the Organization for Competitive Markets Vaughn Meyer, president of the **Organization for Competitive Markets** Fred Stokes, founder of the Organization for Competitive Markets Marty Irby, Organization for Competitive Markets board member and executive director at Animal Wellness Action Taylor Haynes, VP of the Organization for Competitive Markets Joe Arens, board director of National Dairy Producers Organization Michael Kovach, VP of Pennsylvania Farmers Union Dick Bylsma, NFO*

<https://youtu.be/SdSNVHshOMg>

**September 29, 2021**

**Two Checkoff bills were introduced in Senate**

*Two bills that would restructure and increase transparency for agriculture checkoff programs have been reintroduced into the Senate.*

*The Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act (OFF) and the Voluntary Checkoff Bill is also supported by Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, Rand Paul (R-KY), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) as cosponsors on the OFF Act, and Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) as a cosponsor of the Voluntary Checkoff bill.*

*Organization for Competitive Markets board member and executive director with Animal Wellness Action Marty Irby says check-off dollars are being misused and not representing the interest of producers.*

<https://1430wcmv.com/2021/09/28/ocm-farm-groups-lobby-for-passage-of-commodity-check-off-reform-bill/>

**October 2, 2021**

**A lawsuit filed in 2014**

*A lawsuit filed in 2014 by the **Organization for Competitive Markets** demanded the release of 9,300 pages of documents related to the USDA's Office of the Inspector General investigation into the beef checkoff program. The documents stem from two OIG audits of the beef checkoff and its contractors, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.*

*The audits found producer investments in the checkoff are protected by a firewall that prevents beef checkoff dollars from being used for policy activities. Two audits by the OIG and several random audits by USDA found contractors to be in compliance with the laws that protect checkoff funds.*

*In 2017, a federal court ordered the release of thousands of documents requested by the OCM, but most of them were heavily redacted.*

<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/world-policy/article/2021/10/01/ranchers-group-continue-legal-beef>

**October 2, 2021**

**Strategic expansion is a must**

*Between 1980 and 2020, the retail sector's share of the beef dollar has grown by about 65 percent, while the packer's share increased by more than 70 percent, according to OCM and AAI. Over the same period, ranchers' share of the beef dollar dropped by about 40 percent. OCM Executive Director Mike Eby adds, "The strategic expansion of beef processing is a must."*

<https://www.newsdakota.com/2021/09/30/joint-initiative-seeks-to-promote-competition-in-the-beef-supply-chain/>

**October 13, 2021**

**NCBA running interference**

*NCBA calls out Senator Lee as well as blaming animal activists for OFF Act legislation. It's obvious NCBA does not want to acknowledge real farmers do oppose the way the checkoff program is currently being run, which is in dire need of reform.*

<https://wnax.com/news/180081-ncba-opposing-off-act-legislation/>

**October 27, 2021**

**National Association of State Meat Inspectors, OCM in DENVER CO**

*For twenty-two years now, OCM has been about advocating for open, transparent, competitive, and fair agricultural markets; for both the buying and selling side of these markets. We have confronted the concentration in agriculture and the resulting monopolies and monopsonies that are the instruments of a rigged system. A system that has systematically and increasingly shortchanged farmers and ranchers and now threatens the very existence of independent family agriculture. Doctor Neil Harl, a well-known former economist from Iowa State University is often quoted as saying; "market concentration and vertical integration are a deadly combination". In 1998 the big packers broke hog prices down to 8 cents per pound. Overnight, the 667,000 independent producers were reduced by 90%. The cash market was replaced with contracts. A writer friend of mine wrote; "in today's agriculture everyone works for the man,*

*they're tractor drivers for Cargill and hog house janitors for Smithfield. The big corporations don't own farms they just own farmers". Today, the largest hog operation in America (Smithfield) is owned by China. The big corporations have managed to contractually shift the burden of financial investment, labor, and market risk to the producer while maintaining iron-fisted control. Proud farmers become sniveling serfs at the bottom of a corporate-dominated vertical production chain. Folks, that is CHICKENIZATION!... <https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4804696609548940/?d=n>*

