

# Solar Harvest Farm

## 2012 Spring Newsletter



Prologue

This season marks our 20th year of investing in locally produced renewable energy. Renewable energy has in fact, been the very foundation upon which this farm has been conceived and built. Having just finished writing this season's newsletter, I recognized the need for this prologue of sorts, this because, as I assess the perceptions these topics will have on a politically diverse array of people - I immediately recognize this contextual relevance. Pragmatically, in my own short half century of life, I've found myself connecting the dots - the *energy* events which have influenced all of our lives more than any other single attribute. Economically speaking, the cumulative effect of the 1967 War, Opec, Hostage Crisis, Beirut, Libya and Desert Storm could be summarized in one word: Instability.

Of course integral to all of this instability was and continues to be the loss of human life. This aspect - the inviolability of human life - has been and remains as - the wind in our sails. As young parents at the time of the first Gulf War, the value of life took on new meaning. It begged the question: How can we say we love our children, invest our very essence in their well-being, yet in eighteen short years, allow them to be placed in harm's way - to kill or be killed - for conflict which was preventable? Sustainable farming is an effective, replicable means to this end. A person need take just one step into the world of energy to recognize not just the ubiquitous use of volatile energy resources within food production, but equally important to many people, the systemic health, social and environmental consequences induced by industrial, fossil-fuel based agriculture. It should come as no surprise that this introspection of food production also reveals itself as a microcosm of current day hot-button issues, with immigration, worker's rights, consumer rights, fiscal responsibility, environment, back-to-the-land, (Occupy-the-land), anti-corporate and anti-government sentiments running strong and deep. And there it lies, pregnant in this last assertion, like a snake poised to strike at anyone who dares entry into the pit. As mutual advocates for sustainable food, we are all in agreement as we protest against the corporate, health, environmental and social denigration of our food systems. Yet as this on-farm kindred fellowship leaves the farm driveway, some turn *right*, others turn *left*. I guess I'm asking why we turn at all? (It's an analogy ...please don't run over our mailbox!) Do we have to allow others to label us and thus, force ourselves into the conforming box? Might there be a high road we can take which allows us to avoid the divisiveness and adolescent politics so pervasive in our culture?

I'm afraid that the answer lies with yet another question: Is it more important that we stay in our *box*, or, is it more important that we pursue the truth in order to solve the problem?

April 3, 2012

Fellow Connoisseurs of Food Raised in Sunshine,

I recently learned that the word *deplenish* is not a valid Scrabble word. I'm sure you're as shocked as I was. My word processor here agrees, scolding me with it's red squiggly underline, more or less telling me *boy, are you stupid*. Not being one to roll over easy, I turned to that seemingly infinite warehouse of human intellectual wisdom and asked Google to scan the world for any signs of depletion. Sure as shinola, the evolving world is well on it's way to adopting this new *understanding*. Take THAT, you antiquated, out-of-touch, backwoods word processing software.

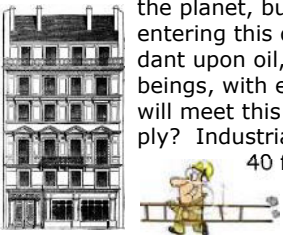
This is very telling. Feels as if we've been arduously sallying forth and now find ourselves at a continental divide of sorts. As we look back to reflect on our journey, we see familiarity and comfort, with all the anxieties associated with yesterday's worries now all but evaporated. Emboldened with our accomplishments, we then turn to face our future, only to recognize to our horror, that the path is not nearly as well defined. We yearn for the familiarity of the past. In a Freudian sense, should we cut ourselves some slack because we are only now just discovering depletion? Or, are we in denial of depletion's very existence? As this new word evolves within our lexicon, it is most telling to reflect on it's perceived definition, not within academia, but as an urban dictionary has revealed.



*Deplenish: To unfill something using unfillery type methods until it is unfull.*

Yep - that pretty much drives the point home. But hey, there's good news for Scrabble players. *Replenish* IS a concept that humanity fully grasps. So it's thumbs up from the Scrabble people ...assuming no one's depleted all the r's from the Scrabble bag!

Industrial agriculture - fossil fuel agriculture - is really turning up the heat. The likes of Food Inc and Michael Pollan has really got them rattled. Their mantra is to insist that the industrial process is the only mechanism capable of feeding not just the 7 billion of us currently walking the planet, but also the 50% additional bulk required to meet projected population growth. The first mistake anyone can make in entering this debate is to argue this affirmation. This because the soft, vulnerable underbelly of industrial beast is 100% dependant upon oil, natural gas and coal. Think about it. These people are acknowledging the near future epic proliferation of human beings, with explicit economic reference to human beings on the DEMAND side of the equation. In their irrational logic, SUPPLY will meet this demand via commensurate consumption of oil, natural gas and coal. Infinite demand can be met with a finite supply? Industrial ag is behaving sort of like a cocky fire department, unaware of it's own future inadequacies. When we're stuck at 40 feet, their gonna' save us with their 20 foot ladder. If we continue to believe those who say we can feed, clothe, energize and mobilize a rapidly expanding population utilizing rapidly diminishing, finite fossil fuel energy - we will effectively end up following that last kicking and screaming corporate shareholder over the cliff.

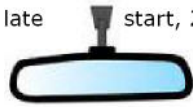


For yet another season, we're going to continue do a lot of *thinking outside the barrel*. As one presidential candidate recently proclaimed, we will again be guilty of *pushing our radical energy agenda on the public*. Considering that everything about this country and it's origins was promulgated by "radicals", I'm thinking we're in good company! So roll up your sleeves and let's both put some more skin in this game as we launch another renewable season. What? You weren't thinking that *government* was going to fix this ...were you?



## 2011 Seasonal Summary

Had it not been for the cold, wet late start, 2011 could have been one of the better seasons we've had. That one quirk in the spring created a game of catch-up for the rest of the grass-growing season, especially for the beef-ers. Intuitively, and this based on the behavior of the cattle as well as their lack of conditioning, I believe that the soil biology went rogue through June. Weights in early June were significantly lighter than we'd ever seen - so light that I came very close to canceling the entire beef harvest. All that spring moisture eventually provided abundant forage once some heat arrived. Tall-grass mob-grazing was implemented along with 3x/day paddock moves. The extra labor finally started to show some payback by mid summer. While we didn't obtain our budgeted weights, we did at least improve enough to offer a harvest. I also suspect that this atypical forage diminished the quality of the final product that went into all of our freezers. Very frustrating to have put a significantly higher amount of labor into this enterprise only to receive less weight and reduced quality. This begs the question: What could we have done differently? There really were no viable alternatives within our control. But the beauty of diversity did help to mellow this out a bit. With the cattle unable to keep up with the early summer forage growth, the hogs received more forage than ever and did very well as a result. Chickens also did well. The cold spring forced us to use the solar tops on the shelters much longer than typical. We also did not spread them out as early as usual which generated more bird heat within each shelter. Without these two strategies, the first chicken harvest would have been dismal. We also dodged the bullet in late May when we were hit with southerly straight line winds which tore the fascia off the house. We watched helplessly from the house, awaiting the liftoff of each shelter. They stuck to the ground. Having witnessed it, I'm still amazed that we rode that storm out successfully. Regarding the laying hens, the most notable news here was in regards to the new pullets we raise every year. For the first time, we had a very high percentage which refused to adapt from the ground shelters to the henhouses. They just didn't want to go inside and were not interested in the roosts. Cold windy weather finally convinced most of them to move inside but to this day, a group of goofballs still camps out on the deck outside the door. This would be all well and fine if only there were no such thing as predators. Also makes it hard to move the henhouses without the ability to lock them in during the move. If a henhouse is moved without the hens inside, and if the move is more than two hundred feet, the hens will not recognize the house, even though it is in plain site. They will then congregate on the ground at dusk at the previous location they were acclimated to. As I've thought about this phenomenon over the years, I am left wondering if they store some sort of magnetic latitude and longitude - GPS if you will. Creatures of habit they are - to the extreme!



## Barn - Solar Array Update

Thanks for putting up with the mess in early August. For those who never saw the mud mess, we trenched from the milkhouse all along the drive to the far side of the new barn. Had to use a mini excavator due to rocks so the job was messy. This was for the electrical hookup for the grid-tie solar array as well as a water line which is part of the new solar-direct livestock water pumping system. The barn's final inspection will finally occur this spring and then we'll finally start filling it up as well as establishing the workshop. We went live with the new solar array in November. The interaction with the utility company was frustrating and challenging but ultimately successful - for now anyway. We are a net energy exporter, thus far pushing between 10 and 55 kWhrs of solar-produced electrons onto the public grid each day. We receive a check each month instead of a bill. The house remains off-grid, as it has been. We now have two independent systems which allows us to capitalize on time-of-use metering.



