

**DODGE COUNTY CONCERNED CITIZENS**

**NEWS & INFO UPDATE - JANUARY 2021**

**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 world's 1.5 billion cattle are a huge problem, but one part of that\*\*](#)

# problem may have a solution

Want to Win Rural Voters? Fight Big Ag. *Too many Democrats are missing on an issue fundamental to farmers: the consolidation of the agriculture sector.* | *The Nation* <https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/rural-voters-monopoly/>

UPDATE: 2,000 pigs killed in Dodge County barn fire | Post Bulletin <https://www.postbulletin.com/news/fires/6786449-UPDATE-2000-pigs-killed-in-Dodge-County-barn-fire>

**FERN's Friday Feed: A blueprint to prevent the next**

**pandemic | FERN** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/blueprint-pandemic-12-4-20?e=7568fe7c73>

Flush with cash, Chinese hog producer builds world's largest pig farm | Reuters <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-china-swinefever-muyuanfoods-idUKKBN28H0C8>

**Animal crossing installed under MN highway | Valley News**

**Live** <https://www.valleynewslive.com/2020/12/04/animal-crossing-installed-under-mn-highway/>

Minnesota is getting its first highway crossing for animals | Bring Me The

News <https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/minnesota-is-getting-its-first-highway-crossing-for-animals>

Animal Bytes - December 2020 | Minnesota Board of Animal Health <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNBAH/bulletins/2b0b2b0>

## **Biden on the Farm | The American**

**Prospect** <https://prospect.org/day-one-agenda/biden-on-the-farm-agriculture-food-policy/>

Joe Biden's Cabinet pick scorns powerful rural voters. | The American

**Prospect** <https://prospect.org/cabinet-watch/a-democratic-party-with-tom-vilsack-at-ag-is-not-serious-about-winning-elections/>

**Biden's choice to lead USDA is sparking a broad backlash...Here's why. | The Counter** [https://thecounter.org/biden-usda-tom-vilsack-ag-secretary-backlash/?link\\_id=2&can\\_id=90b2217dab465cf8609d4f625deb3a1e&source=email-dec-10-rural-press-clips-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_1019766&email\\_subject=dec-11-rural-press-clips](https://thecounter.org/biden-usda-tom-vilsack-ag-secretary-backlash/?link_id=2&can_id=90b2217dab465cf8609d4f625deb3a1e&source=email-dec-10-rural-press-clips-2&email_referrer=email_1019766&email_subject=dec-11-rural-press-clips)

## **Target joins other retailers, grocers in accusing chicken suppliers of price fixing | Star**

**Tribune** <https://www.startribune.com/target-joins-other-retailers-grocers-in-accusing-chicken-suppliers-of-price-fixing/573323631/>

## **LEAP Fall 2020 in Review | Yale Law School**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=76e6a923b2&view=lg&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1686070131859880093&ser=1>

**Alan Guebert: ‘Political democracy can endure only as guardian of economic democracy’ | Farm Forum**

**| [aberdeennews.com](https://www.aberdeennews.com)** [https://www.aberdeennews.com/farm\\_forum/alan-guebert-political-democracy-can-endure-only-as-guardian-of-economic-democracy/article\\_ad5d9ff4-3a61-11eb-866e-8b8efc6a7422.html](https://www.aberdeennews.com/farm_forum/alan-guebert-political-democracy-can-endure-only-as-guardian-of-economic-democracy/article_ad5d9ff4-3a61-11eb-866e-8b8efc6a7422.html)

**Ag Insider Dec. 22 — Trump administration wants USDA to oversee GE animals; suit filed again to block EPA approval of dicamba | FERN** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-dec-22-trump-administration-wants-usda-to-oversee-ge-animals-suit-filed-again-to-block-epa-approval-of-dicamba?e=7568fe7c73>

