

# Latham Letter

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 4

FALL 1992

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

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- Research on Successful Pet Adoptions (Page 9).
- Sea Turtle Saviors in the Florida Keys (Page 12).
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### The Latham Foundation Examines Cattle Industry

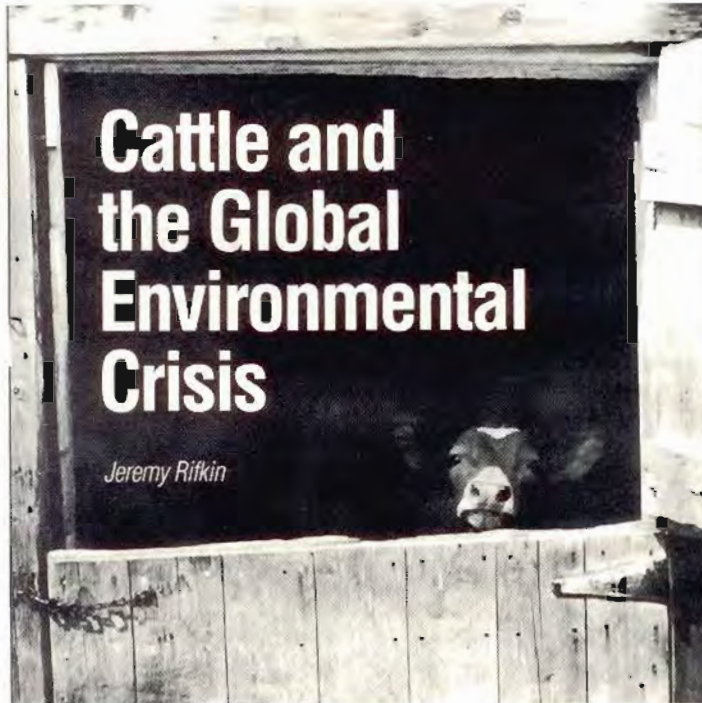


Is beef still an essential part of our diet? Or are environmental and health concerns leading Americans "Beyond Beef?"

To help our readers understand this controversial topic, this issue of the *Latham Letter* presents a variety of disparate convictions about the U.S. cattle industry and its impact on society.

Pro: Pages 2, 16, 19

Con: Pages 1, 15, 18



Martin Deutsch of Springfield, New Jersey won "Best in Show" in the American Humane Association's Capture the Love photo contest.

In all the ongoing public debates around the global environmental crisis, a curious silence surrounds the issue of cattle, one of the most destructive environmental threats of the modern era. Cattle grazing is a primary cause of the spreading desertification process that is responsible for the destruction of much of the earth's remaining tropical rain forests. Cattle raising is indirectly responsible for the rapid depletion of fresh water on the planet, with some reservoirs and aquifers now at their lowest levels since the end of the last Ice Age. Cattle are a chief source of organic pollu-

tion; cow dung is poisoning the freshwater lakes, rivers, and the streams of the world.

Growing herds of cattle are exerting unprecedented pressure on the carrying capacity of natural ecosystems, edging entire species of wildlife to the brink of extinction. Cattle are a growing source of global warming, and their increasing numbers now threaten the very chemical nature of the biosphere. Most Americans and Europeans are simply unaware of the devastation wrought by the world's cattle. Now numbering over a million, these ancient ungulates roam the

GLOBAL CRISIS, continued on page 3

## Why Are There Too Many Euthanasias?

### Pet Population Dynamics

Thomas E. Cantanzaro, DVM, MHA

I have just returned from an interdisciplinary Pet Overpopulation Workshop at the University of Minnesota. Everyone with a national interest was represented, from the American Humane Association, the Humane Society of the United States, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Kennel Club, Cat Fanciers, to the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Animal Hospital Association. The meeting was also loaded with academic researchers, epidemiologists, population scientists, and others who care about too many animals being killed every year.

### Two Decades of Inertia

The main impact on me was the amazing fact the problem had not changed after 20 years of these kind of meetings. Granted, strays have decreased in cities with strict leash laws.

EUTHANASIAS, continued on page 7

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## EDITORIAL



Hugh H. Tebault

## Talk About Human Resistance!

The degree of humane resistance to a change of habits is remarkable. In fact, it is sometimes extremely difficult to distinguish it from apathy, plain stubbornness or occasionally, an esoteric death wish. This is especially so, when that resistance is martialled against ones personal welfare and/or other vital, life-supporting elements. Consider if you will, the determined resistance regularly demonstrated by those of us who continue to smoke, use alcohol and other drugs, overeat and under-exercise. Are we not like those with ears who will not hear and those with eyes who will not see? We allow our obdurate obstinacy to prevail in the presence of continued, frequently documented, and always unfavorable moral, physical, social, economic and ecological

RESISTANCE, continued on page 10

## Scientific and Medical Authorities Respond to "Beyond Beef" Campaign

**Editor's Note:** The Food Facts Coalition charges that Jeremy Rifkin displays a total disregard for science and a lack of understanding of how American agriculture operates. A large number of science and medical professionals have refuted Rifkin's claims and criticized his book for its factual errors and insupportable conclusions.