## Farm Economy: As Viewed From This Side of the Fence

Here too, the world of farm economics can be summarized with the same single word - instability. But hey, we shouldn't expect commodities to be stable when their value is reported to us, not by actual, tangible supply and demand, but by ethereal values induced by thousands of self-interested individuals gambling - speculating - for the sole purpose of ingratiating their own personal portfolio. Speculator: Individuals capable of undermining the economic and social fabric of entire nations - perhaps even while sitting at their home computer in their jammies.



What does it really cost to produce a bushel of organic corn? Iowa State says \$3.92. We'll safely assume that academia doesn't capture an attribute for a living wage and benefits so I'll round that up to \$6. The actual selling price at this moment: \$12.10. One year ago: \$8.63. Using conventional corn at \$6/bu, the farmer was paid about one dime for the pound of corn in a 16 oz box of cornflakes. Five years ago the farmer was paid a nickel. To clarify this most important point: A box of cornflakes retails for \$3.50. With corn prices doubling, corn's effect on this retail price has increased the cost of that 1 lb box of cereal by 1.4% for a total corn value of 3%. This fact alone should by itself, cause us all great pause in that the farmer received just 3% of the retail cost, yet the farmer contributed the ACTUAL FOOD INGREDIENT. Now sending this back to the organic world we live in. In 2006 a certified organic 18% mixed ration cost us \$381/ton. That same exact ration is currently priced at \$559/ton and is expected to go substantially higher this summer - not just because of supply, but also because of speculation. If you are ever here and see me unloading the grain truck, I'm also unloading \$9000 out of my wallet each occurrence - (5 last year). Those 5 gallon buckets you see us using to handle feed into chicken, laying hen and hog feeders equates to almost \$9 a pour. This cost represents the largest single expense we incur at 35% of total outlay. In 2006, this same category represented 24% of total expenses. Contrast this with the retail effect on the consumer: 2x conventional corn prices = a 1.4% increase in retail price - VS - the wholesale effect on the livestock farmer: 1.5x organic feed prices = 11% increase in expenses. The point: Higher commodity prices have an 8x higher impact on livestock farmers as compared to the retail effect recognized by consumers in the supermarket. Hence, it is much more cost effective to sell as commodities than feed it to livestock.

## Farmland "Values"

Make or buy? Every business wrestles with this decision. What was formerly a wise decision to buy can quickly become antiquated in volatile economic climates. Historically, economies of scale demonstrated that it would have been financially unwise to rent or buy additional farmland to grow our own poultry and hog feed. The land that we own is serving it's highest potential in providing all the feed for the beef herd from May through October as well as supplemental forage for the poultry and hogs during this same grass-growing season. Unlike the self-limiting livestock densities that a humane and sustainable paradigm demands, organic row-cropping still allows for economies of scale to which expensive equipment can be utilized over greater acreage. Limits are tethered to organic fertility options. Even if we did have additional acreage available at a reasonable cost, the next level in this decision begs the question as to where the labor hours would come from to produce these crops - tillage, planting, fertility, cultivate, harvest, storage - all of which are required at the very time in which we already devote 100% to the livestock. For many people, this is perplexing. After all, the family farms prior to 1960 raised their livestock almost exclusively on feeds grown on their own holdings. Besides the obvious fact that virtually all of those farms have since failed, it must be recognized that these farms did not process, market or retail any of the products from their fields. Instead, their products were commodities which other entities marketed and as such, were forced to accept whatever that entity would pay.

Getting back to the make or buy decision, I've calculated that we would need 110 additional acres to grow 100% of our feed. This would encompass all the land required for a brood herd of cows, winter hay for cows and yearling calves as well as all the feed for the existing number of pigs, chicken and laying hens. Farmland is currently selling for \$5000 to \$10,000 an acre thus requiring a likely outlay of \$750,000. Principle and interest for a loan this size would equate to \$54,000/year. There is absolutely no way to come close to breaking even much less make this profitable. For grins, I asked myself how the big boys are calculating their ROI. After all, it was the big confinement operator up the road who bought the local 117 acres out from under everyone's nose for \$410,000 (half of which is in cattails). According to the very interesting Iowa State Farmland Purchase Analysis spreadsheet, the green light telling a person to go ahead and pay these recently inflated values is based on the assumption of future inflated values at 2% which yields a return on capital of about 6%. To boot, it assumes a continuum of farm subsidy direct payments as well as a continuum of high commodity prices. In other words, it's high risk gambling.

**Farmland Bubbles** Someone in Iowa recently paid \$20,000/acre for 74 acres. If it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck? Apparently not to everyone. Many of the people who lived through the early 80's farm crisis are saying "this is different". Time will tell. What clearly IS different is the makeup of a growing number of farmland buyers. Even though a lot of farmland is still purchased by farmers, a growing percentage is not, especially nearer to urban areas. Many of the 160 acre farms in this area have changed hands in just the past 15 years. These were the farms in which the original family still had a hold-out farming it but no heirs wanting to keep farming. When this generation passed, the farm was put up for sale. Many buyers have come from the Chicago area with enough cash to purchase 160 acres of 40's era farmland at prices four times the rate if not higher. When I refer to some of these farms as 40's era, I simply mean that the farm has not been clear-cut to maximize row-cropping. These farms have wooded fence lines, oak savannah, century old pastures and natural ponds. In other words, a farm which could have been an ideal pasture-based farm operation, capable of producing 60,000 lbs of high quality protein each year for local people all the while injecting several hundred thousand dollars into the local economy. Instead, it is either kept as a private retreat with a million dollar home sitting idle most of the time, or a portion is rented out to the local row-cropper. If ever there was tinder to reignite the issue of Use-Value taxation, this is it as these millionaires reap the benefits of A1 taxation even though they are not farming for a living. Even wetlands are being bought up by the wealthy for private hunting clubs. Much of the land that surrounds us to the south and southwest - 200 acres of cattails and brush land often inundated, was purchased a few years ago for \$650,000.

A deeper look yet also reveals a land buying strategy which originated in the housing boom years of the 90's. A large amount of farmland in areas speculated as future sprawl is owned by home-building outfits. Hereto, the tax structure remains Use-Value, as it was when it was owned and operated by a farmer. Yet the new owner intends to infiltrate and muscle the town board, ultimately inducing a zoning change from A1 to residential development. These large builders double-dip when they roll the land into development. The recapture, or one time conversion charge, represents just 5% of the price differential. Consequently, the developer, who had for 10 years been paying only a few hundred bucks a year on 160 acres of farmland, reaps a large windfall induced by the zoning change. The fact that this land is not owned by a farmer, but rather, rented to farmers, exerts an external, (non-farm-based) influence on rental rates. Overall, this is true of all land holders who rent to farmers yet earn their living in a non-ag occupation. Putting this in hard numbers, their Use-Value tax rate equates to \$200 for 40 acres yet they are collecting \$200 AN ACRE from the local farmer - an absolutely huge cumulative exodus of income to the non-farm sector. Farm groups rightly claim that any renewed discussion of this tenuous subject will be legislated on a very slippery slope. I see this and as such have removed and reinserted this aspect from this newsletter many times. The fact that you are reading it reveals my final opinion. Actual farmers will indeed get screwed with the repeal of Use-Value, but the hypocrisy of the wealthy non-farm land owners, or anyone else hiding behind a tea-partyesque veil while at the same time feeding from the government trough when local money for education and basic local services has dried up, has to be revealed and rectified. What's at risk? Farmers who own land as active participants in the pursuit of a farm business will have their farmland assessed and taxed to it's developmental potential - devastating. Farmland owners who are not active participants engaged in the pursuit of a farm business will no longer be sitting on a cash cow and as such will expect a return on their investment through the zoning change and development of farmland into housing, strip malls or industrial parks. Or ...we could avoid throwing the baby out with the bath water by tethering tax rates to rental rates with a cap at developmental value. Those screaming laissez-faire have no firm footing when standing on a soapbox built upon taxpayer subsidy.

**Magic Farms** Many years ago a member of a grazing group initiated some discussion regarding a farm's financial authenticity. The point was to differentiate between two distinctly different paths often utilized in developing a viable farm. The most honorable path to financial viability was purported to be the farm which was conceived, gestated and delivered by virtue of 100% farm income. Conversely, one's farm could appear viable yet unbeknownst to the observer, the farm's present day success was initially subsidized by off-farm income. In his words, *a magic farm is a farm which cannot get what they got, doing what they are doing.*



If we live in the moment, this distinction can be analyzed and recognized as truth. Yet to a family such as ours who did not inherit a farm, the incompleteness of this assessment is immediately evident. As this introspection of farm viability unfolds, we discover a great deal about not only the origins of almost all of today's surviving farms, but more divulging, we expose ourselves to the raw materials which have been written out of our historical narrative - especially that narrative as espoused by so many pundits today.

