

Weaver Feeding & Management, LLC
25800 Valley View Rd
Cuba City, WI 53807

"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it." –
Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

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Is Your Dairy Farm Too Big To Fail Yet?
The pied piper is leading you if bigger is the only plan to increase profits.

I suppose that what I'm daring to put to print for you will, again, assure that I'll never again be employed by big ag sales and will be further ostracized by the *career ladder committed* walk-in-lockstep socialist academics ☺.

Why? Because the holy dogma of our dairy industry is **expand** / consolidate / concentrate –or quit. Yet, either I'm observing a different dairy industry than my peers or the emperor is wearing no clothes. While I really don't care how **big** you want to make your dairy herd (so long as your slurry pit is *several* miles from my backyard! Hey, it *does* stink), I think that not only farmers –but also our nation –is being led toward a *non-sustainable disaster*. Lest you think I'm guilty of exaggeration, I'd ask you to consider the *necessity* of *maintaining small* businesses in food production -for **any** nation to thrive. Yes, I'm suggesting it's a matter of *national security*. No joking here. Give me one example from history of **collective, highly concentrated, government managed** (and/or highly regulated –*controlled* –what's the dif?) agriculture system and I'll tell you about hungry –maybe

starving people. Here in the US we've just finished a major political election and, for good reason, much as been argued about protecting our first and second amendments (to the US *Constitution* –an old **forgotten** document, but a worthy read!). Many have expressed concerns about **big** government crossing the line to placing *controls over God given* rights to freedom of speech and the right to bear arms. While yours truly shares concerns about the above, I need to add another *equally powerful people control tool*: **food**. While no one has a "right" to eat (Scripture: 2 Thes. 3:10B "if a man will not work, he shall not eat" NIV, Holy Bible.) we all certainly have the need. When I observe big government *promotion of* **collectivization** of food production, it gives me concern. While some may dismiss my concern as *crazy* sensational exaggeration – foolish talk, I would beg you to pause for consideration before you decide to joyfully remain on the bandwagon. Yes, big government has been meddling in ag ever since FDR's New Deal and Americans are far from starving.

However, **things are rapidly changing**, the party is soon over. Please bear with . . .

I have made a point of *discrediting* and generally making light of the *junk* science of “global warming” the past couple of years. For this I offer no apology. I truly believe the motive behind promotion of this **political** agenda (it cannot be called *science*) is truly *sinister*.

Unfortunately, **the theory / fear of manmade (induced) global warming is being harnessed to change our dairy industry** (as well as many other industries *essential* to the success of a free and prosperous USA).

As my clients well know, I try to read just about anything dairy related I can get my paws on. I consider it my “job” to stay informed, consider new ideas, watch for trends. I also try to educate myself on history and stay well informed on current events. In light of this, I try to logically “connect the dots.” While it’s nothing new to see big agri sales and so called “*unbiased*” land-grant funded researchers *appearing to blur* the line between each other –simply tolerating conflict of interest for the sake of gaining sales / research funding, it’s another matter altogether to promote **legislation / regulation to fund / mandate a sales opportunity and/or production system**. I submit to you that the proposed **carbon tax** (“cap and trade”) on the horizon will be (appears to be the intent) used to subsidize the hyper-concentration / consolidation / confinement systems in dairy. I’m referring to the proposed *dairy business centers (DBC)s* –*regional* (collective) dairy enterprises consisting of **several thousands**

of cows in *confined* systems using **mandated** technology purported to reduce methane and carbon dioxide emissions in order to “save us from global warming (so called “greenhouse gasses” –toxic pollutants?! Ya gotta be a complete moron to believe cow burps are destroying the planet!! I think *politicians* produce *more* toxic gases than cows.)” Unfortunately, it is no joke. November 2008 *Dairy Herd Management* magazine contains an article by Mary Kraft titled “Getting credits where credits are due.” She writes, “. . . it’s

time to turn the green movement into green backs . . . How do you get yours? . . . Team up with your milk-marketing cooperative to broker your carbon credits.”