**Ag Insider Dec. 23 – Coronavirus bill provides aid broadly across the ag sector; a famous farm-to-table restaurant and the threat of climate change |** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-dec-23-coronavirus-bill-provides-aid-broadly-across-the-ag-sector-a-famous-farm-to-table-restaurant-and-the-threat-of-climate-change?e=7568fe7c73>

**As COVID-19 Ravaged This Iowa City, Officials Discovered Meatpacking Executives Were the Ones in**

**Charge | ProPublica** <https://features.propublica.org/waterloo-meatpacking/as-covid-19-ravaged-this-iowa-city-officials-discovered-meatpacking-executives-were-the-ones-in-charge/>

Maria Bartiromo thought she was interviewing the CEO of Smithfield Foods. It was an impostor -

CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/23/media/maria-bartiromo-smithfield/index.html>

**Water Warriors | New Day Films** <https://www.newday.com/film/water-warriors>

Water Warriors is the story of a community's successful resistance against the oil and gas industry. When an energy company begins searching for natural gas in New Brunswick, Canada, Indigenous and white families unite to drive out the company in a campaign to protect their water and way of life.

**Farm to School: Growing Our Future | University of Minnesota Extension** <https://extension.umn.edu/about-farm-school/farm-school-growing-our-future-documentary>

**How Family Farm Action Alliance Inspired Senator Booker to Take on Corporate Monopolies | Family Farm Action**

**Alliance** <https://farmactionalliance.org/how-family-farm-action-alliance-inspired-senator-booker-to-take-on-corporate-monopolies/?emci=5ce9c33b-f745-eb11a607-00155d43c992&emdi=0eb4f53a-d549-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=14819728>



Nate Chittenden, a dairy farmer in Schodack Landing, N.Y. Lauren Lancaster for The New York Times

A Morning Read: "There is no such thing as cruelty-free milk."  
Facing pressure from animal rights activists, dairy farmers [are beginning to alter their practices.](#)

**"Live with no excuses and love with no regrets."**

**Karl Loxley - Never Enough (from The Greatest Showman) [Official Music Video] - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7nSfRns\\_S0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7nSfRns_S0)**

**Mapping Covid-19 outbreaks in the food system  
| Food and Environment Reporting  
Network** <https://thefern.org/2020/04/mapping-covid-19-in-meat-and-food-processing-plants/>

**Ag Insider Dec. 9 — Vilsack pegged for ag  
secretary; Biden should push for rural  
broadband, worker  
safety | FERN** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/ag-insider-dec-9-vilsack-tapped-for-ag-secretary-590779?e=7568fe7c73>

**Your Weekly Acres U.S.A. Digest | Acres  
U.S.A.** <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-12-11-20?e=e49f04f0fe>

**NCR-SARE Seeks Applications for  
Administrative Council Members | North  
Central Region  
SARE** <https://mailchi.mp/0930466fc1b6/ncr-sare-seeks-applications-for-administrative-council-members?e=397fbd43f6>

**Agricultural survey -- University of MN College of Food,  
Agricultural & Natural Resource  
Sciences** | <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVu3yzW-7FjSYUYN2IrKPQzPtkZj7FzVBt9LG8tDdzhqbadw/viewform>



**Coffee Chat Series, Seeking Sponsors for Convention, WFU Board Candidate Deadlines, and more! Your e-news 12.15.20 - The**

November/December WFU Newsletter | **Wisconsin Farmers Union** <https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/news-events>

**Homegrown News | City of Minneapolis** <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/2b09fc9>

**Join Us at Yale's Big Ag & Antitrust Virtual Conference | Yale Law School** <https://law.yale.edu/animals/events/big-ag-antitrust-conference?emci=183c856a-e93e-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=f340fc5e-af3f-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=14819728>

**We are building local power. | Institute for Local Self-Reliance** <https://mailchi.mp/ilsr.org/uaatv9g4wi-456590?e=311ba3ba47>

**Tyson fires managers following allegations of Covid-19 betting pool - CNN** | <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/16/business/tyson-betting-managers-fired/index.html>