As the 19th century novelist Honore' de Balzac wrote:

*The secret of great wealth with no obvious source is some forgotten crime, forgotten because it was done neatly."*

Neatly forgotten, the Preemption Act of 1841, Homestead Act of 1862, Mining Act of 1872, Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916 effectively created wealth unimaginable to the original generation to stake that Homestead claim. One only need to imagine if the same 160 to 640 acres were offered today, with the same stipulations of improving the land for five years to obtain clear title. We could argue about the hardships and risks of that day and age, but when it's all said and done, we recognize that here in the early 21st century, we are still only a few generations removed from that original taking. Much of this free land - the product of our actual socialistic/capitalistic form of government - remains in the hands of the very families who received the initial government subsidy.

So what? Old news? Envy? Finders-keepers-losers-weepers? Hang on. In the aforementioned context of farmland values, I've been exposing the inability of the farmland itself to provide a return on investment when the returns originate strictly from the farm's harvest - no subsidy - no return on capital. Stated another way: Society dictates that the value of the produce and livestock raised upon the land is sufficiently less than the value that society gives to that very land. In this respect, the "magic" associated with the viability of farming in this day-and-age of ten thousand dollars an acre, is commensurate to the historical price paid by the specific farm being assessed. The third generation Century Farm owner has a substantial cost advantage. The land is free and clear, the taxes are appropriate because they are synchronized to the bounty of the land, not the highest use of the land.

If today, we had to re-purchase the land we bought almost 20 years ago, we couldn't afford "farm" justification. I'd speculate, even considering Joel Salatin's \$5000 per speaking engagement, that the Salatin's themselves could not cost-justify the purchase of their existing 500 acre farm at current land prices. This begs the question: How can pasture-based, direct-market farming expand if it won't pencil-out for young people wishing to start such a farm? We are entering into what feels like a feudal system of agriculture. Land is owned either in large tracts by conventional farmers or by a gentry class of non-farmers who can in turn influence the type of farming done based on the high cost of renting land. And how many organic farmers will be willing to build the years worth of necessary fertility into land they do not own nor have confidence in the solidity of a lease? This last question is what remains after having asked myself one question: Should I make, or should I buy? Others will inevitably discover the same.

## Prognostication... From the Perspective of a Direct Market Farmer

I was off to a late start this season, thus forced to compose this newsletter between projects and chores within the first few weeks of March. The events which have transpired within the past several weeks have greatly influenced this content. Most noteworthy, the insidious path to which the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has taken in prosecuting a small family farm, perversely twisting the logic and very definition of the three entities - agriculture, trade, consumer protection. CLEARLY, the definition of these three terms have been purchased and patented by way of the corporate/government revolving door. DATCP has morphed. Corporate agriculture is exclusively legal. Corporate trade is exclusively legal. Through corporate infiltration, the DATCP has effectively become the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Corporate Protection. Same acronym. Entirely different effect on those who have chosen a non-industrial, farm-to-consumer path to food and farming.



Equally troubling, was the numerous responses I received after sending out the DATCP prosecution alert. Many people responded with blame and contempt directed at Obama and Doyle. Likewise at the Baraboo raw milk rally, with some signs condemning Obama as well as bellicose conversations overheard insisting "this is the result of a liberal agenda". I remain deeply troubled by the recognition that we are misfits amongst misfits. With so much that government is the puppet of monster being controlled by and Occupy activism. If we mantle the revolving door both foolish and futile.



This past year has revealed unprecedented corporate spending and influence. Industrial ag organizations which had formerly hedged their bets by splitting their Wisconsin lobbying dollar between parties have now swung almost 100% to the party in power. If this fact offends some people, please don't shoot the messenger. I urge you to research the data yourself at [www.followthemoney.org](http://www.followthemoney.org). This is the resource illuminating the influence of money in state politics. (For Federal contributions, investigate [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)). These corporations have decided to gradually focus their contributions with one party and as such have chosen the GOP. The most notable exception appears to be Monsanto who remains very active on both sides of the aisle, especially with the Dems on the Federal level, just as was the case during the Clinton years. To illustrate the concern at the State level using the subcategory most relevant to the DATCP prosecution, the Industrial Dairy's contributions are as follows: 2002 & 2004 - 59% to GOP; 2006 - 78% to GOP; 2008 - 66% to GOP; 2010 - 86% to GOP; 2011 - 99% to GOP. The larger category of Agriculture itself has followed a similar trend with Industrial Ag contributions to the GOP rising from 69% in 2002 to 85% in 2011. With the balance of power building and finally tipping in 2011 and the GOP indentured to Industrial Ag interests, it appears that any aspect of agriculture which threatens shareholder value will be knocked down and kicked to death. Any leash which had previously constrained the industrial paradigm paralysis inherent within the DATCP has been severed. These are not partisan prophesies - they are happening.

On the fortunate side, the methods used on this farm are supported by patrons from the full political spectrum - so much so that I sometimes fear these opposing viewpoints might one day become confrontational, should opposing bumper stickers clash on pickup days. Unlike government and partisan talk radio, civility and maturity have carried the day. These commonalities between ideological extremes represent the building blocks which we can use to construct something new - something better than the status quo. If we all take a moment to think about it, anyone that supports sustainable farming and alternative energy is also a misfit to their own political party. On both sides of the aisle, these principles are still considered eccentric, inadequate or just virtuous. After twenty years, the ignorance and intolerance towards renewables remains ghastly.

Consider also that our onsite energy production was purchased and installed without grants or subsidies. Our accounting ledger has not taken any farm subsidies. Nitrogen is grown on the farm. Farming methods enhance society and the environment rather than imposing a burden. Healthcare costs are diminished as individuals accept greater responsibility for prevention. This farm-to-consumer model, a local economic stimulus pump in it's own right, can make a significant contribution towards reducing or eliminating our societies most pressing issues. We - producers and consumers - are literally putting power back into the hands of everyday people. Read this last paragraph again and imagine trying to shoe-horn these attributes into any of today's ideological boxes.



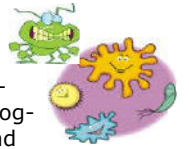
Conversely, on the unfortunate side of things, several of the differences between political extremes remain as roadblocks. I continue to hear from people who disagree with my disdain for Citizens United. This free-for-all of corporate influence in government has contributed greatly to the concerns addressed throughout this newsletter. My view is summarized by saying *corporations are not people - money is not speech*. Yes, corporations are comprised of people. Each and every one of these people already has an individual right to a singular vote. When corporations flood the media utilizing volumes of cash exponentially greater than any individual could ever achieve, the weighted inequalities between a human-being's rights and this *Separate Legal Entity* which legally defines this alleged corporate-being, are not just diminished, but are extinguished. Both science and common sense demonstrate that unlimited special interest money does in fact influence elections. It is therefore accurate to state that those who contribute more money are effectively allowed to vote more than once. When a greater expenditure towards a candidate results in the electoral success of that candidate, we no longer exist as a republic. Citizens United absolutely must be reversed. It represents the dagger to the heart of democracy. (And how perverse to demand individual voter ID yet condone unlimited opaque PAC campaign contributions.)

I also hope for more people to recognize the poison of partisan talk radio - left and right speaker. It's a place to visit to hear an unapologetically partisan opinion but a poisonous place to call home on the radio dial. None of us would have our intelligence insulted by expecting Ford to tout good things about Chevy or the Menards jingle telling us to *save big money at Home Depot*. They look out for their own interests. Obviously, there's at least a few good things about Chevy's but we all realize Ford isn't going to provide that balance. Because of the visceral nature of partisan talk radio, listeners can be assured of hearing only one side of an argument. Besides, people that feel very strongly that their opinions are based on solid facts should openly welcome opposing viewpoints which may, or may not, challenge their existing perspective.

When such a large segment of the population feels comfortable with only one ideological push-button on their radio, this comfort leads to ideological bondage. It's poison and it's playing a dangerous role in taking this country down - rule or ruin. Just like industrial farming vs pasture based farming, if we want to reduce the risk of disease and the poison used to control it, we must accept diversity in order to achieve balance.



As the trend shows, this will no doubt be another challenging season. For thousands of years, these Wisconsin soils and soil microbial life have developed a microbial equilibrium based on frozen soils from Thanksgiving to St. Patty's Day. Instead, the warmth has left us with wetness and mud - conditions which, in these heavy soils - will no doubt be tipping the balance of microbial power and thus, causing new problems. At the end of the day, it's all about equilibrium. Be it physical, chemical, biological, economical or social, the forces of equilibrium are ubiquitous and relentless. We can see the variables if we step back and look at the discouraging news inherent to this age of instability.