**October 29, 2021**

### **Video of OCM presentation in CO**

*Dr. Taylor Haynes (WY), OCM board director speaks alongside founder Fred Stokes (MS) and executive director Mike Eby (PA) in Denver, Colorado 10-26-21. Dr. James Dillon, DVM, MPH, director of Texas Meat Safety Assurance endorses **OCM's** mission.*

<https://youtu.be/7OMdYa0RapE>

**October 31, 2021**

### **OCM on Television**

*OCM founder Fred Stokes and executive director Mike Eby were interviewed by Full Measure. IS YOUR STEAK AND HAMBURGER FROM THE USA? MAYBE NOT!*

<https://fullmeasure.news/news/shows/fullmeasure.news/news/shows/beef-industry>

**November 5, 2021**

### **PFU featured in the NFU newsletter.**

*PFU board member & **OCM** executive director Mike Eby highlights the OCM/AAI initiative.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4834589089893025/?d=n>

**November 10, 2021**

**OCM was one of 90 organizations that had signed.**

*NFFC was joined by 90 farmer, labor, consumer, and environmental organizations on a letter to Congress demanding a fair #dairy pricing policy based on #economicjustice, worker rights, and community sustainability. Like our member and Family Farm Defenders VP Anthony Pahnke Rojas stated: "Our current dairy policy does too little to confront domestic overproduction due to the unfettered growth of factory dairy farms, milk price volatility aggravated by lack of federal antitrust enforcement and unrestricted import of dubious dairy byproducts. Farmers, workers, and the environment get hurt by this wasteful, cruel system. The Milk from Family Dairies Act is a policy step in the right direction, addressing unfair dairy pricing and production concerns in ways that could stabilize rural communities and benefit consumers."*

<https://nffc.net/over-90-farmer-labor-environmental-consumer-groups-demand-fair-dairy-policy-reform/>

**November 18, 2021**

**Expanding Southeast Beef Processing**

*OCM executive director Mike Eby is in Mississippi with founder Fred Stokes focusing on taking the regional beef processing/retail model and scaling it nationally. Stay tuned!*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4875881809097086/?d=n>

**November 22, 2021**

**The Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) opposes Senate Bill S.3229 known as the Compromise Cattle Market Bill.**

*OCM President, Vaughn Meyer said, "The mission of OCM is to work for transparent, fair and truly competitive agricultural and food markets and S.3229 is merely an extension of the current lack of market transparency which allows packer domination in the market place".*

*S.3229 introduced by Senators Chuck Grassley (R- Iowa), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Deb Fischer (R- Neb.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) is a compromise attempt to combine S.949, the Spot Market Protection Bill, and S. 543, the Cattle Market Transparency Act of 2021. Under this union, the bill crafters have neglected the dire need for the immediate market transparency measures necessary for independent cattle producers and feeder survival.*

*OCM, in keeping with our mission for transparent, fair, and truly competitive agricultural and food markets, supports only compromises with:*

- 1. Immediate nationally mandated cash market discovery to restore market competition, ensure market access and establish a true market basis for all marketing agreements.*
- 2. Provide equal terms and treatment toward all individuals, localities, and regions in accordance with the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act section 202 (7 U.S.C. 192) (b).*
- 3. Provide equal access to all purchase agreements /contracts for all participants as set forth under the Packers and Stockyards Act.*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4888870721131528/?d=n>

**November 26, 2021**

**RE: The pig industry in America has been Chickenized; a warning for Australia.**

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission

JBS Australia Pty Ltd - Rivalea Holdings Pty Ltd & Oxdale Dairy Enterprise Pty Ltd -  
Investigation

