

NOSB Spring 2016 PowerPoint

Slide 1: Cornucopia logo

My name is Mark Kastel. I act as The Cornucopia Institute's Senior Farm Policy Analyst. I am proud to be here today representing our approximately 10,000 members, including a sizable percentage of organic farmers in the US.

When you hear some in the industry denigrating our credibility they are dissing these hard-working farmers, including many of the Agrarian Elders and leading voices in organic agriculture.

This industry has morphed from farmer-led to an oligarchy, my comments today will help connect some of the dots.

Slide 2A: CAFO dairy

Now that we have the **"pasture rule"** we still have giant CAFOs placing ethical farmers at a competitive disadvantage. Many are milking three, even four times a day. 100% confinement for their top producing cows.

We have filed a number of formal complaints including against the WhiteWave/Horizon dairy in Idaho. They've never been investigated by the USDA. But their certifier, QAI, says that they're in compliance. Case closed.

Slide 2B: CAFO dairy

WhiteWave's chief lobbyist sits on the OTA board and has been instrumental in the appointment of current and past NOSB members. Power and money speaks loudly in Washington.

Slide 3A: Egg CAFO

Miles McEvoy sent a letter to the industry, 5 ½ years ago, explicitly saying that organic producers must "...provide livestock with an opportunity to exit any barn or other enclosed structure."

Slide 3B: Egg CAFO

Other structure. That would mean a porch. Five and half years later, no enforcement.

Slide 4: oceangoing grain ship

Today, in 2016, the vast preponderance of organic corn, soybeans and many other grains are being imported from countries with a history of endemic commercial fraud — with incredibly weak oversight by the USDA.

Slide: 5 OMRI logo

And who's minding the organic materials chicken coop?

Congress, explicitly, empowered the NOSB to hire technical review scientists. The USDA has always violated this provision of the law.

At one point the OTA's scientific arm was doing TR's. Now one of the most prolific contractors is the Organic Materials Review Institute.

They get over \$2.5 million a year worth of funding from the industry they are scrutinizing. Their board includes executives from Phillips Mushroom Farms (former NOSB member), OTA and many other industry interests. Who are the authors of the reports? We don't know — they're secret.

We do know that their technical reviews have conveniently left out many scientific reports that would be damaging to industry interests.

Slide 6: NOSB scorecard

Some of the most prominent brands represented on this board have the lowest scores in our NOSB voting scorecard.

Slide 7: list of nonprofits

Cornucopia “**radical**” scoring criterion is **100%** compatible with other NGOs in the organic community.

I am appealing to new NOSB members, and the veteran members who are truly dedicated to organics and willing to take a hard and independent look. Please consider the comments of Cornucopia scientists and other qualified NGOs.

Slide 8: Cornucopia logo

No issue is more important than **tabling** the power grab by the USDA, in the form of the rewritten Policy and Procedure Manual. **Please vote to retain NOSB control over the future of this industry.**

Thank you very much.....