Incredibly vast amounts of carbon, formerly integral to reintroduced into our atmosphere - millions of years after incapable of processing this enormous imbalance. And burning all that cash that used to prime our economic again tomorrow if more of that *fuel* were put back into play rather than sit idle in the Cayman Islands or the private accounts of such a small quantity of people. In this grand experiment of disequilibrium - the second Gilded Age - we've proven that the middle class actually DOES drive the economy - and this disequilibrium associated and purported to be class warfare - actually has nothing to do with "class" and everything to do with the simple fact that middle incomes have evolved only to the point where subsistence requires expenditure of almost all income earned - again - as opposed to a few taking money from the millions of middle class earners and parking it offshore indefinitely. This is very much like the deep pockets poker player walking away with all his chips after one winning hand. The remaining players have no money left to play. Game over.



the equilibrium of a prehistoric photosynthetic process, have been it's designated role - with the present day photosynthetic pump economic equilibrium? - There's been not one report of anyone pump. The money still exists. This economic engine could be fired up



Would there be a fraction of the resentment against aggregated wealth if only a conscious effort were made by those holding this wealth to recirculate - reciprocate back into their local economy? This is not asking for money in a philanthropic sense. It is the recognition that no one achieves wealth from within their own personal world bubble. When highly ambitious, intelligent people are hyper-focused on creating new products and ultimately new jobs, their essential Maslowian life support aspects were being met by many hard-working people. I think John Adams breathed life into this assertion eloquently when he said *I study politics and war so that my children can study mathematics and science so that their children may study music and fine arts*. Yet, even with this understanding of human cultural evolution, we see already that in Adams time, the most hierarchical elements of food and energy were already *passee*.

In this respect, looking at the money our farm expends with local professionals, the trade deficit is such that we export many thousands of dollars for professional services yet receive nothing in return. The money is exported not just out of our family account, but in the larger context of food production, is exported out of the region. This is a big, big deal - maybe even the deal-breaker. The most disturbing aspect of this trade deficit is that these are the very people who can actually, genuinely afford to support locally-produced products - recognized to be more expensive only because they are non-exploitive and therefore do not pass peripheral costs onto society. There certainly is a feel of judgmental audacity recognized when saying this but this is diminished when also recognizing at the same time that the buy-local movement is and has been driven by people of average means. By this I mean, they actually cannot afford the added expense of sustainable food but because they recognize it's importance, they give up something else - they change their priorities. The added expense associated with buying pastured proteins vs industrial proteins amounts to about \$2.75 a day - less than a daily cappuccino for many people. Certainly, the aggregated wealth in this country could breath more than life into local economies - they could become the heartbeat - with only trivial - almost unnoticeable impacts upon their personal spending ledger. People of means who are already supporting their local economies are indeed the trailblazers - willing to keep a substantial - sustainable - level of chips on the table so that we all can continue to play the game.

If we humans lived much longer, we might not be so quick to forget our history and the cycles of injustice to which our ancestors toiled. We allow others to work us to a lather on myths and half truths, because we forgot or were never taught the actual truth. In standing on a platform of less federal government, some assert that we should emulate our founding fathers. Which founding fathers? The founders who carried the day as advocates for a strong federal government, nationalized the armories and created the National Bank? And how can we, with straight faces, speak as if we are moving towards this alleged European socialism when the history of our country has literally always been a conflation - a balance - of socialism and capitalism? For goodness sakes, the government literally subsidized the creation of our most powerful and entrenched industries through the railroad land grants and control of access that these recipients were endowed with. And should we quickly divert our gaze when we see the Hoover Dam, Lincoln Tunnel, La Guardia Airport, Bonneville Dam, Golden Gate Bridge, Rural Electrification, Mississippi Lock and Dams, Tennessee Valley Authority, Shasta Dam, San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, scores of schools, libraries, parks, stadiums and medical centers - because we know full well that these are examples of socialism yet they contradict our mythical claims? These infrastructure investments are 70-80 years old yet continue to provide dividends to each and every one of us. It is plausible to suggest that, without the REA, many a lonesome farm or dwelling on the rural routes would still not have electricity to this day.



Consider also, that the word *weekend* was only recently legally engrained into our culture in 1940 - so close in human social evolution that millions of people who personally witnessed this incredible social advancement, are still alive with us today. We have only God to thank for taking the seventh day off, for if it were not for this decree, we'd have all been working seven days a week for millennia.

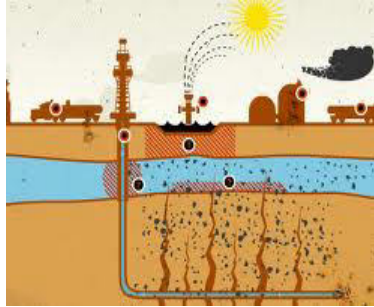
If we were born in 1850 and still walked the earth today, we could have personally witnessed Haymarket, Rockefeller, Carnegie and Frick, 16 hour days, the Homestead and Ludlow massacres, Pullman's company town in which wages were mandated to the company store. Some of us would still have the vivid image of scores of teenage girls, on fire, plummeting to their death on the street below the Triangle Shirtwaist factory. And women, the very last of all human-beings to earn suffrage - a full 50 years after African American males - and in this light of extreme racial violence and oppression - reveals a denigration of all females beyond compare. Perhaps even transcending this is the knowledge that corporations continued to vehemently fight child labor laws well into the 30's. Some business owners saw the light. John D Rockefeller Jr, having earlier been complicit in the murder of worker's wives and children at Ludlow in 1914, evolved so much by 1919 that he asserted to other business owners: *It is not consistent for us as Americans to demand democracy in government while practicing autocracy in industry.*" Needless to day, his revelation was not appreciated by other business owners of the time.

We've allowed others to distract us and take our eye off the root of the problem. Blame gets us no where but if we must blame, let's share the wealth. This collapse occurred because bankers were deregulated and thus allowed to intermingle mortgages with investment banking - high stakes gambling. This deregulation began with Reagan with the final nail in the coffin hammered home by Clinton with the repeal of Glass-Steagall. In regards to budgets and taxes, hereto, if anyone of us had been alive and involved with these issues from the late 40's through the 60's - when we were prosperous, we'd find that tax rates were substantially higher than they are today - 92% for the wealthiest (ridiculous, yes, but nevertheless, a fact).

More revealing yet: The 1945 Wall Street Dealer-Broker Syndicate raised 1 billion dollars for the 7th Bond Tour. Contrast this with today's American corporations displaying their patriotism and loyalty by sheltering income in the Caymans.

**One final contemplation of history - the Irish Potato Famine.** We all immediately envision the blight as the biological effects of monoculture. Yet a deeper analysis of this atrocity which killed and estimated 1 million people is haunting. Yes, the blight was induced by practice of monoculture but the Conacre laws were the force which literally drove the farmers to plant potatoes exclusively. The land was owned by an ascendancy class of absentee British landlords who leased small strips of this Conacre land at 11 month intervals. The absentee landlords maximized their profits by subdividing larger holdings. Any improvements made by the farmer became the property of the landowner who in turn would rent the land to someone else the next season. Holdings were so small such that no other crop other than potatoes would yield subsistence. Land rent was mandatory regardless of yield or acts of weather. Hence, the largest share of the wealth was exported off-farm to England. Astonishingly, a million human beings starved to death amidst livestock and grain surpluses even during the worst years of the famine. These food crops, grown on larger tracts controlled by the ascendancy class and worked with Irish labor, were exported to a world market willing to pay world market price.

The corollary to present day small scale farmland concerns is direct. But there's also the corollary to oil brought down by the Alaskan Pipeline, the clear cutting of old growth forests, hydraulic fracturing for oil products or the Keystone Pipeline. In all of these cases, the inhabitants must accept the long term risks for a product that is in turn sold to the highest bidder in a world market. Alaskan oil was exported. Old growth timber went to Japan. And regarding fracking: There are 750 chemicals, most of



them toxic, used in this process. This process of extracting oil and natural gas utilizes 2-10 million gallons of water to fracture a single well. Sand, at more than four million pounds per well, is mixed to a slurry with these chemicals as the proppant pumped into these wells. The demand for sand and subsequent impact on local towns has by itself induced many new expenses and concerns upon townships. Fracking is literally responsible for small earthquakes. Vast amounts of toxic water, forever poisoned, are being disposed of underground. At the end of the day, the oil and natural gas is sold on the world market because the corporation has no legal obligation towards citizens or country, but rather, a legal obligation to provide value to it's shareholders.



