

Remarks for Kentucky:

I suppose that we in agriculture have always been confronted with challenges:

I think of my grandfather and how he transitioned from horses to tractor power---and why.

And him being involved as a farmer in political life; how he had disdain for the government intervening in managing commodity supply and price---it's an issue that been around before any of us were even born.

And my Dad,...and how he decided to finally use herbicides in 1961 when a late wet spring literally allowed the weeds to take a corn and soybean crop.

I also recall how my wife and I started farming with nothing but our Purdue degrees in 1970---and figured out how to make a life of farming,...

fulfilling a dream really,...for having nothing to begin with.

All of it was challenging---it seemed impossible at times to see the positive;

yet we were driven by a dream and somehow made it---because, like my grandfather and father's generation, the answers were found primarily in ourselves.

It was up to us to work through our own problems---which is, or was, the opportunity that we called America.

Point is, at 60+,...I now realize that we had relatively little influence from outside the farm based on any comparison drawn with what we experience today.

Things do seem to be changing,...perhaps it's my reaching sixty years of age and spending too much time looking back; but the answer is getting harder it seems,...

simply because we are increasingly being impacted by things that are beyond our own control on the farm.

Our own government, the activists that work everyday to change public attitudes and how we do things, and even our own industry differences,...

present some overwhelming challenges,...
a significant roadblock to business,...
and our "way of life."

It is doing it in such a way that I lament whether my children,...

entering agriculture at present...can share an optimism and enthusiasm for things to work out well as they did for my generation based on their own inherent abilities.

In fact, for the first time in my life, one has to wonder,...
based on what we read and hear from the public,

if we have remaining value and respect once bestowed on us as a farmer.

or if rather,...we're really just an ego centric, greedy bunch of neo-capitalists on the mission to only sell our souls to the highest bidder and blundering through our vocational choice to destroy the world's natural resources upon which we depend?

It's a strong statement,...but there are days as I read the headlines that I have to wonder what we really represent when judged by our city cousins?

As stated by our detractors that view modern agriculture as a significant problem in the modern world, one must conclude some days that we are on the wrong path... if they come bearing truth.

No where is this more apparent than in the environmental arena where we are frequently being blamed for the failures of the natural system which we rely upon to produce.

I would urge you to listen to the professionals that are leading the international aid development,... (I've worked there with them)

And consider their admonition to avoid modeling any agricultural development in the world based on the US model.

Why?

Because it is viewed by them---as a tragic conclusion of overextended capitalism,...mixed with technology gone awry.

From this it's clear that the international economic development intelligentsia (World Bank, FAO, USAID) is saying---don't trust the model that has made the US the best in the world in producing food and fiber at a nominal consumer cost to society.

For in that model there are significant errors in judgment for the form and style of production such that the world dare not duplicate.

Environments that are ruined, animals that are abused, communities that are being lost in the move toward scale of operation,...

and still poor people world-wide that are denied access to food.

All of this,... and more,... much more,...is being laid at our doorstep in agriculture,...

and you know, some days,...when you've worked 14 hours and tried to figure out how to lift the mortgage,...

It simply hurts a little bit to listen to the rhetoric that reveals that those being fed and clothed are so easily influenced to believe that we've been that neglectful as to cause so many of these societal problems.

Is it that,...OR,...perhaps it's just that the criticism from the detractors is simply their way to draw attention to themselves for their own fame and fortune.

I more and more subscribe to the latter,...that's clearly a stated bias,
BUT that doesn't address the problem....

So,...what's this mean? Let's take a look at the challenges as I laid them out in my first remarks,...

for a few minutes let's consider how much government now impacts us as compared historically.

Government has never been so large with so many components--- which is a clear warning sign to us.

If we're talking about business activity in the private sector, the majority of people in government service are focused on making and enforcing regulatory decisions which in some way puts limits on business activity.

I seldom hear a government employee offer how to do a private business activity in a better, or more efficient, manner as a point of reference.

