

1 MR. CARLIN: Do we have an Abel
2 Tomlinson? Nancy Radcliffe? And I want to very
3 quickly ask did a Ken Knies come in or K-n-i-e-s?
4 Michael Anderson? Michael Chase? I'm turning
5 the page. I may come back, I may not. Mary
6 Loughin, factory farming? Susanna Brinnon?
7 Jason Hatfield, Lundy & Davis? Kelly Petty? Peter
8 Boyt?

9 MR. BOYT: You got one. I may go over
10 my five minutes. I'll try not to. I am a resident or
11 an owner of a small family farm in southwest
12 Missouri. I happen to be a veterinarian and I hope
13 that what I can bring here will help solve some of
14 the controversy here or at least give some
15 information into what I have observed where I live.

16 I did a literature search for the economics
17 of CAFO's and I came up with a lot of information.
18 One individually in particular caught my eye and
19 his name is John Ikert and he is an emeritus
20 agricultural economics professor at the University
21 of Missouri Columbia. And some of the
22 information I'm going to give is from him and one
23 of the papers that he has put out. He's a very
24 proliferate writer on CAFO's. He has spent ten
25 years touring CAFO's in 12 different states and in

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1 three Canadian provinces and the information that
2 he has gained is quite extensive and I'll try to
3 condense what he has said regarding economics.
4 And then I want to get into some animal health
5 with avian influenza to maybe put the fear back
6 into you, if you will. But I'll try to go through the
7 economics here real quick first.

8 Regarding family farms, you need a
9 definition for family farms and the best one I could
10 come up with is a farm household that owns and
11 controls the majority of farm production factors
12 including land, labor, technology and management.
13 The proponents of CAFO's state that it's going to
14 be -- when a CAFO comes into a rural community
15 that it's going to be an economic boom for the
16 community and for the agriculture industry.

17 John Ikert takes exception to that and
18 states that in his experience that not a single
19 community where CAFO's represent a significant
20 segment of the local economy is looked upon today
21 as a model of economic success or prosperity.
22 These again are his findings over ten years of
23 experience in his economic experience at the
24 University of Missouri.

25 He also references the sustainability of

1 CAFO's and that they are not sustainable. They
2 often go to rural communities and they search out
3 those communities that are economically
4 depressed. They say that they're going to bring
5 economic prosperity to these communities and
6 then years later when the resources are depleted
7 and the area is saturated with the waste from
8 these CAFO's they move on and they try to find
9 other rural communities.

10 They use the profits that they gain by the
11 power that they have both in buying power and
12 marketing power over the family farmer. They
13 distribute those profits strictly to shareholders
14 and corporate executives and do not put that
15 money back into the land. They had no ties with
16 the land. They have no reason to put that money
17 back into the land; whereas, the family farmer
18 does.

19 The family farmer takes those profits,
20 sinks it back into the land so that farm can be
21 sustained through generations and can be passed
22 down from father to son to grandson and beyond.

23 The social impacts are -- John Ikert has
24 alluded to the social impacts and ranging from low
25 wage jobs and increased crime as other speakers

1 have talked about. They decrease the value of the
2 rural communities. There's resource depletion,
3 pollution of the area and people don't want to
4 move into communities where CAFO's are or have
5 been because of those factors. Clean air and clean
6 water and low crime is a lot of the reasons that
7 people seek out rural communities to live and with
8 CAFO's that is not the case.

9 The new farm bill, the 15 million -- in the
10 new farm bill that's being proposed, \$15 million
11 has been allocated for rural development and the
12 CAFO's seem to conflict with that rural
13 development because CAFO's, according to John
14 Ikert, actually degrade the rural development and
15 so the federal money is coming in trying to repair
16 damage done by the CAFO's.

17 My experience with -- this information I
18 can apply to Moark, which Mark Adams had talked
19 of, and all of these things have happened at
20 Moark. They have gone to three different
21 communities trying to build new facilities and to
22 get rid of the older facilities that they've had for
23 10 to 20 years. Those three communities rejected

24 Moark so Moark had to come back to their original
25 site. They had to tear down the old houses, put up

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1 new houses and they have to truck out the manure
2 because the area around them is so saturated with
3 manure they can no longer spread manure in the
4 local area.

5 There is tremendous public opposition to
6 this company expanding and building a new
7 facility. There is an appeal Mark Adams alluded
8 to, the appeal that is in place to try to stop this.
9 Thousands of citizens have come out against this
10 CAFO expanding. And if CAFO's are so good, then
11 why is this community, and this is not a unique
12 community, why is it so opposed to this CAFO
13 rebuilding and expanding. It doesn't make sense.

14 MR. CARLIN: I'm going to need to kind of
15 cut you off there. Anybody want to ask a question
16 in regard to his opinion on we shouldn't sleep well
17 tonight?