Opinions can at least be respected - agreeing to disagree - when adversaries walk their talk. Industrial farmers willfully and habitually put their hand out for large amounts of government cash while at the same time expressing contempt for other sectors which do the same. They have a right to freedom of speech, yet in this light, why should we listen much less allow them to control the food agenda? And how did we ever get to this point in which the median constituency earns \$50/K, struggles with high deductible health insurance, or increasingly, has no health insurance at all, yet the *fiscal hawk* federal representatives leading the fight against affordable healthcare and employee costs are virtually assured of excellent government-provided healthcare and pensions - all the while earning \$174/K - over three times the earnings of their constituency? It is so much easier to enroll others in fiscal responsibility when those doing the preaching are leading by example.

These congressmen build their campaign war chests not with small individual contributions from a hundred thousand constituents, but rather from \$100,000 contributions from special interests with total indifference to constituency. We are allowing - yes, allowing - this quid-pro-quo system to take us down a long dead end road. Industrial farming is 100% dependent upon fossil fuels. The bright green in their fields is derived from the deep and dark carbon blackness of oil. Their commodity bulk is less "grown" than manufactured. Yield is imported from industry. Haber-Bosch natural gas represents the life-blood of the industrial process. We can deplete it, waste it, contaminate aquifers obtaining it and export it to the world market. Regardless, the supply/demand, boom/bust fluctuations will continue to create instability until it's played-out - at which time the wheels will come off the industrial wagon.

Some farmers and consumers recognize this and do not want to be hitched to this wagon. With a preventative mindset, we choose consensus over crisis. We see the corollary to 1840's Ireland. We see the toxicity - the poison - to the food, the environment and society. Yet here we are, with the established jurisprudence stacking the deck in favor of powerful entrenched shareholder-beholden corporations. Where is the evidence of a true Rural Renaissance when sustainably-scaled direct-to-consumer farmers cannot participate in commerce much less earn enough to purchase healthcare for their families? Yes, the organic market is indeed growing. This growth is increasingly being met by large-scale corporate organic. Our society has willfully created it's own nemesis. We've allowed our corporate creations to become far too big such that THEY now control us.

## Stability and Equilibrium

We can't have one without the other. If we continue to exhibit the hubris of violating this natural dictum, we inevitably subject ourselves to perpetual instability. Food-conscious individuals already demonstrate an understanding of this phenomenon, recognizing that nature abhors a vacuum. Monoculture, antibiotic resistance, pathogen proliferation, carbon sequestration, soil food web, essential fatty acids, farm parity, nutrient dense foods - these are all aspects to which each and every one of us has intensely examined all evidence in search of truth. In our research, we all discover conflicting "truths" and as such, extricate ourselves by further examining motives and special interests. We learned a long time ago that "experts" are human, and thus, will not bite the corporate hand that feeds them. In other words, when it comes to food, we've learned to first and foremost - consider the source.

As we listen to all the conflicting "truths" which persist within our larger world, we have only ourselves to blame if we continually fail to consider the source. In this post-Citizen's United world - a world in which vast sums of corporate money is spent with the intention of influencing human behavior, the water is muddy and the stakes are high.

Someplace - not *between* today's adolescent extremes, but *above* these extremes - lies the mature adult concept known as *reality*. This is where we will find the stability we need to return to our mutual pursuit of happiness for ourselves and our children. By failing to recognize this, we submit to the corporate tsunami which is at this moment, inundating our existence.

Steve Heyer  
Solar Harvest Farm

**There ARE alternatives to natural gas and oil. There are NO alternatives for water.**

# Human Nature Human-nature.

This March, the hearing for the DATCP prosecution of a farmer drew a rally of 300 supporters. Considering the implications - there should have been 3000.

Makes a person think about human-nature.

I am reminded of the times I've witnessed a pair of hawks prosecute our village of laying hens. In spite of my preaching to the flock of their strength-in-numbers and intimidating collective weight, as a group, they remain unknowingly, unnecessarily complacent. - as seemingly obligatory prey. And then I remind myself...they're only chickens.

The pair of hawks circle from on high, observing - calculating.  
The hens tip their heads ever so slightly, conscious, yet dangerously complacent.  
Disappearing and drifting in the thermals, the hawks descend behind a distant tree line.  
Suddenly and seemingly out of nowhere,  
the pair performs a low level flyover, as if to assess the flock for weakness.  
A chorus of roosters sound the alarm.  
Hundreds of hens take to flight for the nearest cover.  
The bucolic pasture scene, only moments before, placid with hundreds of foraging hens, now appears as a deserted village - eerie with the look of things undone - reluctantly abandoned.  
The flock, now terrified and pressed tightly under their houses and wagons - is suddenly silent.  
In their terror, most had lost sight of their predator.  
Their primal instincts now communally engage.  
Without so much as one shoosh, the sound of their silence resonates like an invisible beacon, scanning every inch of their surroundings for even the slightest of sounds.  
A rooster spots a hen who had instinctively hunkered down in tall grass - hundreds of feet out.  
As if some unseen discharge of energy is simultaneously released,  
the hen, no longer able to contain her anxiety, leaps upward, screaming,  
frantically taking to flight towards the rooster, who, in a display of nothing less than chivalry, puts himself at great risk to meet her half way, gather her in, scolding her as she reaches safety.  
Now, they all wait.  
The pair of hawks had strategically positioned themselves motionless within the nearest tree line.  
With patience as their virtue, the pair waits for more and more hens to let their guard down - to move farther and farther away from their cover.  
With a distance of only a few hundred feet and the speed of a missile descending in flight, the first victim is soon to meet it's fate.

With one hawk diving towards the refuge, the other is assumed of easy pickings.  
Here, only a few feet from the protection of their house,  
the hawk pounces on it's victim, talons around it's neck.

The superior weight of the thrashing hen is still no match for the talon's grip.  
Yet for several minutes, the hawk remains vulnerable as it attempts to strangle it's prey while avoiding attack from the few courageous hens and roosters.

It is indeed the sounds of distress  
that instinctively call some, and only some to the defense of their brethren.  
Without audible distress from the victim, the flock becomes passive.

And then - with one final breath -  
the silence.

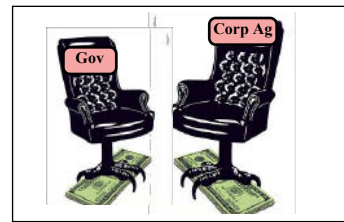
A hawk - scarcely 3 lbs on the wing - strangled and now devours it's 6 lb prey,  
directly in front of hundreds of hens and a score of roosters -  
both of which outweigh and outnumber their predator by many orders of magnitude.

Only a few tried to help.  
Had they all recognized the strength in their numbers,  
their flockmate would remain with them - they would no longer be - prey.  
Tis humbling to recognize the common nature - of animals.

Hawks consume for Sustenance.  
Corporations consume for Dominance.

Chickens know nothing of their potential...  
to the Hawks Delight.

Humans do, yet rarely use it...  
to the Corporations Delight.



**April 2008,** Pennsylvania dairy farmer Mark Nolt, was removed from his property by state troopers for selling raw milk. Six state troopers and a man with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture trespassed onto his property and stole \$20-25,000 of his product and equipment..

**Dec 1, 2008** Ohio Sheriff deputies forced entry into the John and Jacqueline Stowers family home, guns drawn, holding them captive for six hours - including 10 children. The Stowers operate an organic food cooperative. The ODA seized the family's personal food supply, cell phones and personal computers. The crime the Stowers are alleged to have committed is in association with licensing to sell food within their organic food cooperative.

**2009** Zinniker & Craig farms denied by DATCP right to provide milk to herd share members under prior MOU and as such, discontinue their dairy - their primary income.

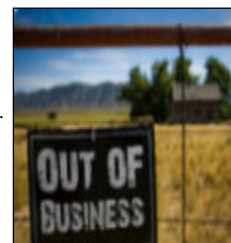
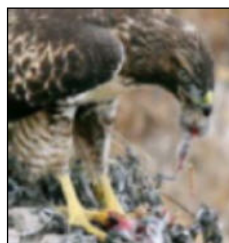
**Sept/Oct, 2009** WI Farmers Emanuel J. Miller, Pat and Melissa Monchilovich taken to court for an evidentiary hearing on complex civil forfeiture for failing to register premises.

**April 20, 2010** Two FDA agents, two federal marshals and one state trooper descended on the Kinzer, Pennsylvania farm of Dan Allger to execute an administrative search warrant against Allger's premises. The group set foot on the farm at 5 a.m. The warrant allowed the FDA agents to inspect "all portions of Rainbow Acres facility and all things therein, including all equipment, finished and unfinished materials, containers and labeling therein." The warrant also called for the "use of reasonable force" to gain entry to any area the agents were authorized to search.