Several years ago I predicted (*recorded in KOW Ruminations*, preserved on our website) that the advent of **nutrient management regulations** (creating an

FAST FACTS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

1. There is no scientific consensus on either the causes or consequences of global warming.
2. Polar bear populations in the Arctic are thriving.
3. Catastrophic storms are cyclical and are not more frequent or more severe than in the past.
4. Glaciers are advancing as well as retreating worldwide.
5. Costs of fully implementing the Kyoto Protocol far outweigh benefits.
6. Global warming would likely have a net benefit, as past warmings always have.
7. The warming that occurred a thousand years ago was warmer than today.
8. Greenland was as warm or warmer in the 1920s than today.
9. Sun’s activity correlates more closely to global temperatures than do CO₂ levels.
10. Antarctica is getting colder.

For more on global warming, request your copy of Hank Hanegraaff’s booklet, *How Should You Think About Global Warming?* When you call toll-free 888-7000-CRI or order online at www.equip.org. Also go to www.thenewamerican.com and read the interview/article titled “A climate of Repression” from the May 12, 2008, magazine. It includes excerpts from a speech given by Vaclav Klaus, the president of the Czech Republic to the International Climate Conference in New York City on March 2-4, 2008. We could all continue to laugh about “global warming” if not for the *serious* threat to liberty and prosperity it has become! Don’t pass judgment until you research this! -TW

officially correct way to spread manure) would eventually lead to the officially (*regulated*) correct way of **feeding** cows. Well, I was wrong . . . because **if** the DBC plan continues to be promoted and subsidized by carbon credits and grants and/or **direct government payments** to build manure digesters / methane collectors, we will not only have *fully regulated feeding management* –but also the entire economically / environmentally unsustainable system! From the soil up, **including housing and all protocols** by federal government mandate. Some of this has come to be known as a CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan), ever heard of one? All the nitty-gritty *regulations* continue to be developed. (This is not even considering the cost of union labor coming to the DBC’s [read “Dairying in a union world” found at www.progressivedairy.com. Those who have been exploiting **illegal** foreign labor deserve this!]) Does anyone *really* think government *dictating* management practices **and funding (to cover for their lack of economic efficiency)** will “feed the world” (the mantra given American farmers)?! Better study history.

Maybe someone reading this newsletter has their sites set on managing one of these grand DBCs in the future . . . go for it! If you *can* and want to manage a DBC without subsidy, wish to *demonstrate the economic and environmental* superiority, I’m ready to learn. Show the world how your ideas and technology are superior, for **if** they are, you will not need the subsidies or the force of regulation to make the rest of us accept them. This collective consolidated farming model is not new, the *Soviet* system was one of the more recent examples. One more *little* point about being the “top dog” of your very own DBC: You’ll not be a free

independent farmer, the government will *own* you. If DBC's become the *primary* source of our nation's milk supply, it'll be completely under the control of the federal government. Consider, then too big to fail?

Unfortunately, *on the horizon* are ideas that, **if** fully implemented, will give an advantage (economic) to the DBC concept –and make it an *even harder* go for small business dairy. This advantage, in my considered opinion, would not / will not exist apart from *taxpayer* “funding” (socialism –wealth redistribution). This *plus a combination of mandated* (regulated) *production management practices* that will be economically prohibitive to *small* (scale) dairy enterprises.