However, just spend a bit listening to any farmer about the requirements now to stay in compliance with the "rules" that are now handed down....

I was stunned having left the farm in 2001 and then return to it 6 years later to discover the paperwork and official reporting that I now had to do,

And/or the permission I now had to ask for to do the most basic of farm functions. Just a few examples---

- In depth permits and inspections for confined livestock operations---including public comments on operations
- Containment for fuels, chemicals and other potentially harmful substances commonly used around the farm---
- Manure is no longer a resource, but rather, a “toxic substance.”
- Record keeping for practically every function on the farm related to inputs or manure applied
- Records for each employee to meet various employment and immigration service standards
- Reporting for the community right to know requirement on what’s stored at the farm
- Chemical and fuel spill emergency plans developed, and on site for inspection by the state environmental agency

I know I’ve just touched the surface and only based on our farm,...but it’s phenomenal in volume growth over the last decade for all of agriculture.

And then I still read clipping services to stay in touch much like we had at USDA.

I find the headlines instructive of what is on the minds of people----- here’s some just from the past couple of months:

- **Farmers face crackdown on pesticide use in Washington State over water quality concerns**---Farmers in Washington State and across the nation could face severe restrictions on the use of pesticides as environmentalists, spurred by a favorable legal ruling, want the courts to force federal regulators to protect endangered species from the effects of agricultural chemicals. The Washington State Department of Agriculture says such restrictions would prevent pesticide use on 75 percent of the state’s farmlands.

- **State Plans to Regulate Phosphorus in Lakes but** it will take many initiatives to slow down nutrient pollution of Indiana's lakes. The Star Press, July 19, 2010 And after years of dragging its feet, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management is embarking on rule-making to establish numeric standards for phosphorus levels in lakes. Through the state chemist's office, Indiana soon will become one of the first states to require certification and training of commercial applicators of fertilizer, including manure, on farm fields.
- **Editorial: Control your dust---or else** On July 8, 2010, EPA released its new Policy Assessment for the Review of the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard. EPA is building the case to further regulate farm dust, or what the agency calls a standard for Thoracic Coarse Particles, otherwise known as PM10. A number of agricultural organizations are suggesting, based on their review, that such a new standard "would be devastating for agricultural and other resource-based operations..." One must ask why does EPA desire to regulate agricultural dust? The agency claims studies "suggest" there may be health problems that must be addressed in certain populations.
- **U.S. dietary guidelines hard to swallow**
The public health establishment has been wrong before. As a recent review of the latest research in Scientific American magazine noted, ever since the first set of federal guidelines appeared in 1980, Americans have been told to reduce their intake of saturated fat by cutting back on meat and dairy products and replacing them with carbohydrates. Americans have dutifully complied, and the rate of obesity has increased sharply.
- **Meat Producers Are Now In Government's Crosshairs**
It seemed like we were kind of left out of the discussion - until

now. It just took a little longer to get around to us. Last month, a government report was released that questions the current dietary guidelines, implying that the consumption of meat, poultry and eggs should be reduced. What's disturbing is that while far more evidence exists that junk food, as well as other foods, contribute more to obesity than meat consumption, meat will be a target because a more plant-based diet has a lot of supporters based on other political concerns. As hard as it is to grasp, for most of us, we are seen as part of the problem instead of a vital part of the solution.