*The **Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM)** was founded in 1997 by a group of producers and academic individuals who witnessed the need for restoring competitive markets. Our organization represents dairy, beef, and pork producers. In the last two decades, the OCM has observed increasing corporate monopolization and concentration of our industry to the point of critical crisis.*

*The global involvement of JBS and others facilitates the transfer of imported captive supply stocks globally to manipulate whichever country's market the global processors choose to exert*



*their monopsony powers upon. Primarily, this monopolistic grip of JBS, Marfrig, and others creates a huge price differential between the squeezing of producer profits and the taking of consumer wealth at the retail level. Secondly, their market grip furthers industry vertical integration through the elimination of current small independent processors and restricting the startup of all independent new competition...*

<https://www.facebook.com/262059093812737/posts/4901637576521509/?d=n>

**December 2, 2021**

**Marty Irby was named one of the hills top lobbyists of the year**

*Marty has a unique ability to bring unlikely allies together for a common purpose,” said Mike Eby executive director of the **Organization for Competitive Markets**. “Our work with both farmers and advocates to reform the mandatory USDA Commodity Checkoff Programs and pass the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act is one such example. Working with a wide array of legislators and stakeholders on both sides of the aisle has been a key factor in Marty’s success.”*

*As COVID-19 continues to hamper in-person events, meetings, and fly-ins, to D.C., Irby, who also serves on the board of directors of the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM), coordinated and led one of the first fly-ins to Washington in June 2021 to advocate in person with farmers and ranchers from South Dakota, Alabama, Mississippi, Nebraska, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Washington, and Wyoming for the reform of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Commodity Checkoff Programs, the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act led by Reps. Dina Titus, D-Nev., Nancy Mace, R-S.C., and Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, Cory Booker, D-N.Y., Rand Paul, R-Ky., Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., as well as other sustainable agriculture issues.*

<https://www.alreporter.com/2021/12/02/mobile-native-marty-irby-named-one-of-the-hills-top-lobbyists/>

**December 10, 2021**

**Mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL)**

*Today, over 400 cross-sectional U.S.-based trade organizations, both food and non-food small businesses, and individuals, from all across the United States, have joined a letter now being distributed to every U.S. Senator urging them to quickly endorse and enact the American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 (S.2716). The act is best known as the mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL) bill for beef and requires beef sold at retail grocery stores to bear a conspicuous label informing consumers as to where the animal from which the beef was derived was born, raised, and harvested.*

<https://www.r-calfusa.com/hundreds-of-cross-sectional-domestic-interests-call-for-mcool/>

**December 21, 2021**

**Vaughn Meyer remembers when the cattle market fell apart.**

*The 72-year-old rancher was in his 30s, helping his father run the family ranch in northwest South Dakota when inflation and feed costs started driving up consumer prices for beef. In response, women, who controlled the purchasing decisions of most U.S. households, organized a beef boycott that Time Magazine in April 1973 called “the most successful boycott by women since Lysistrata.”*

<https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/independent-cattle-ranchers-continue-fighting-against-national-checkoff-program-->

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**

**OCM, Organization for Competitive Markets**

[competitivemarkets.com](http://competitivemarkets.com)



The Organization for Competitive Markets Board was in Washington last month, front (l-r) David Wright of Nebraska, Dr. Taylor Haynes of Wyoming, Marty Irby from Washington D.C., Mike Eby, executive director from Pennsylvania, and Tom Dierks, secretary from Nebraska; middle (l-r) Jonathan Buttram, treasurer from Alabama, Vaughn Meyer, president from South Dakota, and Mike Schultz of Kansas; back (l-r) Craig Vejraska of Washington state; Mike Weaver of West Virginia, and Fred Stokes, vice president from Mississippi. Not pictured is Joaquin Contente, board member from California and Jerika Bumbeloe of Alabama. Photos provided



Minority chair of the U.S. House Ag Committee, Glenn 'G.T.' Thompson (R-Pa.) was a keynote speaker during the OCM two-day visit in Washington D.C. last month.