**Your Weekly Acres U.S.A. Digest | Acres U.S.A.** <https://mailchi.mp/acresusa/your-weekly-acres-usa-digest-12-18-20?e=e49f04f0fe>

**Cargill idles Canadian beef plant due to COVID-19 outbreak | Star**

**Tribune** <https://www.startribune.com/cargill-temporarily-idles-canadian-beef-plant-due-to-covid-19-outbreak/573427921/>

**COVID-19 cases in meatpacking counties were 10 times those in other rural counties |**

**Successful**

**Farming** <https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/covid-19-cases-in-meatpacking-counties-were-10-times-those-in-other-rural-counties>

**A message from Leah Douglas | Food & Environment Reporting**

**Network** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/newsmatch2020-11-no1?e=7568fe7c73>

**Foreign-born workers were blamed for spreading Covid-19 in meatpacking plants.**

**Their behavior was not the issue, new research suggests. | The**

**Counter** <https://thecounter.org/new-research-cdc-meatpacking-plant-workers-covid-19/>

**Coronavirus pandemic hitting North American meat plants again | The Philadelphia**

**Inquirer** <https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-meat-packers-cargill-jbs-sanderson-farms-20201218.html>

**Old Guard, Old Problems – Will Biden Administration Challenge Corporate Grip on Ag? - Daily**

**Yonder** <https://dailyyonder.com/old-guard-old-problems-will-biden-administration-challenge-corporate-grip-on-ag/2020/12/16/>

## **[UM-POULTRY] MEATINGPLACE: Whole Foods to phase out live-shackle chicken slaughter |**

**INDUSTRY NEWS - PM**

**Whole Foods to phase out live-shackle chicken slaughter**

**By Susan Kelly on 12/29/2020**

Whole Foods Market has become the first major U.S. retailer to commit to phase out live-shackle slaughter across its major chicken suppliers, according to an announcement from the Humane League.

The move will affect chickens raised for all of its 487 U.S. locations by 2026.

With the decision, Whole Foods becomes the first national U.S. retailer to adopt all standards of the Better Chicken Commitment, according to the Humane League. The standards include a limit on stocking density; litter, lighting, and enrichment requirements; third-party auditing; a shift away from using rapid-growth chicken breeds; and a transition from live-shackle slaughter to controlled atmosphere stunning.

**The FoodPrint of Pork |**

**FoodPrint** <https://foodprint.org/reports/the-foodprint-of-pork/>

## **Meat industry's excesses demand a rebuke from the Biden administration | Des Moines**

**Register** <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/2020/12/07/meat-industry-excesses-demand-rebuke-biden-administration/3810380001/>

*The next USDA secretary must make it a priority to rebuke and better regulate the meat industry, which has been emboldened by the current administration to endanger public health.*

## **Obama's Game of Chicken | Washington**

**Monthly** <https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/novdec-2012/obamas-game-of-chicken/>

The untold story of how the administration tried to stand up to big agricultural companies on behalf of independent farmers, and lost.

## **A new year calls for new climate & trade policies: IATP December**

**News |** <https://mailchi.mp/iatp/september-465748?e=7c2dfa7289>

## **The Farrowing Barn: Pig Farming VR**

**Experience | PorkCheckoff** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPn11-rtHIM&feature=youtu.be>

[New highway in southern Minnesota will include passageway designed for deer](#)  
Minnesota Public Radio News

The new four-lane route of Hwy 14 under construction near Claremont in Dodge County will include a special crossing for deer and other wildlife to ..