Here they refute various allegations in *Beyond Beef*. Further information is available from the Food Facts Coalition at 202-371-0200.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

**Q:** Would putting an end to cattle-raising eliminate the problem of world hunger?

**A:** No. The problem of world hunger is complex and multifaceted. While it is tempting to look for a quick and easy answer—as Mr. Rifkin does in wrongly blaming the cow—real problems require real solutions. Mr. Rifkin attempts to draw a correlation between the grain cattle consume, and the lack of grain to feed the hungry. For most of the last three decades, however, the U.S. has had surplus grain production. Yet that increase has failed to alleviate world hunger. Avoidance of meat will do nothing to direct grain to the hungry. In fact, grain will not be grown unless there is a market for it. The problem of the hungry is not meat-eating in the U.S.: it is buying

power. The real solutions to world hunger, most experts agree, are relief programs and economic development in poor countries, which provide people the ability to produce or purchase and distribute more food.

According to Dr. Harry Mussman, DVM, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDA, quoting from "The World Food Situation and Prospects, 1985" in 1990, "When some eat so well and others are malnourished, there is much appeal to the argument that meat consumption should be reduced to free grain for hungry people. This is, however, neither an efficient nor an effective way to accomplish the objective of feeding the world's truly hungry. The majority of the world's hungry need rice or wheat. These are a small fraction of

the grain consumed by ruminant livestock. Also, grain is only a small fraction of the total feed consumed by ruminant livestock. They eat mostly roughage, which would not be available as human food unless converted to livestock products."

**Q:** What do experts say about the safety of the American food supply?

**A:** There is no question that Americans can and should have confidence in the safety of their food supply. In order to ensure the safety of food, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture work together to issue and enforce a myriad of strict guidelines. Based on

RESPONSE, continued on page 4



# The Latham Letter

© Latham Foundation 1992

Published Quarterly By

The Latham Foundation  
Latham Plaza Building  
Clement and Schiller Streets  
Alameda, California 94501  
510-521-0920 Fax 510-521-9861

Annual Subscription Rate  
\$12.00

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1909 - 1989


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*GLOBAL CRISIS, continued from page 1*

countryside, trampling the soil, stripping the vegetation bare, laying waste to large tracts of earth's biomass.

## Hoofed Locusts of the Rain Forest

Since 1960 more than 25 percent of Central America's forests have been cleared to create pastureland for grazing cattle. By the late 1970's, two thirds of all the agricultural land in Central America was occupied by cattle and other livestock, most of it destined for North American dinner tables. American consumers save, on the average, a nickel on every hamburger imported from Central America, but the cost to the environment is overwhelming and irreversible. Each imported hamburger requires the clearing of six square yards of jungle for pasture.

The creation of a vast cattle complex in Central America has enriched the lives of a few wealthy landowners and their political allies, pauperized much of the rural peasantry, and spawned widespread social unrest and political upheaval. More than half the rural families in Central America—35 million people—are now landless or own too little to support themselves, while the landed aristocracy and transnational corporations continue to gobble up every available acre, using much of it for pastureland.

This destructive pattern of forest clearing, land concentration, and displacement of peasant populations is being repeated throughout Latin America. In Mexico, 37 million acres of forests have been destroyed since 1987 to provide additional grazing land for cattle. Mexican ecologist Gabriel Quadri summed up the feelings of many of his countrymen when he warned,

"We are exporting the future of Mexico for the benefit of a few powerful cattle farmers."

## The Wasting of the Land

The destructive impact of cattle extends well beyond the rain forest to include vast stretches of the earth's land. Cattle are now a major cause of desertification around the planet.

Today about 1.3 billion cattle are trampling and stripping much of the vegetative cover from the earth's remaining grasslands. Each animal eats its way through 900 pounds of vegetation a

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*"More than 60 percent of the world's rangeland has been damaged by overgrazing during the past half century."*

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month. Without flora to anchor the soil, absorb the water, and recycle the nutrients, the land has become increasingly vulnerable to wind and water erosion. And the cattle destroy the land in still another way: their powerful hoofs compact the soil with the pressure of 24 pounds per square inch. The soil compaction reduces the air space between particles, reducing the amount of water that can be absorbed. The soil is less able to hold water from the spring melting of snow and is more prone to erosion from flash floods. More than 60 percent of the world's rangeland has been damaged by overgrazing during the past half century.

The United Nations estimates that 29 percent of the earth's landmass now suffers "slight, moderate, or severe

desertification." Some 850 million people live on land threatened by desertification. More than 230 million people live on land so severely desertified that they are unable to sustain their existence and face the prospect of increasing malnutrition and starvation.

In the United States, cattle are destroying much of the West. Between two and three million cattle are currently grazing on hundreds of millions of acres of public land in 11 western states. While western beef cattle make up only a small percentage of the beef production in the United States, they cause significant environmental destruction. According to a 1991 report prepared by the United Nations, more than 450 million acres on the western range are suffering a 25 to 50 percent reduction in yield, in part because of the overgrazing of cattle.

Philip Fradkin, writing in Audubon magazine, summed up the dimensions of this crisis—a crisis that has, until now, remained among the country's best kept environmental secrets: "The impact of countless hooves and mouths over the years has done more to alter the type of vegetation and land forms of the West than all the water projects, strip mines, power plants, freeways, and sub-division developments combined."

## Warming the Planet with Beef

The grain-fed-cattle complex is now a significant factor in the emission of three of the gases that cause the greenhouse effect—methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide—and is likely to play an even larger role in global warming in the coming decades.