Mandated production management practices?! Yes. Just as a nutrient management plan *regulates* crop planning and manure / fertilizer applications, so too are *feed plans heading in* this direction. In fact, *CNMP's already* contain a *feed* plan component intended to monitor the level of *phosphorus* fed in rations. Don't think regulators will end there. Other nutrients will likely be added to the list in “need” of government oversight. Protein / nitrogen is already there. **Because of** the high concentration of livestock (big government creates a problem and *uses* the “solution” to increase regulation / control) the *over* application of nitrogen *must* be stopped (regulated) in order to protect surface and ground water quality. Eighty cows on 300 acres never was cause for much concern. I see a combination of academics and corporations with an interest in creating a **regulation enforced sales** monopoly promoting the notion that *nutritional precision* is both achievable (not true) and necessary to prevent “*global warming*” (fundamentally false, based upon a false presupposition). Those aligned with the new Cornell dairy ration software as well as companies involved with the sale of special feed additives (*especially* rumen protected amino acids) purported to enhance digestive efficiency, and artificially synthesized hormones to induce higher milk production per cow (rbst), are among the benefactors of the *collective*, highly regulated DBC concept. The losers in this grand scheme will be independent dairy producers and the American public. Food security will be the casualty of this plan –**if** fully realized. If only the average American “consumer” (I hate the term! *Working Americans are producers!*) knew how endangered *independent farmers* are! **Abundant food / supply is essential to liberty**. Crazy conspiracy theory nonsense? Well, you can come to your own conclusion –time will tell whether Tom is “slipping” or still possesses some level of discernment / foresight. Regardless of what you judge on this matter, you may logically ask, “So what's to be done? How can we stop it if it is true and what does the average ‘Joe the Dairyman’ (Joe the plumber's fellow citizen ☺) do as he boldly engages the future? Start with rejecting the *false presupposition* that bigger is better –only better is better.

Efficiency is sustainable

by Jim Dickrell, Editor of *Dairy Today*, Sept. 2008 (emphasis added):

“No dairy farmer on the planet will be immune to climate change issues.” That compelling statement was made at the Dairy Farming Summit in Scotland this summer by Jim Begg, president of the *International Dairy Federation*. (See “Carbon Hoof Prints,” page 20.)

Fortunately, there is mounting evidence that *conventional* dairy production practices are earth-friendly. Research at South Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota shows that U.S. dairy herds are emitting nearly 30% less **methane** today than in 1924. (See “history Lessons,” page 24.)

“Efficiency is key,” says one researcher. “Anything we can do to increase the utilization of feed to produce more milk will reduce *greenhouse gases*.”

Things like using BST. A study conducted by *Cornell University* shows that with BST you need 33% fewer cows and 35% less cropland to produce the same amount of milk *than if you do it organically*. Oh, and by the way, those cows will release less **methane, phosphorus and nitrogen**. (See “BST More Eco-friendly,” page 25.)

Is there room for improvement? Of course. Although our national herd average now tops 20,000 lb/cow, dairy technology has yet to be fully applied. Herds **that use these technologies** are pumping out 30,000 lb/cow.

Future refinements to diets, cow comfort and infectious disease control will improve efficiency. Then there's the potential of genomic selection and crossbreeding.

The question is whether society will allow dairy producers to tap into this potential. Refusal to accept milk from BST-treated cows is the first dark cloud.

The good news is that companies like Eli Lilly, which has announced it will purchase the Posilac brand from Monsanto, are standing up. *They know that a sustainable planet requires innovation and rational use of technology*.

Other companies, **particularly those that market directly to consumers**, need to take responsibility for more than their quarterly income statements. That can't come too soon. The world is getting hungrier and the rainforests are being destroyed.

This summer I told my fellow council members on the WAPAC board (Wisconsin Association of Professional Agriculture Consultants) that **organic farmers** will show us the way back to truly sustainable production management. (We were discussing the *serious* problems of herbicide resistant weeds and lack of diversity in both crop systems and seed choices – consolidation toward monopoly). This is not because I would endorse all things “*organic*” (there’s a faction of the organic community that appears to worship “*Mother earth*” rather than the Creator and others that I call *watermelon environmentalists* –green on the outside but red on the inside [if you know what I mean. Just as committed to *international socialism* as the DBC promoting crowd –and are, in fact using “the sky is falling” manmade global warming myth as reason to *mandate* their own *government control based* “solutions”]). What I like about **organic farmers** (the *sensible* faction of *organic* ☺) is their connection to the “consumer” and sensible (diverse, sustainable, independent, small scale) production systems. The solutions I see offered by **intensive grazing** (whether or not certified organic) make *far more* sense than what’s offered up by dairy today (see side bar page 3 and read between the lines; can you see the animosity toward *organic-consumer direct* bleed through?).