## **JBS Sends Thousands of U.S. Meat Workers Home During Covid**

**Surge | Bloomberg** <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-04/jbs-removes-8-of-u-s-workforce-with-pay-during-new-covid-wave>

**Marshall BioResources Is a Factory Farm Like You've Never Seen Before | Sentient Media** <https://sentientmedia.org/marshall-bioresources-is-a-factory-farm-like-youve-never-seen-before/>

**Enter FERN's giveaway for a chance to win The Dirt 2020! |**

**FERN** <https://mailchi.mp/thefern.org/newsmatch2020-9-giveaway-no1?e=7568fe7c73>

**Update on Critical Actions needed for EIS Request and Crawford County CAFO Moratorium. | Crawford Stewardship**

**Project** <https://mailchi.mp/43247a425be3/update-on-critical-actions-needed-for-eis-request-and-crawford-county-cafo-moratorium?e=a1fb55858c>

## **Great River announces Minnesota wind-farm projects to replace coal-plant power**

**The new "farms," mostly in southern Minnesota, will replace a coal plant. | Minneapolis Star Tribune** <https://www.startribune.com/great-river-announces-minnesota-wind-farm-projects-to-replace-coal-plant-power/573357771/>

**Say Something - A Great Big World, Christina Aguilera**

**(Lyrics) 🎵 |** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wZhzlN9lIU>

**Quote of the Month: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." ~Crazy Horse, Oglala Sioux Chief**

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# ocm

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## Organization for Competitive Markets

### NEWS ROUNDUP:

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

December 18, 2020

#### **OCM and NFU Concerned Producers Protections Left Out Of USDA Rule**

Radio 570 WNAX / 12-14-20

*"The USDA has finalized a new rule amending the Packers and Stockyards Act. Two groups are voicing displeasure with that amended regulation. Both the Organization for Competitive Markets and National Farmers Union say the amended rule fails to protect farmers and ranchers. O-C-M Executive Director Mike Eby says no recourse for unfair or non competitive actions taken by the processor.*

*He says under the amended regulation, a single producer must prove harm to not only himself but to a larger group of fellow producers to get any relief. Eby says the rule also shields corporations from legal challenges to discriminatory actions.*

*Eby says more teeth needs to be put back into the Packers and Stockyards Act and as far as any legislation being passed to give producers relief, there's a lot of talk by policy makers but no action.*

*Meanwhile the National Farmers Union is calling on the incoming Biden administration to reverse this harmful amended rule and replace it with one that actually protects farmers from unfair, deceptive and discriminatory practices." (Audio link below)*

<https://wnax.com/news/180081-ocm-and-nfu-concerned-producers-protections-left-out-of-usda-rule/>

### **'Build back better' without beef?**

**The Great Reset promises to 'build back better' by reinventing capitalism and solving climate change through reduced beef consumption.**

Beef / Amanda Radke / 12-8-20

*"If after reading through this website alarm bells aren't ringing for you, then I'm afraid we aren't on the same page. If this is how Biden, and cooperating countries, plan to "build back better," then I'm afraid we are in for a very long road ahead."*

<https://www.beefmagazine.com/farm-life/build-back-better-without-beef>

### **Tom Vilsack for Agriculture Secretary Is Everything That's Wrong With the Democratic Party**

The Intercept / Claire Kelloway / 12-11-20

*"Vilsack himself lobbied for such policies in the dairy industry, promoting exports as a way to deal with the persistent milk surplus that has collapsed milk prices below the cost of production and pushed small dairy farmers to get big or get out. Shifting milk production to a handful of massive industrial farms may benefit milk processors, who profit off lower milk prices."*

<https://theintercept.com/2020/12/11/democrat-tom-vilsack-usda-secretary-farms/>

### **Biden and Vilsack outline challenges facing farmers, rural America and USDA**

Brownfield Ag News / Ken Anderson / 12-14-20

*"President-elect Joe Biden on Friday formally introduced Tom Vilsack as his Ag Secretary nominee." (Audio)*

<https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/biden-and-vilsack-outline-challenges-facing-farmers-rural-america-and-usda/>

### **Announcing Vilsack as Ag Sec pick Biden admits: 'He helped develop my rural plan'**

Ag Moos, Farmshine / Sherry Bunting / 12-18-20

*"The one bipartisan thing getting done in Washington is this: their ability to work on and move forward the globalization of food and agriculture," said Mike Eby, a Gordonville, Pa. farmer and executive director of Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM).*