*GLOBAL CRISIS, continued next page*

The burning of fossil fuel accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 8.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere in 1987. The other third came from the increased burning of the forests and grasslands. Plants take in and store carbon dioxide in the process of photosynthesis. When they die or are burned, they release the stored-up carbon—often accumulated over hundreds of years—back into the atmosphere. When the trees are cleared and burned to make room for the cattle pastures, they emit a massive volume of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Still, the burning of forests for pastureland is only part of the story. Commercial cattle ranching contributes to global warming in other ways. Our highly mechanized agricultural sector also uses a sizable amount of fossil fuel. With 70 percent of all U.S. grain production now devoted to livestock feed, much of it for cattle, the energy burned by farm machinery and transport vehicles just to produce and ship the feed represents a significant addition to carbon dioxide emissions.

It now takes the equivalent of a gallon of gasoline to produce a pound of grain-fed beef in the United States. To sustain the yearly beef requirements of an average family of four requires the use of more than 260 gallons of fossil fuel. Moreover, to produce feed crops for grain-fed cattle requires the use of petrochemical fertilizers and other sources now accounts for 6 percent of the global warming effect.

Finally, cattle themselves emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Although methane is also emitted from peat bogs, rice paddies, and landfills, the

growing cattle population accounts for much of the increase in methane emissions over the past several decades. Methane emissions are responsible for 18 percent of the gases causing the global warming trend.

The ever-increasing cattle population is wreaking havoc on the earth's ecosystems. Reducing our consumption of beef and redirecting animal husbandry practices toward humane, sustainable production of cattle will go a long way towards restoring the planet to health and establishing a new covenant of stewardship with the earth.

*Jeremy Rifkin is President of the Greenhouse Crisis Foundation, Washington DC, and author of Beyond Beef.*



*RESPONSE, continued from page 2*

the most recent annual FDA study on pesticide residues, James Benson, then Acting Commissioner of the FDA, reported that "...the American food supply is the safest in the world..."

Americans can continue to have faith in the safety of one of America's best-loved staples—beef. Beef continues to be one of the safest foods available to consumers. USDA and FDA tests continue to show that, among all fresh commodities, beef has one of the best records in terms of possible contamination by either chemicals or microbes. Dr. William H. Dubbert, associate deputy administrator for science and technology, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA noted that feedlot-fed steers and heifers "continue to post zeros" in all categories of violative residues.

Furthermore, there are no "hidden ingredients" in beef. Fresh beef is not treated with any additives or preserva-

tives, and the official drug residue violation rate for cattle is virtually zero. According to Dr. Lester Crawford, former Administrator of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, "Food inspectors look at each animal slaughtered. U.S. meat is one of the most thoroughly inspected foods in the world. Inspections are made pre-slaughter and post-slaughter at packing plants. In addition, beef is subject to inspection in processing plants and in retail cutting rooms and restaurant kitchens."

**Q:** *Mr. Rifkin has criticized the way in which cattlemen treat their livestock. How do cattlemen care for their herds?*

**A:** A cattleman's livelihood depends on the health and

wholesome beef for America's tables. In producing cattle, they have always had the well-being of animals uppermost in their minds."

**Q:** *What does the beef industry mean to the American economy?*

**A:** Beef cattle production is the largest income-providing segment of the U.S. agriculture industry and the largest job provider.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that almost 1 million people—about half of all those working in production agriculture—are directly involved in the U.S. beef industry. Most of them work on small to mid-sized farms and ranches. Together, they generate some \$40 billion in annual sales. Each cattle sales dollar

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*"The impact of countless hooves and mouths over the years, has done more to alter the type of vegetation and land forms of the West than all the water projects, strip mines, power plants, freeways, and sub-division developments combined."*

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productivity of his cattle. And the well-being of cattle depends on sound animal husbandry practices and humane treatment. Generations of experience, research and study have made America's cattlemen experts at what they do—attending to the care, nutrition, health and other needs of the animals for which they are responsible.

Dr. Stanley E. Curtis, animal scientist at Pennsylvania State University says, "Cattlemen have been devoted to providing economical, safe,

also generates an additional \$5 to \$6 in business activity, and businesses related to cattle and beef production employ hundreds of thousands of Americans. In many rural areas, there would be little or no economic activity or tax base without cattle.

**Q:** *What would Jeremy Rifkin's campaign do for family farmers?*

**A:** The Beyond Beef Campaign will ultimately hurt the very producers it claims to

defend—family farmers. According to USDA, more than 99.8 percent of all small and mid-size single-family cattle producers own and manage about 93.5 percent of all beef cows, hardly “agribusiness corporations and beef industry giants” by any definition. Reducing beef production will largely impact those small and mid-size family-owned operations.

Increasing feed grain prices or reducing the number of feedlots will reduce demand for calves and lower calf prices, again impacting the very producers the campaign claims to defend. In fact, increasing feed grain prices would impact pork and poultry producers more than beef because of cattle’s unique ability to utilize forage and roughage that people can’t eat—a fact totally ignored in the entire Beyond Beef Campaign.

**Q:** *Is cattle production efficient in its use of resources?*

**A:** Cattle do more than just efficiently use resources—they also create opportunity for productive resource use where such opportunity would not normally exist. Two-thirds of the world’s agricultural land is in the form of pastures, of which at least 85 percent is not suitable for cultivation, according to Dr. L.M. Schake of the University of Connecticut. Most grazing land is simply too cool, too wet, too steep, or too rough to grow crops. Without ruminant, four-stomached

animals such as cattle, there would be no way to harvest food from these hundreds of millions of acres not useful



for growing crops.