**August 3, 2011** — Los Angeles — Public Health Officials descended on a buying club that specializes in raw foods. Club organizer, James Stewart was arrested at his home, the locks to his personal residence were changed, his papers, money and computer seized. At the same time, farmer Sharon Palmer and Weston A. Price Foundation volunteer chapter leader Victoria Bloch Coulter were arrested. All three were charged with Section 182A-Conspiracy to Commit a Crime. Bond for James Stewart was set at \$123,000. Bail for Bloch is recommended at \$60,000. Bail for Palmer is recommended at \$121,000.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubmbx390yA&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

**October 21, 2011** as guests were arriving for the first "Farm to Fork Dinner" at Quail Hollow Farm, Southern Nevada Health Inspectors arrived and ordered the farmer and chef to pour bleach on the delectable local meats and vegetables skillfully prepared by Chef Gio of Nora's Italian Cuisine in Las Vegas.

**June 2010 - Feb 2012** WI DATCP raids Hershberger farm, quarantines products and dumps die into bulk tank rendering milk unfit for consumption. DATCP prosecutes Hershberger for selling raw milk and operating without a license. Hershberger counters that the DATCP does not provide a license for selling raw milk and further asserts that all products are provided exclusively to share owners in a private buying club and as such, the DATCP has no jurisdiction. Trial is pending.



# In the News

**Walmart** has introduced a new marketing strategy. The corporation which personified *the high cost of low price* has taken the initiative to tell you of the foods it considers to be *Great For You*.

**Consumers Have No Right To Food Choice** Wisconsin's DATCP is the tip of the national spear, currently prosecuting a farmer for providing milk to the private food cooperative members who own the cows. Previously, on September 9th, 2011, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Patrick Fiedler established this precedence in prosecuting the Zinnicker farm:

(1) Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to own and use a dairy cow or a dairy herd; (2) Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to consume the milk from their own cow; (3) Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to board their cow at the farm of a farmer; (4) Plaintiffs' private contract does not fall outside the scope of the States' police power; (5) Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to produce and consume the foods of their choice; (6) DATCP had jurisdiction to regulate the Plaintiffs' conduct. Five days later Judge Fiedler resigned. He now works for Axley Brynelson, a law firm utilized by Monsanto.

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau** Bill Bruins, president of the WFB has been outspoken in his criticism of government regulation, pointedly referring to the "long arm over-reach" of government. Yet the WFB president is equally outspoken for his support of regulations against fellow farmers providing raw milk. Bruins is also a staunch supporter of the capacious bureaucracy associated with government mandating Premises Registration and Animal ID. Yet a review of [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org) reveals that Mr. Bruins has willingly allowed the "long arm of government" to reach out all the way to his farm in Fon Du Lac County - to deposit \$635,000 of taxpayer subsidies into his mailbox.

**WLIC Proposes Raid on WLI** Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, represents private sector agricultural interests which have been deputized by the DATCP as THE authorized agent for the state of Wisconsin. Their stated mission is disease traceback. Their corporate goal for their charter members, (RFID tag manufacturers) is a captive, government mandated farm constituency to sell millions of animal ID tags and tag-reading equipment. The WLIC's federal funding of Premises Registration and NAIS (animal ID) was lost. Rep. Tauchen ( R ) has now introduced AB 489 which legislates the raid of \$125,000 from WLI funds. WLI is Working Lands Initiative, a program funded by farmland development conversion fees and as such has been used to successfully facilitate farmland preservation. If AB 489 is passed, the conversion fees that developers of farmland paid as a penalty for obtaining development rights from farmland will go directly to a consortium of private corporate interests. Should WLIC's raid prove to be legislatively unsuccessful, Rep. Ott ( R ) has proposed that in the event of a disease outbreak, all farmers who have refused to submit to this corporate mandate be forced to pay the state's expenses.

**Poultry Processing** In Wisconsin, it has long been illegal to process more than 1000 chickens on the farm. Even the 1000 bird exemption is subject to conditions. Of course, there should be conditions. Unfortunately, the state approaches this with the liabilities of the industrial process and recognizes no food safety benefits associated with small, low volume, intermittent family-based processing. Because of this, there are fewer and fewer farms offering pastured poultry. The few remaining poultry processors in the state are distant and expensive, requiring crating, stress and transport of birds ultimately consuming an appreciable amount of the time it would have taken to process the birds on the farm. Result: Wisconsin is not open for this type of non-industrial business.

**Breaking News!** This just in: The University of British Columbia - "perhaps one of the foremost authorities in North America on cutting-edge dairy cattle welfare issues" - has determined that daily access to pasture can alleviate lameness in cattle normally confined on concrete. (We now return you to your regular scheduled program.)

**Roundup Ready** Don Huber, emeritus professor of plant pathology at Purdue has published peer reviewed research demonstrating that these genetically created genes enhance the virulence of pathogens in soil while diminishing the natural biological soil mechanisms necessary for plant immune system response. Prof. Huber warns of dire consequences in regards to soil fertility, glyphosate persistence, animal health effects and resultant market disruption. [The implications of Huber's research eclipses everything on this page by many orders of magnitude.](#)

**2,4-D is Coming Back** University of Illinois professor of weed physiology Dean Riechers states that what many might consider a dinosaur may be the best solution for growers fighting weed herbicide resistance. "Herbicide resistance is bad enough that companies are willing to bring it [2,4-D] back. That illustrates how severe this problem is." 2,4-D is the dioxin-laden primary ingredient in Agent Orange.

**Seed Treatments Linked to Honeybee Deaths** Large numbers of dead bees have been found just outside their hives. Purdue University investigated. The bees were found to have lethal levels of neonicotinoid insecticides - nerve toxins - as is commonly used as a seed treatment. The study found pollen stored in the hives with dead bees had high levels of neonicotinoid insecticides. But bees aren't interested in seeds or the soil in which it is planted so where did the bees gather this deadly pollen? Knowing that these insecticides persist in the soil for many years after initial contamination, (three year half life) the researchers looked at the effects of tillage dust onto dandelions - a frequently visited source of pollen. Insecticides were found on the dandelion heads, but not at lethal levels. They now shifted their attention to the planter. Modern planters utilize vacuum, manifolds and exhaust fans. They also incorporate talc - 5 million pounds used annually - as a seed lubricant. The talc is by design, in contact with each insecticide-treated kernel. Some talc is exhausted out of the planter directly in the field. Remaining talc is cleaned out at the shop. If dumped outdoors, it drifts easily. This spent talc was contaminated with insecticide at 700 times the lethal level for bees. Additionally, researchers learned that neonicotinoid insecticides are persistent and systemic. They get taken up by the seed as it grows. When the corn begins to shed pollen, the neonicotinoid insecticides are found directly within the pollen. Even though this systemic contamination is low, they found that the apiaries located near corn fields had 45% of their pollen collected from corn. And all of a sudden it just hit you, didn't it? You and I are also ingesting this nerve toxin tainted pollen.

**Antibiotic Resistance** Research at Michigan State University and the USDA's ARS have determined that antibiotics in pig feed increased the number of antibiotic resistant genes in gastrointestinal microbes in pigs. E coli populations also increased in the intestines of pigs treated with antibiotics.

**United Egg Producers/HSUS - Strange Bedfellows** HR 3798 is supported by west coast battery cage egg producers and the HSUS, the animal rights group. This legislation would create "enriched cages" meaning some form of nest box in conjunction with a bit more space. The motives of these two normally adversarial groups is complicated and even counter intuitive. California egg producers were forced via the Proposition 2 ballot initiative to improve animal welfare. This placed California with a competitive disadvantage with other states. HR 3798 would apply to all states thus evening the playing field. The counter intuitive aspect is that the cages recommended in HR 3798 and endorsed by the HSUS will do little to relieve animal suffering as well as subsequently setting back or eliminating cage-free progress. The bad smell coming from this lies with the HSUS willingness to lose a battle now but win the future war. In taking this to the Federal legislature, the HSUS effectively eliminates the need to fight this battle in every state. This effectively removes the will of the people from the process - an ingenious, albeit undemocratic approach. Advocates for sustainable farming and the HSUS appear to have much in common - and we do - with one very important distinction: The HSUS is not committed to humane treatment, but rather to the complete elimination of animal agriculture. Because the HSUS has neither the knowledge nor interest in understanding soil fertility, this makes the HSUS a champion of chemical agriculture. (See "Can a Vegan-based Agriculture Feed 6 Billion" found on our website.)

**Monsanto Prevails Against Organic Seed** A federal judge has ruled in favor of Monsanto, dismissing a lawsuit brought by a group of organic farmers and seed dealers. The group wanted a ruling that would prohibit Monsanto from suing if their organic products become contaminated with Monsanto's patented biotech seed germplasm. The judge's ruling was based on Monsanto's promise to never sue organic producers in which patented traits are inadvertently found on their organic farm. Thus, the judge criticized the organic group for "a transparent effort to create a controversy where none exists." The court further stated that there was no likelihood that Monsanto would pursue patent infringement against organic farmers as they have no interest in replanting the patented technology.