## The Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM)

### ***Inequities of agriculture and food are in their crosshairs***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The board members and executive director of Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) gathered in Washington D.C. last month to further their mission.

The organization, headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, met in a hotel conference room two blocks from Capitol Hill offices, where members of Congress or their staff were invited to discuss OCM's concerns on an array of issues, with a focus on packer concentration, country of origin labeling (COOL), and check-off programs.

Over the two days (June 29-30), thirty-minute meetings were conducted with each of 17 Congressional offices, over half of them in person, and the balance virtually by zoom.

Congressman Glenn 'G.T.' Thompson, minority chair of the House Agriculture Committee and representing Pennsylvania's 15th legislative district, was invited as a keynote dinner speaker.

Meeting at the nearby hotel due to Covid restrictions on the Hill, OCM board member Dave Wright observed: "I don't think I have ever seen a more efficient way to lobby Congress than what we accomplished this week, meeting in person, face-to-face."

In addition, the OCM board met with Andy Green, assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and NSAC policy director Eric Deeble.

Press opportunities included a press conference announcing the bipartisan OFF Act for checkoff transparency introduced by Congresswomen Dina Titus (D-Nev) and Nancy Mace (R-S.C.). Participating in that press conference were OCM Board members, Marty Irby, Vaughn Meyer, David Wright, Dr. Taylor Haynes, Fred Stokes, and executive director Mike Eby.

On Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), Dr. Haynes said: "We know

where our Mercedes and Toyotas come from, but we're not allowed to know where our beef comes from."

Wright emphasized the \$20 billion a year in losses to producers as a result of lost market competitiveness via packer concentration. This translates to loss of economic power in rural communities, as well as a loss of political power to representatives and constituents.

Mike Schultz stated he had experienced a loss of \$1000 per head every year for the past six years.

OCM presenters reinforced the message that checkoff dollars collected from producers are spent in a manner that works against them, as evidenced by a continued decreased share in overall revenue.

Media opportunities included Sheryl Atkinson with Full Measure interviewing Mike Eby and Fred Stokes. Journalist Clint Rainy from New York was present to obtain more information for his ongoing efforts to address the harmful effects of check-off programs.

The OCM Board meets monthly by conference call. Because members live in states from Washington and California to Alabama and Mississippi, meal times and evenings were especially helpful in facilitating further discussions on how to advance the aims of the organization. Members of the Board traveled and lodged at their own expense.

OCM is a 501(c)3 membership-based research and advocacy organization. According to the organization, its research and advocacy is "working to expose and break the stranglehold of corporate consolidation in our food and agricultural economy."

For information about becoming an OCM member or donor, contact executive director Mike Eby at 717-799-0057 or visit [www.petitivemarkets.com/membership](http://www.petitivemarkets.com/membership)

**UME has virtual farm tours available**

**FRED STOKES INTERVIEW BY FULL MEASURE JUNE 2021**

**2021 ELECTED OCM BOARD, AUGUST 2021**

## **PLEASE CONSIDER OCM MEMBERSHIP**

Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) is a national leader working to bring about 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 that they build. By becoming a member you will have access to the information and tools you need to join the fight.

Select a membership option: <https://competitivemarkets.com/membership/>

Donation: <https://competitivemarkets.com/donate/>

## OCM'S MOST RECENT NEWSLETTERS

<https://competitivemarkets.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/webOCMJuly-Oct21.pdf>

<https://competitivemarkets.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/webOCMApr-June21.pdf>

Organization for Competitive Markets | P.O. Box 6486, Lincoln NE

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**For More News & Info, Please See Link(s)**

**Sent by: Brad Trom, Director & Newsletter Editor, W**

**Dodge County Concerned Citizens**

Brad Trom, Newsletter Editor & Director

781-466-7557

3A



**Dodge County  
Concerned Citizens** [edCitizens](#)