As for water use, it takes only 200 gallons of water per pound of beef for drinking, feed crop irrigation and other purposes. By contrast, it takes 1,500 gallons of water to process a barrel of beer. A typical birch tree evaporates around 70 gallons a day. And the average household uses more than 107,000 gallons per year. In all those uses, however, it is important to note that water is neither created nor destroyed, but rather continually recycled by nature.

As for energy use, U.S. agricultural production accounts for only 2.5 percent of total fossil fuel energy used in the U.S. Beef production accounts for less than 0.5 percent of energy used. The fossil fuel energy used to produce 70 pounds of beef, the average annual per capita consumption, is equivalent to 12 to 25 gallons of gasoline per year.

**Q:** *How does cattle production affect wildlife pop-*

*ulations in this country?*

**A:** Eighty-percent or more of the wildlife in the United

states is public land, fertile private lands often serve as oases, making thousands of acres of adjacent arid federal lands viable for wildlife. For example, ruminant (four-stomach animals like cattle) wildlife populations on public lands have skyrocketed since 1960: Elk are up 782 percent, moose, 476 percent, and bighorn sheep 435 percent.

**Q:** *How does cattle grazing affect the land?*

**A:** Like mowing your lawn or pruning, controlled grazing encourages renewed plant growth and deters fires. In addition, the hooves of livestock (and those of the big game that comes to share the same salt and water) break up and aerate the soil. Grazing animals also scatter seeds, further promoting

States (exclusive of Alaska) depends on private land for food, water and shelter. Private cattle grazing lands provide valuable rangeland, crops, water, wetlands, riparian (stream and riverbank) habitat, and other food sources for big game and non-game species.

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*According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Soil productivity, as well as water and air quality, is better maintained under the permanent vegetative cover of well managed grazing lands than virtually any other land-use system.”*

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In the east and central parts of the country, where most of the land is in private ownership, wildlife is almost entirely dependent on ranch, farm and other private lands. In the west, where 50 percent or more of many

the diversity that characterizes healthy, vibrant range areas. Furthermore, a cattleman’s livelihood depends on proper management of the land to assure soil productivity and vigor, as

*RESPONSE, continued on next page*

well as healthy vegetation. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Soil productivity, as well as water and air quality, is better maintained under the permanent vegetative cover of well-managed grazing lands than virtually any other land-use system."

**Q:** What is Jeremy Rifkin's background?

**A:** For most of Mr. Rifkin's adult life, he has been associated with a small minority of people with extreme views. In efforts to advance his arguments, Mr. Rifkin has written several books that have been widely criticized for their historical and scientific inaccuracies. Whether it's a campaign to stop surrogate mothering, ground the space shuttle, block biotechnology research or eliminate all genetic engineering, Mr. Rifkin has developed a reputation for inaccuracy and misinformation.

According to a top FDA official, "(Mr. Rifkin's) scientific acumen is nil. And his scare scenarios are pure fantasy." Of a book Mr. Rifkin published in 1984 entitled *Algeny*, Harvard University Professor Stephen Jay Gould said, "I don't think I have ever read a shoddier work."

**Q:** Are the Beyond Beef Campaign's health allegations supported by reputable authorities?

**A:** Leading health organizations, including the American Dietetic Association, the American Heart Association and the United States Department of Agriculture support the concept of eating a variety of foods in moderation to maintain a balanced diet. No single food or food group is the secret to good health, therefore, no one food need be eliminated from the diet.

nothing to promote the good health of Americans.

**Q:** Is Jeremy Rifkin's claim that beef causes disease valid?

**A:** Diet is only one of many possible factors contributing to disease; heredity, lifestyle, physical activity and smoking also play important roles. A number of health problems, especially coronary artery disease and cancer have been linked to high-fat, high-cholesterol diets. Lean beef, prepared in a way that does

are balance, variety and moderation. The nutrition com-



munity recognizes lean beef as a nutrient-dense food, providing a much higher percentage of an individual's daily needs for iron, zinc, phosphorous, protein and essential B vitamins while contributing relatively few calories from fat.

**Q:** Do health organizations recommend beef consumption?

**A:** Several national health organizations recognize that lean beef can be a part of a balanced diet. Those organizations include: the American Heart Association; the Surgeon General; the American Cancer Society; the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences; National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of The National Institutes of Health; the American Dietetic Association; the National Cholesterol Education Program; the United States Department of Agriculture; and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

*"It is important to understand that 'beef', 'fat', and 'health-risks', are not synonymous terms."*

Moderate servings of lean beef are important contributors to a healthy diet, and beef can fit into a low-fat, low-cholesterol eating plan. The "single food fallacy" or the "good food/bad food" philosophy tries to suggest that individual foods can cause or prevent certain conditions.

Mr. Rifkin has no academic background in nutrition. His campaign focuses on unsubstantiated or exaggerated health claims and misrepresents the role of beef in the diet. Misleading consumers on vital health topics does

not add fat, can be part of a heart-healthy diet.

In fact, as beef consumption has continued to rise in Western countries, longevity rates have increased. Dr. C. Everett Koop noted that "...cancer rates have dropped over the past 40 years. According to the Surgeon General's office, stomach cancer has dropped more than 75 percent, while rectal cancer has decreased more than 65 percent."