Can't believe big biz wants big gov to create *mandatory sales* for them? Get the book The Big Ripoff: How Big Business and Big Government Steal Your Money, by Timothy P. Carney, Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006, 285 pages, ISBN: 9780471789079.

Does this mean that I am advocating that all our clients pursue the *organic marketing* opportunity? Not necessarily. If government *redistribution of wealth* schemes (socialism) continue to expand, there won't likely be anything left of the *organic market* –the wealthy, upper-middle class *that funds it* will shrink. (I don't understand why someone would be an advocate for big government promotion of **organic** ag?? Want to destroy a good market??!) What I am advocating is that the *production management* practices of the best professional organic farmers be adopted. Low input, advantageous use of *legume* based crop plans and **grazing**, etc. What I *really* appreciate about *organic marketing* is the focus on pleasing the end user – customer –instead of some government commodity program. Sure, *some* organic claims are a bit embellished, but they have nothing on big agri sales ☺! Besides, eat the *real* food they serve up at those organic conferences (like we eat in our home) and compare it to some of the *garbage* that conventional processors are presenting as food –then criticize. ☺ I rest my case.

For a *reliable* source of the *economic* benefits of a *well planned* intensive grazing operation, I would refer to the

Excerpts from
Dairy: The fastest-changing technical industry in the U.S.
by Roger W. Meads
for *Progressive Dairyman*, 10-21-08

“Most traditional dairy farms, (less than 300 cows) will be replaced by an organization called a ‘dairy business center’ in the next 10 to 15 years. What is a dairy business center (DBC)?”

“A DBC is a milk production business unit. I am involved in DBC with 7,000 cows, several with 3,000 cows and numerous 2,000 –cow operations. Presently in Wisconsin, in the planning stages are several more 7,000- to 8,000 –cow DBCs.”

“On some DBCs, they do not use a dairy veterinarian. Their *foreign* help has been trained to do all the work of a veterinarian . . . “

“Many persons who presently own cows and do not develop the skills required to own and operate a DBC will be dairymen of the past.”

good work of Larry Tranel (Iowa State University Extension Dairy Field Specialist. Ph 563-583-6496, ext 14, fx 4844, tranel@iastate.edu). Larry is one of a *few* good (principled) people in the “land-grant” system that is not in “lock-step” ☺. As evidence I offer this quote from September 2008 *Hay and Forage Grower*:

I find that farms with 80 to about 150 cows are extremely profitable,” he says. “And the dairy industry and dairy processing are the two biggest economic multipliers that we have. **So the best thing we can do for our communities is keep small dairy farms around** . . . these are all husband – wife operations that don't work themselves to death . . .

Again, if you'd *prefer* to give up your freedom to manage your regions DBC, who am I to discourage you from the lofty goal ☺? Besides, the industry needs good examples to learn from. However, if you are looking for ideas that will keep you operating as an **independent** (free) and **profitable** dairy enterprise over the next several years –until, hopefully, our nation wakes up and rediscovers the value of efficient small businesses in food production –consider the *intensive grazing* model. *It truly is* good for the land and water. Don't be misled by the Pied Piper's lure of carbon credits to pay the bills. Maybe the politicians will decide *some* DBC's are “too big to fail” –but fail they will. It's only a matter of when. What gives me hope: some think that we have now reached the credit limit of the “national VISA card” –we have no money to pay for this insanity. What gives me reason for concern: the same –which will bring either 1970s interest rates or *hyper-inflation* to correct. Buy stuff you know you will need. *Lock-in* interest rates.