Between 1997 and 2010, Monsanto has filed 145 patent infringement lawsuits against farmers. Legal precedence is now firmly established in Monsanto's favor protecting patent rights over property rights. Hence, with the acknowledged fact that proprietary genetically modified traits do in fact drift and cross-pollinate, this judge allows Monsanto continued free reign to trespass whenever Monsanto sees the bio-contamination could be to the grower's advantage. Turned inside-out, organic growers do not have a legal right to grow produce which has not been contaminated with GMO's. Conventional growers who do not use proprietary seed yet could be viewed by Monsanto as a beneficiary of proprietary genetic drift, have no legal recourse. Monsanto's concern for protecting their proprietary seed is evident in light of the 75 employees and 10 million dollar enforcement budget. Regardless of a grower's market or intentions, the legal deck is stacked such that Monsanto can not and will not lose. Quite simply, Monsanto holds all the cards so Monsanto decides when and where it will prosecute. Why does Monsanto have a legal right to physical trespass - and most importantly - windblown genetic trespass? Did a federal judge actually base a court ruling on a corporation's spoken "promise"? Does society have a right to food which has not been contaminated with proprietary germplasm?







Std Door vs Wow Door  
**\$4000 Upgrade**



Commute and get Groceries  
Fuel Costs - Truck vs Car  
**\$1500 more a Year**  
**\$15,000 in 10 years**



Couch vs Couch  
**\$1000 Upgrade**

# Cheapest?

When you shop for "stuff", do you say:  
"Give me the cheapest stuff you got" ?

Do you buy the cheapest generic jeans?

Did you buy the cheapest carpet?

Do you only buy tickets for the cheap seats?

If ZZ Top had never written the song,  
could you ever imagine yourself in *cheap sunglasses*?

It's evident that most of us put a lot of thought into our purchasing decisions.  
Why is it then that so many of us are only willing to buy the cheapest food?

For the average family, the added daily expense associated with purchasing higher quality protein equates to about \$2.75/day. We don't necessarily need to delve into the theoretical savings that this \$2.75 will induce within the family healthcare budget or the bigger societal picture. What we should recognize is the simple fact that we all have the option of buying the cheapest stuff, yet few of us do. While it's true that sometimes we just want these upgrades, in a good many cases, we recognize the increased value - we recognize that we get what we pay for.

The food you willingly put into your body effects your life and health more than anything else you do. The longer you ignore this, the greater your risk of bad news from your doctor.

How much of this stuff would you give up in a second, if doing so would return you to health?

Is there anything on this page that is more important than your health or the health of your children?

*Food isn't Food.*

Poor Quality Food = Poor Quality Nutrition = Poor Health

## What are YOU worth?



Athletic Shoes  
**\$130 Upgrade**



Brown Bag vs Dine Out  
**\$1000/Yr Upgrade**  
(Health Downgrade)



Basic to Smartphone  
**\$400 Upgrade**



883 to Electra Glide  
**\$15,000 Upgrade**



Digital Camera  
**\$1000 Upgrade**



Coffee to Cappuccino  
**\$500/Yr Upgrade**



Fishing Boat vs Fishing Boat  
**\$30,000 Upgrade**



Generic to Name Brand Soda  
**\$100/Yr Upgrade**



Std Rider to Zero Turn  
**\$3000 Upgrade**



TV - Basic to Entertainment  
**\$4000 Upgrade**



1/2 Ton to 3/4 Ton  
HD Diesel  
**\$15,000 Upgrade**



# Truth-in-Advertising




## USDA FSIS Labeling Regulations

### Perception vs Reality

Corporate ethics aside, there exists one very legitimate reason to rake this muck:

*If the majority of consumers believe the label is reality, then reality will never be obtained by the majority of consumers.*

Test yourself! You've seen it written on the label. What did you perceive? What do you now think of reality?

Label	USDA Legal Description	Common Loopholes	Reality
<b>All Natural</b>	<i>A product containing no artificial ingredient or added color and is only minimally processed. Minimal processing means that the product was processed in a manner that does not fundamentally alter the product. The label must include a statement explaining the meaning of the term natural (such as "no artificial ingredients; minimally processed").</i>	<p>Antibiotics allowed. High density .85 sq ft/bird. No sunshine. No fresh air. No natural outdoor diet.</p> <p>The facility on the right is sold with the label stating: All Natural, No Hormones, No Steroids, No Injections Amish-Raised.</p>	
<b>Free Range</b>	<i>Producers must demonstrate to the Agency that the poultry has been allowed access to the outside.</i>	<p>Producers attach small porches to the side of confinements. A small door left open meets the letter of the law. Chickens raised and fed indoors are scared to venture out. Chickens never step foot on soil nor pasture. Same as cage-free, except cage-free doesn't pretend to allow outdoor access.</p>	
<b>Organic</b> (As pertains to livestock husbandry. Organic feed labeling requirements are extensive and extraneous to this subject of livestock husbandry.)	<i>There are no restrictions on use of other <b>truthful</b> (my emphasis) labeling claims such as "no drugs or growth hormones used," "free range," or "sustainably harvested."</i>	<p>The interior of a Certified Organic Free Range egg laying facility is shown on the right. Their outdoor access is shown above right. Never outdoors. Never step foot on soil. Never consume pasture. Certified organic feed: yes</p>	
<b>No Hormones</b> (pork or poultry)	<i>Hormones are not allowed in raising hogs or poultry. Therefore, the claim "no hormones added" <b>cannot be used</b> on the labels of pork or poultry unless it is followed by a statement that says "Federal regulations prohibit the use of hormones."</i>	<p>This loophole is the least harmful while at the same time being the most egregiously dishonest. Producers have not been allowed to give hormones to poultry or pigs for over 35 years. When a company's labeling openly boasts about having No Hormones, they have engineered a calculated deceit. The consumer perceives goodness above and beyond other producers who are thus imagined to be using hormones. The marketing department is relying on consumer ignorance to obtain a premium. Further embellishing the deceit, some companies state No Hormones &amp; No Steroids, which, in the context of animal husbandry, are one-in-the-same. Bragging about raising chickens with No Hormones is comparable to bragging about making ice cream without onions. The difference is, everyone knows that absolutely nobody mixes onions with ice cream.</p>	

If consumers continue to perceive that *Free Range* means *pasture*, how can the farm that truly *pastures* survive?  
If consumers are seeking a product superior to conventional, isn't *pasture* the most important element?

# SIV

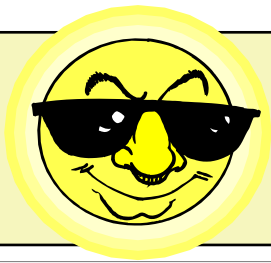
## *Special Interest Virus*

Like viruses which attach and replicate within our metabolic cells, the SIV virus is induced directly within human neural cells effectively transforming human thought and behavior. As the virus replicates within the cerebral cortex, the neural cells governing empathy and compassion are inhibited. Conversely, proliferation occurs in the neural cells which control avaricious and rapacious behavior. SIV is highly contagious, transmissible from person to person by means of the following:

- ❑ **Corporate Policy** Officers and directors of corporations have a legal obligation to provide value to their shareholders with total indifference to any unintended consequences imposed upon society, the environment or other aspects of the economy.
- ❑ **Interlocking Directorates** Corporate board members serving on multiple boards of directors carry the virus into formerly uncontaminated board rooms. The special interests of corporation A become mutual to the interests of company B. Large corporations are known to have 20 or more Interlocking Directorates. Investigate [www.theyrule.net](http://www.theyrule.net).
- ❑ **Employees & Shareholders** All having direct and indirect vested special interests in the well-being of the company of their employ, it's stock and the various stocks which comprise their retirement funds.
- ❑ **Day Traders** As interlopers, their lone objective is profit with the added indifference towards the corporation itself, much less societal concerns.
- ❑ **Gerrymandering** Also known as Redistricting, has reached a level of technical sophistication with the potential of making an individual's vote meaningless.
- ❑ **Citizens United** Overturning effective campaign finance reform, the Supreme Court approved unlimited political spending, flooding media with highly effective material designed to advance - indeed purchase - the candidate of their choice.

The effectiveness of the SIV virus lies with it's ability to capitalize upon the interconnected bigness of today's corporate environment. SIV has infected each and every one of us and unbeknownst to us, our personal special interests are only three or four steps removed from the person walking next to us. Like the Invasion of the Body Snatchers, corporate interests have infiltrated our collective thought processes. Humans no longer freely control their own behavior. The corporation's interests become an individual's interests. We have become less human and we lack the incentive to stop it. This virus has one fatal flaw. In time, it will kill it's host.

The corporate influence within our campaign finance and redistricting processes has usurped the collective impact of individual voters. Citizens United must be overturned. Partisan redistricting must be abolished. Without these reforms, we no longer exist as a Republic.