It is important to understand that "beef," "fat," and "health risks" are not synonymous terms. The key words

### Animal Crackers

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As the American Heart Association states, "Good lean meat is hard to beat as an excellent source of protein, vitamins, and minerals, including iron." As for fat content in beef, cattle today are unquestionably leaner when they go to slaughter, and retail cuts are trimmed more closely. "Lean cuts of beef, trimmed of external fat, work as well as skinless chicken and fish in low-fat diets designed to lower blood cholesterol levels," said Lynne Scott, assistant professor, department of medicine, Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. John Brunzell, of the University of Washington School of Medicine and a member of the American Heart Association Nutrition Committee, has said, "The beef industry is to be commended for what has happened (supplying leaner, more closely trimmed beef), and I would like to give the industry a grade of A in that particular category."

**Q:** Why does Beyond Beef actually do an injustice to the problems it claims to care about?

**A:** Jeremy Rifkin's book addresses a wide range of complex social issues. The problem, however, is that Mr. Rifkin targets the cow as the source of all misery. Feeding the world's hungry, helping the family farmer, or ending sexual discrimination are all noble goals that many in society would cheer. But real problems require real solutions. Whether arguing to solve the problem of world hunger, or what Mr. Rifkin calls, 'diminished human consciousness,' it is simply not productive to assert that cattle are the root of all evil.

Veterinarians have seen this same effect with a decrease in the number of "hit-by-car" patients practices are seeing. We are still killing between 5 and 25 million animals each year because they do not have a home. Some of these deserve to be euthanized due to their feral nature, antisocial behavior or medical indications, but NOT millions. Like an iceberg in a shipping lane, the problem has been seen but not completely defined. Some have looked at the tip of the iceberg, others have tried to assess the size of the entire iceberg, but no one has researched the cause of the iceberg.

As a management diagnostician, not an academic researcher, I was asked to be an information resource for the meeting. The first big definition hurdle was to get a handle on "pet overpopulation." There was great discussion, but the consensus settled on the simple statement that "too many animals were being euthanized each year." Then we had to define "too many," so we came up with a simple formula:

$$\frac{\text{births} - (\text{medically indicated euthanasias}) - \text{natural deaths}}{\text{number of responsible pet owners} \times \text{multi-pets}} = 1$$

Then we started looking at the factors impacting on each element of the formula, and looked at any assumptions we were making that could not be measured. In fact, none of the elements had ever been actually measured with any statistical accuracy. So we looked at clear definitions. The definition of responsible pet owner was one such challenge. We have never researched the "profile" of a responsible pet owner, or for that matter, an irresponsible

pet owner. The Delta Society had a lot of data on the human-animal bond, but this question appeared too subjective for research grant funding (isn't that why we do research?). So we defined irresponsible pet owners as a percentage of the animal-owning public:

$$\frac{(1 - \text{responsible pet owners}) \times 100}{100} = \text{irresponsible percent.}$$

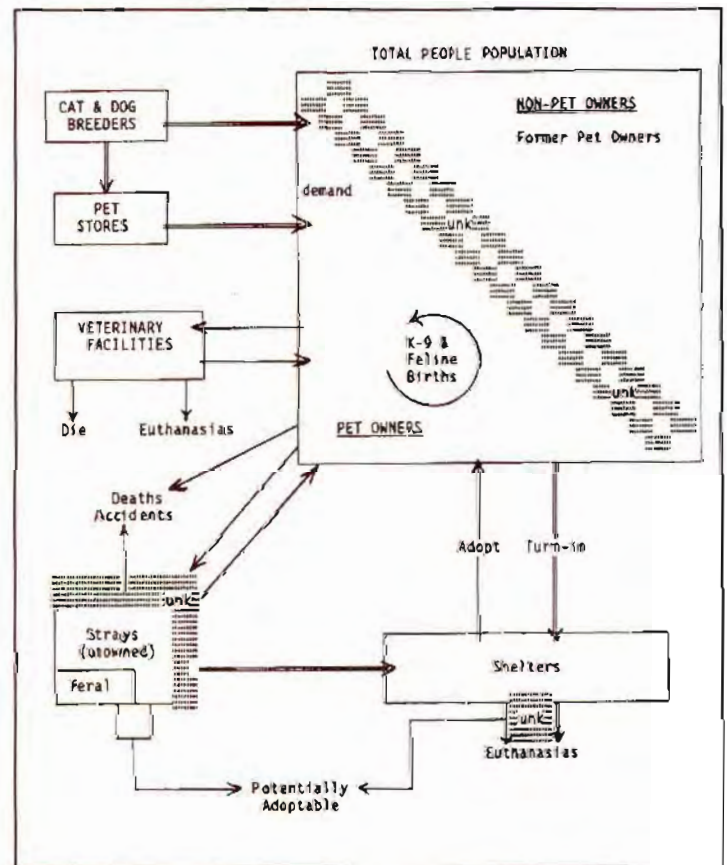
This great exercise in pursuit of the better definition did bring us closer to the real challenge that has caused these decades of inertia. Why haven't the humane groups, local community leaders, or veterinary medical groups been able to solve this problem? In the eighties, the mayors of the United States placed stray (uncontrolled) animals in the top three prob-

lems of urban America. Caring people have been addressing the pet overpopulation "assumption" from their own perspective (does this sound like the blind men and the elephant?). Do we have too many pets or too few responsible owners; do we see too

*"We are still killing between 5 and 25 million animals each year because they do not have a home."*

many births or not enough natural deaths; or is it a population dynamics factor that is not easily defined?