- **Schwarzenegger Signs Landmark Egg Bill into Law**
LA Times, July 6, 2010
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Tuesday signed legislation into law requiring that eggs sold in California come from hens that are not crammed into cages. The law requires all eggs sold in the state as of Jan. 1, 2015, to come from hens able to stand up, fully extend their limbs, lie down and fully extend their wings without touching each other or the sides of cages.
- **FDA Warns on Antibiotics in Livestock**
Wall Street Journal, June 29, 2010
The Food and Drug Administration, worried about the rise of drug-resistant pathogens, stepped up its campaign Monday to discourage the use of human antibiotics in farm animals. The agency took an official position in a draft guidance paper that the livestock industry should stop feeding antibiotics to healthy hogs, chickens and cattle, commonly done because it tends to speed their growth.
- **Antibiotics in livestock affect humans, USDA testifies**
There is a clear link between the use of antibiotics in livestock and drug resistance in humans, President Barack Obama's administration says, a position sharply at odds with

agribusiness interests. In testimony to a House committee on Wednesday, even the Agriculture Department, which livestock producers have traditionally relied on to advocate for their interests, backed the idea of a link between animal use of antibiotics and human health. The Agriculture Department "believes that it is likely that the use of antimicrobials in animal agriculture does lead to some cases of antimicrobial resistance among humans and in animals themselves," said John Clifford, the USDA chief veterinarian.

The Des Moines Register

I could go on---the list on government intervention is long and growing...

And the issue that concerns me most is just now beginning to surface in the first headline I shared---though it's been around since 1992.

Frankly I've been worried about spray drift more than any other item as it begs a solution for which there seems to be no answer for technologically.

AS it did for the forestry industry in 1990 with the spotted owl, endangered species reports will once again appear frequently in media reports, perhaps in the context of the spray drift issue,...

If this does finally emerge and mature,...the outcome will have a severe impact on grain farming practices and most horticultural operations nationwide.

So government is a major source of detraction to farm production,...but that's only one side of the coin.

The other side is really the driving force that causes government to respond,...and that's those in the activist arena that push these issues.

Let's take a look at the headlines there:

- Viewpoints: Group's Goal is for an Egg-Less America**
 Sacramento Bee, July 24, 2010
 Everyone with a head on his shoulders believes in the humane treatment of animals. But egg farmers and American consumers will soon face a choice between what's actually humane and what some animal activists claim is humane. It may seem like a hair-splitting exercise, but the wrong choice will send American egg farmers the way of the telegraph operator. In 2008 California voters passed Proposition 2, which, among other things, required egg farmers to build facilities by 2015 that allow laying hens to have more freedom of movement. And a newly signed California law expands this requirement to the 49 other states by requiring that all eggs sold in California come from producers who abide by Proposition 2 standards.
- Mink farm raid claimed by animal rights activists**
 "We delivered eight incendiary devices to the lovely folks at Ylipelto's Fur Farm." The fires reportedly damaged a building, a boat, a car, two forklifts and a front-end loader. It was the first arson attack in Oregon by animal rights activists in several years.
- Animal Cruelty is but Only One CAFO Crime**
 Bloomington Alternative, July 25, 2010
 Rick Dove said he brought the North Carolina story to Indiana to help Hoosiers who are dealing with a similarly unhealthy infiltration of CAFOs into their bioregions. Soon after he took office in 2005, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels moved on his campaign pledge to double pork production in Indiana and allowed the very corporations that had destroyed North Carolina to operate in Indiana, effectively unregulated. Since then, enormous portions of the state's agricultural areas have effectively become unlivable. Homes have become prisons. The air and water have become polluted. And workers and livestock -- primarily swine, cattle and poultry -- have been forced to coexist under inhumane conditions....

- **Why Factory Farms Threaten Your Health**

The Huffington Post, July 23, 2010

One of the techniques modern factory farms routinely use to increase weight in livestock is to give all of the animals a dose of antibiotics with every meal. When this is done, the bacteria in the animals' guts that are susceptible to the drugs are killed. When this practice is ongoing, it creates a microbial vacuum in the animals' intestines that gives an extraordinary competitive advantage to any bacteria that develop resistance to the antibiotics. If your goal was to breed bacteria that could not be controlled by antibiotics, you could hardly design a more effective system. It is not entirely an exaggeration to say that as a result, factory farms have become biological weapons factories.