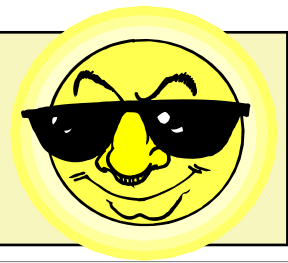


# Solar Harvest Farm

262-662-5278

2012 Harvest Schedule for Pastured Meats

Keep on your refrigerator for future reference!



**Pastured Chicken** Certified Organic Feed Price: Qty: 3-9 \$3.59/lb Qty: **10-19 \$3.49/lb** Qty: **20 + \$3.39/lb**

Whole chickens typically 4.5-6 lbs dressed available fresh on the dates noted below in green. Here's how to obtain:

- 1). Choose a date in which you will be available to pickup your order.
- 2). Call us to reserve your order.
- 3). Mark it on your calendar! (If you forget, we add \$0.20/lb for early/late pickup!)

All 2012 Chicken Has Sold Out

Volume Discount  
Chicken Pricing!

Arrive on the designated date and time with ample cooler space and ice. To assure availability it is best to reserve your needs well in advance. However, because openings often occur at the last minute, feel free to call at any time. Due to folks stocking their freezers for winter, the fall dates usually fill the fastest. Volume pricing requirements: Picked-up on time; Single payment per order. (The incentive for us = less transactions and a reduction in people who forget to come!)

**Pastured Eggs** Certified Organic Feed Price: \$4.50/dz (Equates to approx \$2.25/lb) 2dz min order. Pickup Mon. thru Sat.

**Grassfed Beef** Rotationally-Grazed Price: Quarter Beef \$4.59/lb Downpayment: \$100/Qtr

Half/Whole Beef \$4.29/lb\*

All 2012 Beef Has Sold Out

**Pig-Happy Pork** Certified Organic Feed Price: Half Hog \$3.29/lb Downpayment: \$100/half

No Price Increase for Pork!

Whole Hog Special \$2.89/lb\*

Pork Has Sold Out

Pork & Beef pricing is based on hanging wt. Processing costs are extra with estimates listed on the yield page.


July beef is picked up directly at the butcher, (Hansen's in Franksville). The July beef will be 20-30% heavier than the estimates provided. (If you'd like more beef, order from the July harvest!) September beef and pork are picked up at our farm. October pork is picked up at the butcher, (Hansen's in Franksville).

\*Specials: The volume discounts are available provided that the order, downpayment and cutting instructions are under one name as well as the final payment being received at the time of pickup. Half and Whole beef offers additional savings at the butcher provided that the order is not split up into separate quarters.


Our livestock do not receive hormones, medicated feed or rendered by-products. The feed provided to the chickens and hogs is certified organic by M.O.S.A. In addition, the chickens and pigs consume respectable amounts of our organic forage. Our grassfed beeves are raised on their mother's milk and pasture for the first 7-8 months before weaning onto a winter diet of hay and mineral. (During extreme cold spells, we may supplement with molasses, oat hay or oats.) In spring, the beeves are finished on our rotationally-grazed pastures. Mineral consists of Icelantic Kelp, Redmond salt, rock mineral and microbials, all of which are certified organic. We do not use diesel fuel nor toxic insecticides for fly control. Our pastures receive fertility via direct deposit, compost or other biologically acceptable means. Electrical energy is produced on site by Solar and Wind power!

June	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	10	11	Chicken Pickup 4-6pm Sold Out 12	13	Chicken Pickup 4-6pm Sold Out 14	15	Chicken Pickup 1-3pm Sold Out 16
July	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	8	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 9	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 10	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 11	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 12	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 13	Beef Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 14
Aug	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	12	13	14	15	16	17	Chicken Pickup 1-3pm Sold Out 18
	19	20	Chicken Pickup 4-6pm Sold Out 21	22	Chicken Pickup 4-6pm Sold Out 23	24	25
Sept	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	9	10	11	12	13	14	Beef & Pork 10-Noon Sold Out 15
	23	24	25	26	27	28	Beef & Pork 10-Noon Sold Out 29
Oct	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	7	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 8	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 9	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 10	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 11	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 12	Pork Pickup - Hansen's Sold Out 13

Typical Costs for Half and Whole Pork				2012
Item	Hanging Wt x \$/lb	Meat \$	Processing \$	Total Cost Estimate
Pork - Half Hog	80 lbs x \$3.29	\$263	\$65	\$328
Pork - Whole Hog	160 lbs x \$2.89	\$463	\$123	\$586

Typical Yield From Half Hog (Double for Whole Hog.)		Please note that these listings for both pork and beef are but one of many ways the butcher can cut your order. If you have a preference, (and Mother Nature will provide it on the carcass) feel free to discuss your needs with the butcher!  Also: Ma Nature provides us with a variety of weights. If you'd like more or less than these "typical" estimates, let us know!	
Cut	Lbs		
Ham	14.1		
Shoulder Roast	9.5		
Ground Pork	9		
Chops	8.4		
Bacon	5.7		
Loin Roast	4.4		
Pork Hocks w/meat	3.8		
Spare & Baby Back Ribs	2.6		
Neck Bones w/meat	2.2		
Liver (for liversausage)	2.0	Take Home Weight - Half Hog >	62 lbs

Typical Costs for Quarter and Half Beef				2012
Item	Hanging Wt x \$/lb	Meat \$ To Farm	Processing \$ To Butcher*	Total Cost Estimate
Grassfed Beef - Quarter	120 lbs x \$4.59	\$551	\$65	\$616
Grassfed Beef - Half	210 lbs x \$4.29	\$900	\$112	\$1012

Typical Yield From Quarter Beef		<b>Important Note!</b> The listed weights are typical for the September beef harvest. July beef weights (and subsequent costs) will typically be 20-30% higher. If you prefer a greater quantity, reserve your beef from the July harvest.	
Cut	Lbs		
Ground Beef	27.8		
Chuck Roast	16.7		
Sirloin Steak	7.1		
Round Steak	6.1		
Soup Bones/Misc	5.8		
Club Steak	5.5		
Rump Roast	4.6		
Sirloin Tip Roast	4.6		
T-Bone Steak	3.8		
Boneless Stew	2.8		
Liver	2.5		
Porterhouse Steak	1.6		
Round Roast	1.3		

**Sticker shock?** This is only due to the fact that you are buying a year's worth of meat at one time! Even if you bought the lowest quality meats from the supermarket, the equivalent cuts would cost \$900 for a half of beef, \$400 for a half of pork. We can't and don't compete with mass-produced supermarket meats in just the same way that mass-produced meats cannot compete with our quality and nutrition. However, if you were buying individual packages from the natural or organic meat case, our prices will save you money - and in almost all cases, provide you with a superior product!

\*This includes the fees associated with slaughter, cutting and wrapping, as well as the smoking costs associated with ham and bacon. You will be able to have your order custom cut to your cutting instructions. You may instruct the butcher to provide additional services at your own added expense. Examples of these added services include sausage making, patties, additional slicing or smoking, deboning, cryovac etc. Double wrap is also available for a relatively small additional cost. (Cost vary slightly at different butchers.)

Please note that as in the past, the nature of making ham, bacon and some sausage involves the addition of curing agents, spices and flavorings that may or may not be to your satisfaction. For those concerned, there are several varieties of sausage available without MSG. If you are inclined, please make a point to ask the butcher the ingredients at the time you provide your cutting instructions. If you have questions you'd like answered before you place your order, please call or email us!

We have raised these animals to provide the finest and purest qualities available anywhere. Many people take their pork trimmings as pure ground pork and make their own sausage patties. It is easy and delicious and best of all, contains no additives other than spices. Penzeys offers many different sausage seasonings. Refer to [www.penzeys.com](http://www.penzeys.com) for examples. If you prefer not to have your hams cured, you will receive the "fresh hams" in their pure form. These are pork roasts "to die for" in the crockpot, tender and juicy! Or simmer some with your favorite BBQ sauce, serve with rice or on a bun and the kids will love you - (even more)! Bacon is the exception. If you don't have it cured, it's called side pork which is quite different from the smoked and cured bacon. If you take the ground pork and fresh hams in their pure forms, you receive the pure meat from this farm while saving the expenses associated with smoking and sausage making, (typically sausage adds \$1.50 per pound to whatever quantity you elect).

The weights and yields used in these examples are typical. Fall beef quarters can range from 90 - 150 lbs. (July beef 140-190lbs) Pork halves can range from 70 - 130 lbs. The highs and lows are not common, but possible. Much of this depends upon the seasonal growing conditions. Let us know if you prefer more or less than the estimate. We will do our best to match the weight.

Visualizing Freezer Space Required: A typical Quarter beef or half hog is packed tightly into a box measuring 12" x 16" x 20" (about 2.5 cubic feet).