With the guidance of Drs. Glickman and Patronek, pathobiology researchers from Purdue University, we attempted to develop a model of the population dynamics as they appear today, with the basic assumption that this dynamic population (animal or human) constantly seeks a form of equilibrium (supply and demand):



AUTHANASIAS, continued on next page

This model is noteworthy because of the relationships (arrows); we don't know the values (impact) of the various elements. If there was good research, we would know the intensities of demand within a population (perhaps a county). When one population is defined, then the second population could be surveyed and compared, with the variances being validated for "cause and effect" relationships. If we look at current efforts, such as licensure, where does that impact this model? Is taxation a method of controlling pet reproduction, or is it the

registration need for returning lost pets? With this model, anyone can see these issues become very small contributors to success or failure of any community problem.

If we look at the dynamics with the "pet-owning" segment of the total population, additional relationships become very evident.

Even with these two models, we don't know the values or intensities which influence the equilibrium. If we compare Europe with the United States, the stray animal problems are different. Why would this be? Why are breed types, ears and tails included, different between the two

populations? Why are animals more acceptable in public places in Europe? Which values are different: the animal's reproductive urges, the community mores, the animal owners themselves, or ...? How could a similar set of values be economically introduced into an American population? Would the values cause the same results? How would we measure the changes?

For 20 years, we have picked at this problem from the edge but never addressed the total causative parameters. Only an interdisciplinary effort can ever hope to address the cause and effect which requires millions of animals to be killed annually at shelters and veterinary facilities across the nation.

### The Alternatives

Remember I am the management diagnostician, not a researcher. I look at what could be done today, with very little expense, to start getting a handle on the problem. There are about 3500 shelters in the United States (no one knows for sure how many). There are about 11,000 companion animal exclusive veterinary practices (no one knows for sure). If the powers in both movements (e.g., ASPCA, AHA, HSUS, AVMA, AAHA etc.) got together and developed a single "values survey" for pet owners, a statistically valid sample could be obtained from a portion of the existing facilities with existing staff resources. This could be compared to existing Delta Society research for human-animal bond relationships.

Are there behavior management courses that could be offered within a community, shelter or veterinary practice which would stem the impulse euthanasia? Most

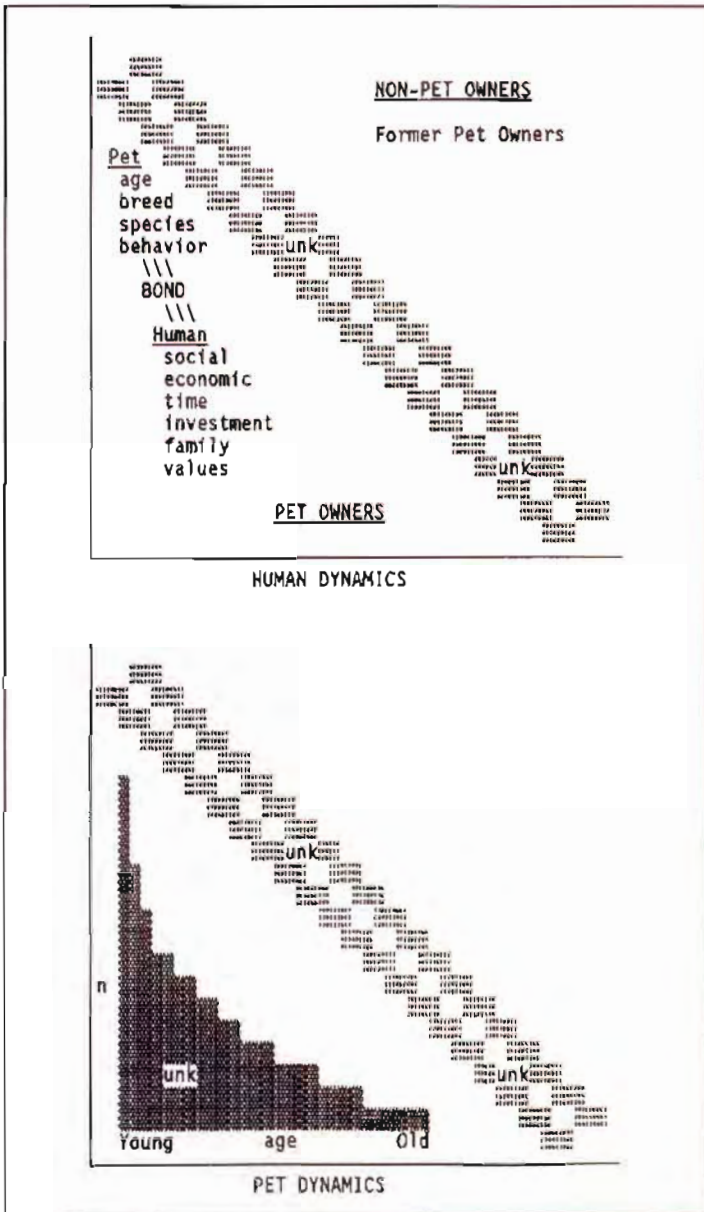
people do perceive behavior problems in their pets, and responsible pet owners either accept the animal's ways or try to get professional assistance in the resolution of the behavior problem. Irresponsible pet owners ignore the animal's ways or dispose of the animal (release, turn-in, euthanasia, etc.). The current research shows about 85% of the behavior problems are manageable without putting the owner through prolonged obedience training.