18 MR. ANDREWS: Scare me.

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19 MR. BOYT: Thank you. I want to talk
20 about bird flu. Obviously, there are other viruses
21 that cause problems in the poultry industry. The
22 bird flu is at the forefront. There have been in the
23 last -- since 2003 in Southeast Asia, China,
24 Africa, Europe outbreaks of the H5N1 virus.
25 Hundreds of millions of birds have been either

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1 killed or have died from the disease. The majority
2 of these birds, and this conflicts with some of the
3 information you've had before, the majority of this
4 comes from what they call commercial poultry
5 operations.

6 They may not be CAFO's in the true sense
7 of the word here in Arkansas or in Missouri but
8 they are confined units with large numbers of
9 birds and some may be outside, some may be
10 inside. The fact remains that the majority of the
11 birds that died, died in these commercial units,
12 not backyard flocks.

13 We in the United States have had a high
14 path influenza outbreak, several high path avian
15 influenza outbreaks in the past. The most recent
16 in 2004 I believe in Texas. It was relatively -- a
17 relative short duration and it was the H5N2, which
18 is slightly different than the H5N1, still a high
19 path avian influenza.

20 In '83 and '84 had a tremendous outbreak

21 in the eastern United States with high path avian
22 influenza, again, H5N2. 17 million birds were
23 either killed or died from the disease. A lengthy
24 eradication effort costing a great deal of money
25 and these were in CAFO's. These weren't backyard

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1 flocks or the majority. I won't say they weren't
2 all, but the majority were in confined units, so
3 there is a big danger for avian influenza in
4 CAFO's.

5 You don't have to have a lot of birds to
6 come in to cause an infection. One gram of
7 manure infected with avian influenza is enough to
8 infect a million birds. You can have feed trucks
9 going down the highway, somebody that has an
10 avian influenza outbreak on their farm, it gets the
11 manure on the highway then the feed trucks for a
12 CAFO hit that manure and take it right to their
13 facility. Bang, you've got a major problem, major
14 infection.

15 MR. CARLIN: Well, I think you've
16 adequately answered the question. I wasn't giving
17 you an extension to give another speech. Michael,
18 do you have a question?

19 MR. BLACKWELL: I do. I'm curious
20 about your position on getting to the future and
21 feeding a large population in the U.S., U.S. based
22 animal protein. Can you envision such a future
23 without CAFO's?

24 MR. BOYT: I think, yes, I do. And I
25 think it would cause a resurgence in small farms,

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1 family farms and rural development in the United
2 States.

3 MR. BLACKWELL: So how do you make
4 that happen when there's a trend away from, you
5 know, interest in farming?

6 MR. BOYT: The trend is based on profit
7 and CAFO's can operate very efficiently, sometimes
8 with greater efficiency than a family farm because
9 of their buying power and their marketing power.
10 They also -- without regulation of the waste that
11 they produce and the resources that they use, they
12 can out compete the family farmers, but they're
13 not sustainable, and in that fact we may have a
14 low cost protein source, but it's not on a solid
15 foundation and it cannot be sustained. And
16 CAFO's have given us a false foundation for that
17 low cost animal protein.

18 And also the profits, John Ikert alluded to

19 this, the large CAFO's haven't really reduced the
20 cost of the protein supply. What profits they make
21 are between the production and the retail and they
22 can control those markets and they take those
23 profits; whereas, the family farmer cannot control
24 those and they take those profits and they
25 distribute it to their corporate executives and the

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1 shareholders and they really haven't lowered the
2 price of the animal protein.

3 MR. BLACKWELL: So let me make sure I
4 understand. If the level of earnings, what level of
5 living one can make, and that business were to be
6 improved, do you think more people would go into
7 farming like we saw in the past? In other words,
8 you mean profits to the individual family farmer --

9 MR. BOYT: I think if -- I think I
10 understand your question. I think that if CAFO's
11 were to pay the cost on sustainability or, in other
12 words, if they become sustainable, the price of
13 food will go up and in turn the family farmers will
14 make more money and it will increase -- give an
15 incentive for more people to move to the farms and
16 to produce that protein supply.

17 MR. CARLIN: Thank you very much.

18 MR. BOYT: Can I add one thing, one
19 thing, please?

20 MR. CARLIN: Very short.

21 MR. BOYT: Okay. One of the speakers
22 said that if you cook the meat or the eggs or
23 whatever to 165°, no avian influenza. Okay.
24 That's a false sense of security because the
25 protein that comes and the people that produce it,

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1 the slaughter houses that process it, the people
2 who collect the eggs and the processors that
3 package it send it to the market. That's all raw,
4 never been cooked, any avian influenza is still
5 there. The homemaker who takes the chicken out
6 of the bag, raw chicken, avian influenza is still
7 there and can infect people if the jump is made
8 between avian influenza bird flu and human
9 influenza. We've got the big, big problems and I
10 wouldn't sleep well at night knowing that.

11 MR. CARLIN: Thank you. What a great
12 way to end.

13 MR. BOYT: I'm sorry.