*Under Republicans, we saw a push toward consolidation, but under this Democratic rural policy developed by Vilsack and now to be fulfilled by Vilsack, we see the choke point at the center of food production through qualifications of standardization determining who can participate and how," says Eby, who also serves as chairman of the National Dairy Producers Organization (NDPO) and on the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee that is active in the Drink Whole Milk 97% Fat Free campaign.*

*Wait a minute, Tom Vilsack helped develop president-elect Biden's rural plan for rural America while he was being paid a million dollar salary through mandatory dairy farmer checkoff?"*

<https://agmoos.com/2020/12/18/announcing-vilsack-as-ag-sec-pick-biden-admits-he-helped-develop-my-rural-plan/>

## **HISTORY HAS A WAY OF REPEATING ITSELF...WATCH FOR IT AGAIN!**

### **USDA Failed to Submit Five Years of Federally Mandated Dairy Checkoff Reports**

OCM Staff / 9-14-17

*LINCOLN, NE – Since 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has failed to submit federally mandated annual reports to Congress accounting for dairy checkoff program activities, spending, and effectiveness, according to USDA documents obtained by the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM). The missing dairy reports follow a history of documented abuses of checkoff tax dollars in the commodity programs and cover-ups of those abuses by the USDA, and it comes as more than 80 farm organizations urge Congress to pass pending legislation that would bring much-needed transparency and accountability to the secretive government programs.*

*"Mike Eby, Chair of the National Dairy Producers Organization (NDPO), said "The present U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Perdue, now has an obligation to correct the failings of Mr. Vilsack and immediately prepare and publish the mandated annual reports to Congress for the last five years describing the activities of and accounting for the receipt and disbursement of all funds received by the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. NDPO looks forward to Mr. Perdue fulfilling the statutory duties of his office."*

*Mike Weaver, president of OCM, said "It's time for Congress to hold USDA and its checkoff programs accountable for family farmers' tax dollars. Since checkoff programs have been determined by the federal courts to be activities and speech of the federal government, those funds should be audited and transparent. It's time to pass the federal Opportunities for Fairness and Farming (OFF) Act and the Voluntary Checkoff Act."*

<https://competitivemarkets.com/usda-failed-to-submit-five-years-of-federally-mandated-dairy-checkoff-reports/>



## **DEAN FOODS seeks to get back money paid to dairy farmers before bankruptcy**

Successful Farming / Leah Douglas / 12-10-20

*"This month, farm groups have quickly stepped in to advise their members on how to address Dean's letters and to attempt to stop the company from taking further legal action. In a letter sent to Dean's legal counsel on Dec. 4, the American Farm Bureau Federation called the company's actions "reprehensible" and demanded that Dean retract the letters sent to farmers within 10 business days.*

*"Put plainly, your letters are a predatory shakedown, written in legalese," the AFBF said."*

<https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/dean-foods-seeks-to-get-back-money-paid-to-dairy-farmers-before-bankruptcy>

## **PLEASE CONSIDER 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 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 below:

<https://competitivemarkets.com/membership/>

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**2,000 pigs killed in Dodge County barn fire |  
Agweek <https://www.agweek.com/news/fires/6787304-2000-pigs-killed-in-Dodge-County-barn-fire>**

**2,000 HOGS**



A fire yesterday at a large livestock farm in Dodge County [claimed the lives of 2,000 piglets and destroyed the barn](#). Some information on the ownership and contractual relationship of this farm was hard to come by yesterday, but in this type of farming, each site serves as a link in a chain that the food supply depends upon. We'll find out more about the consequences of this loss in the coming days. The cause of the fire is still not determined.

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



**Dodge County  
Concerned Citizens**

Sent by: Brad Trom, Director & Newsletter Editor

**Dodge County Concerned Citizens**

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[www.facebook.com/DodgeCountyConcernedCitizens](https://www.facebook.com/DodgeCountyConcernedCitizens)