A more expensive alternative is the "total county profile." There are methods to statistically survey a population by telephone (but you miss the non-phone households, a statistically important population in some areas of the country). New Zealand has developed a protocol for surveying stray animal populations which could likely be adapted to the United States. Non-pet owners must be profiled to determine if there is a factor that could be used to increase the number of available households (we are aware that housing restrictions are artificially limiting the pet-owning population potentials).

If we don't address this dynamic situation from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, if we don't "release our turf" and share, I don't see any great opportunity for resolution of this situation. No one can do it alone, we have proven that in the past two decades. If we don't change, we will continue to kill too many animals every year.

This last alternative does not make me happy.

For further information contact Dr. Catanzaro at Catanzaro & Associates, Inc., Heritage Square, 18301 W. Colfax, R-1, Golden, CO 880401-4845. Telephone 303-277-9800. Fax 303-277-9888.



# How Can Pet Adoptions Be More Successful? New Research Examines Veterinarian's Role

## Successful Pet Adoptions and Veterinarians

Aline H. Kidd, Ph.D.  
Robert M. Kidd, M.A.  
Carol C. George, Ph.D.

After using Dr. George's 1989 Pet Expectations Inventory and a 6-month call-back interview, we analyzed the responses of 343 adults who were in the process of adopting new pets from a humane society. We concluded that some humane society pet adoptions were unsuccessful because the adopters lacked adequate information about normal animal behaviors which should be expected in a newly acquired pet, and they did not know about good ways to train in desired behaviors, did not anticipate the amount of time needed for good caretaking, nor realize the amount of money required for good pet maintenance. We also concluded that other humane society pet adoptions were unsuccessful because adopters who later rejected their pets actually had expected, however unreasonably, the newly adopted pet to teach their children to be responsible, loving and emotionally sensitive!

Because veterinarians usually do anticipate and answer questions pet owners raise, discuss training methods, and work with owners to overcome current problems and difficulties, we hypothesized that, by using the same techniques as we used with humane society adopters, we would find that veterinary clients would



*Why do adopters who take their pets to private veterinarians (rather than to humane society clinics) have a higher rate of satisfaction with their pets?*

reject a significantly lower percentage of their newly adopted pets.

Accordingly, we asked veterinary hospital staff persons to request clients who had recently acquired new pets to complete the two-part Pet Expectations Inventory. The first part asked the adults to rate their expectations (from a 7-high to a 1-low) that their new pet would play such roles as being a: Companion, Confidante, Playmate, Source of Emotional Support, Living Being to Touch and Cuddle, Source of Laughter, or

Socializer for themselves. The total score indicated the full strength of their expectations for their new pet.

Similarly, the second part asked the parents to rate their expectations for their children that their new pet would play, such roles as being a Companion, or Playmate, or would Keep children busy, would Teach children Love and Emotional Sensitivity, would be a Source of Emotional Support, or would be a Provider of Physical Comfort. Again, the total score indicated the intensity of

their expectations of the new pet for their children.

Six months after the 82 veterinary clients completed the Inventory, the researchers telephoned them and asked whether they still had the new pet and if not, why not? Seven owners (9%) could not be reached because they had moved and had changed telephone numbers. The final veterinary client group consisted of 75 adults, 18 (24%) men and 57 (76%) women. Five (28%) of the men, and 26 (46%) of the women were

parents. Overall, the veterinary clients had more pets per family than did humane society adopters (veterinary clients averaged 2.33 pets each, and humane society adopters averaged 1.13 pets each), suggesting that many of the veterinary clients had had more experience with pets than did humane society adopters.

Only 4 dogs and 1 cat were rejected by five (7%)—one mother, three females, and one male—of these 75 veterinary client owners, a rejection rate significantly lower than the humane society rejecter rate

*ADOPTIONS, continued on next page*

( $Z = -6.50, p < .01$ ). Although veterinary clients rejecters were younger and had lower overall expectations for roles pets would play in their lives than veterinary client retainers, there were no other significant differences.

Overall, veterinary client

children's lives than did the humane society retainers.

The follow-up call-backs elicited differences in problems leading to pet rejection between the humane society and the veterinary client rejecters: one dog "remained vicious and failed obedience training;" one dog was rejected by the wife who

residents. Further, they had owned their new pets from two days to a year, while the humane society adopters were in the process of acquiring a pet for the first time. And though the specific information was not asked for, the veterinary clients probably had achieved higher educational levels than the humane society adopters.

In any case it became clear that: (a) plainer, more intelligible information about pet care and training, (b) guidance toward more realistic expectations about normal pet behaviors, as well as caretaking and maintenance expenses, and (c) adopters' willingness to work out all such ownership problems wherever possible, could significantly reduce the number of pets rejected or euthanized.