- **10 Ways Vegetarianism can Help Save the Planet**

The Observer (United Kingdom), July 18, 2010

The average British carnivore eats more than 11,000 animals in their lifetime, each requiring vast amounts of land, fuel and water to reach the plate. It's time to think of waste as well as taste. If we really want to reduce the human impact on the environment, the simplest and cheapest thing anyone can do is to eat less meat. Behind most of the joints of beef or chicken on our plates is a phenomenally wasteful, land- and energy-hungry system of farming that devastates forests, pollutes oceans, rivers, seas and air, depends on oil and coal, and is significantly responsible for climate change. The way we breed animals is now recognised by the UN, scientists, economists and politicians as giving rise to many interlinked human and ecological problems

- **Agriculture might have impact on pregnancies**

That's the conclusion of researchers at Indiana University School of Medicine studying the possible effects of agricultural pollutants on fetal development. The study, headed by Dr. Paul Winchester, a clinical professor there and director of

Neonatology at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, has gained recent national attention in the media.....it correlates births conceived between the months April and July and an increased risk of birth defects.

Muncie Star Press

- **Raising 4H animals destined for slaughter on public property causes concern for some**

The slaughtering of animals purchased by the families of children in the Wagner Farm 4H club has caused some controversy and the backlash has escalated recently, and as Saturday's auction nears, the protests have grown louder. The lawyer for a local activist has written a letter to the farm trying to halt the upcoming auction, and a protest is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday at Wagner Farm. *Chicago Tribune*

- **The “organic” path to obesity?**

Organic claims influence calorie judgments and exercise recommendations. Writing in the journal Judgment and Decision Making last month, two University of Michigan psychology professors reported that claims of “organic” influenced how fattening people thought a food to be. The researchers found that subjects who were told that cookies were “organic” were likely to underestimate the number of calories in them. Interviewees were also less critical of someone for eating an organic dessert and skipping exercise, compared with a person who ate a “conventional” dessert and blew off that same workout.

Journal.sjdm.org

- **Is Food the New Sex?**

Of all the truly seismic shifts transforming daily life today — deeper than our financial fissures, wider even than our most obvious political and cultural divides — one of the most important is also among the least remarked. That is the chasm in attitude that separates almost all of us living in the West

today from almost all of our ancestors, over two things without which human beings cannot exist: food and sex. Hoover.org
(The lengthy article goes on to demonstrate how a grandmother and granddaughter look at things differently in modern America. For the grandmother, sex was a moral issue and food was a common societal need based on personal preference. Now in a reversal of thought, the modern granddaughter views sex as a personal preference, and food as a moral issue based on where and how it is produced.)

So the question,...does this kind of material in the reading and viewing public make any difference?

In the short run, perhaps not,...much of it is “just opinions.”

But we can see a shift of public attitudes---the recent Ohio negotiations with HSUS is a good indicator of how this finally transpires to change.

This discussion has been going on for years about confinement of livestock,...but finally enough deplorable images of animals being tortured in their environment are shown,...

that **any** animal raised in such a situation is cruel and unacceptable, even though that doesn't reflect the majority of producers.

Finally the voters pass judgment in Florida and California,...

and the farm community in Ohio decides to negotiate rather than allow it on the ballot and have the legislature make the decision about animal production.

Yes, efficiencies will be lost to raise livestock in different housing, and yes, less product will make it to the grocery store, and yes, it will cost more to the consumer.

Michael Pollan talks openly about how fortunate he is to be able to pay \$8/dozen for organic eggs grown locally---which is his view of average American society and its ability to pay-

As a result,.... food costs become a distant issue to the majority of the consuming public,...and yet, the footprint of food, if the article about the grandmother and grand daughter does have any relevance--becomes the issue that now influences attitudes and it's consumption.

That's where so many of us shake our head, yet,...

we have to confront this attitude. **To not do so is very dangerous.**

Now for the sidebar though---the ones ultimately affected will be those that might have recently come within the means of affording more meat and dairy products only to have the price now move away from their capacity to pay.

With the caveat---If they're not involved in government assisted food programs like Food Stamps and Women and Infant/children program.

In affluent America, cost really doesn't make any difference at the end of the day.

I saw this too close and personal when we lived in the DC area--- which is why the increased cost issue,...when raised by agriculture, doesn't resonate with the public---they simply don't believe it will happen.

In fact, this is the major issue of the food system,...with every hurdle that is placed in front of the ability to produce in this country, we raise the final cost of the product.

Yet, for the more affluent societies (and I argue the decision makers within that society)--- that doesn't make much difference,...but for those in the developing world that live on less than \$5/day---this increase in food cost is the most serious issue they face.

And a problem that is a game changer for world political stability. The root of terrorism is hunger fed by poverty.

That was the issue of Afghanistan in the southern reaches in 2004-2007. We failed to address the poverty issue and the Taliban filled the void.

The result was---we never secured the peace. Still haven't and now won't.

So we have the government,...and the advocates against the technology system of agriculture,...what a challenge!!

but I when I listen to the rhetoric I still wonder if the most powerful of the difficulties doesn't remain somewhere else,...i.e., with ourselves.

By that I mean the fractures between various ag groups that set us at odds with one another.

The saying is "a house divided will not stand." That means when under attack from external sources,...the battles within allow the detractors the superior advantage.

I watch the headlines in this arena as well, and it seems there isn't a group that hasn't in the past 3-4 years endured challenges within the ranks,...

Livestock against grain producers over grain prices related to biofuel production,

internal organizational strife in the beef and soybean industry,

the sharp division between organic and conventional,

the battle over government support programs between the different commodity groups,

The health claims of which commodity product is better for human health,

Even the “Happy Cow” issue that recently arose pitting California dairy producers against the rest of the countries dairy farmers.

That’s just a short list of the things that internally we fight over.

And while it seems important to certain individuals within these organizations---particularly the administrative staff,...

it’s especially destructive to the common cause we’re about.

First, it’s just these things that confuse the political process---how many times I heard from a congressman or senator to “get our act together” and then come back for their assistance---

And, more troublesome, it demonstrates to those that oppose us that we have trouble uniting well enough to overcome their assertions to the public that we are spoiling their health and environment.

Burdened by our own arguments,...we lose.

So If there is one message that I would like to have heard,...it’s that we in agriculture figure out how to lay aside the differences long enough,...or better yet, work them out,...

Such that we can present a unified front against what I think are absolutely unprecedented challenges to the industry.

If we fail to do this, then I will remain pessimistic for my children and their vocational choice of agriculture.

However, if we can overcome this malady, as you have in your strategic planning exercise, I can find a glimmer of hope again.

I told Kathy yesterday I was really struggling with this situation as talking with you forced me to confront how I feel about agriculture in the context of what I’ve shared.

And I want to be positive,...last thing I want to do is share gloom and doom---particularly with my children.

But the only way I see a way clear is for agriculture to set aside the internal strife and present a consolidated front.

We're small in number, and the job we have to do with the public is large in terms of telling the story.

Are there some problems and issues we need to address?-absolutely. Some naturally developed as we didn't have a perfect road map to progress.

But putting forward a united front is the first,..and most important step.

We can't have a divided house. If we do, we lose.

And when we lose, I still believe American society loses as well.

Food production will go other places in the world,...

and then our problems will really start to mount within our culture.

Importing oil, capital to run the country,...and then our food.

Seems like a serious problem to me. But depending on the choices we make here in the next few years we can change this...

It national security pure and simple for me, but others must be convinced.

In a strange way, agriculture,... and what we confront at present, plays a significant role in that outcome.

Thank you

One evening an old Indian told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, "My son, it is between two wolves."

"One is Evil. That one is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and asked his grandfather,

"Which wolf wins?"

The Grandfather simply replied, "The one you feed."