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#### FOOTNOTES

- The authors wish to thank Laura Becker DVM, James Beebee DVM, M.R. Clark DVM, Gerald Dzendzel DVM, John Gallagher DVM, James Harris DVM, and William Kidd DVM for helping to provide subjects.
- This research was supported by a grant-in-aid from the Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation. ¶

Aline H. Kidd,

Professor of Psychology at Mills College has been appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

RESISTANCE, continued from page 2

rationale. In light of the pervasiveness of such self-destructive resistance, its both interesting and paradoxical, to note the obvious, personal pride of those, who do observe, abstain or participate in one or another of those beneficial activities and the disdain with which they hold those of us who don't.

In concert with its concern for the welfare of all life, the foundation has regularly, by means of book reviews and scholarly articles, publicized information concerned with the deleterious impact and universal connection of rain forest destruction, the necessity for heart disease and other health precautions, the close relationship between child and animal abuse, the ill considered expenditure of the world's precious natural resources as well as the important mutual benefits resulting from an understanding of and respect for the interrelationship and interdependence of all life, human and non-human.

In keeping with *The Latham Letter's* policy to present both sides of debatable subjects, the reader will find featured elsewhere in this issue, a book report as well as important, sincerely expressed and thought provocative pro and con positions concerning the consumption of meat. ¶

It became clear that:

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retainers were very similar to humane society adopters on most of the Inventory scales. Their total expectation scores, and expectation scores for specific roles for pets in their own life did not differ significantly from the humane society retainers' scores.

Veterinary client retainers' expectations scores on the pet's role in the lives of their children were significantly lower than humane society retainers' scores on the Teach children Love and Emotional Sensitivity scale ( $t_{164} = 2.33, p < .05$ ) and on the Teach children Responsibility scale ( $t_{164} = 5.40, p < .01$ ). Obviously, the veterinary client retainers had significantly fewer unreasonable expectations for pets' roles in their

could not control it despite obedience training; two dogs would not accommodate to pets already in the home; the cat consistently ran away. Interestingly, the rejected pets had been in the home on an average of six months and the owners had made serious efforts to resolve the problems. Most humane society adopters had rejected the pet within two months, several had rejected within two or three days.

Although the intergroup results seem to support the hypotheses, other differences may have influenced the veterinary client group results. Veterinary clients were older ( $t_{473} = 3.70, p < .01$ ), were able to afford private veterinarian care, and were suburban rather than urban

# Wolves in the Marketplace

Terry L. Anderson

Efforts by the National Park Service and environmental groups to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone park and to encourage natural repopulation of wolves in the West have aroused the ire of ranchers. Wolves, which kill sheep and other livestock, are not popular on Western rangeland.

But a Montana environmentalist named Hank Fischer thinks that ranchers might actually provide habitat for wolves, if the incentives are right.

Under Mr. Fischer's direction, Defenders of Wildlife, an environmental group, has established a wolf reward program. Defenders will pay a private landowner \$5,000 if the landowner can show that a litter of wolf pups has been successfully reared on his property. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will verify the location of den sites and the presence of wolves.

Defenders of Wildlife has not always taken such an innovative approach. In 1991, it simply sued the federal government in an effort to speed up wolf reintroduction into Yellowstone Park.

But Mr. Fischer's wolf reward program demonstrates a willingness to take responsibility for the impact of wolves, and it should be applauded. Already, under a program developed by Dr. Fischer, Defenders of Wildlife pays Western ranchers for any losses of livestock due to wolf predation. Defenders has raised \$100,000 for its compensation fund; since 1987, \$12,000

has been paid to 10 different ranchers.

No one knows whether the new program will be accepted. But by combining this compensation program with rewards for protection, Defenders of Wildlife is trying to turn wolves from a liability into an asset. The programs, says Mr. Fischer, "shift the economic responsibility of wolf recovery away from the individual livestock producer and toward those people who seek wolf restoration."

Mr. Fischer calls the program "a foray for Defenders of Wildlife into free-market environmentalism." In other words, Defenders of Wildlife is willing to take responsibility for its actions by

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*"Defenders of Wildlife is trying to turn wolves from a liability into an asset."*

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paying those who supply what it wants—wolf habitat. This free market approach contrasts sharply with the federal government's management of wildlife.

Consider, for example, how the National Park Service treats bison and elk. In essence, its officials deny responsibility for the elk and bison in Yellowstone National Park—even while claiming the right to manage them.

Elk and bison migrate out of Yellowstone Park in the winter, partly because



*A Montana environmentalist named Hank Fischer thinks that ranchers might actually provide habitat for wolves, if the incentives are right. Under Mr. Fischer's direction, Defenders of Wildlife, an environmental group, has established a reward program for live wolves.*

the park herds exceed park carrying capacity. Outside the park, they pose a threat to livestock because some carry brucellosis, a bacterial disease that causes cattle to abort their fetuses.

In the winter of 1989, after the famous Yellowstone fires destroyed winter grazing habitat, elk and bison wandered out of Yellowstone in search of food. The Park Service did nothing. Officials of the state of Montana, convinced that the brucellosis-infected bison would endanger Montana livestock, turned to hunters to shoot the bison. The hunts sparked such a public outcry (since bison are easy targets) that the state halted them. Only then did National Park Service officials take action—luring them back into Yellowstone, or shooting them if they kept eating Montana grass.

The treatment of wildlife habitat under the Endangered Species Act also illustrates the government's unwillingness to take responsibility for protecting wild animals. The act requires

that owners of habitat known to harbor endangered species follow strict, sometimes draconian, regulations—rules that can make their own use of the land or development nearly impossible. The government puts the burden on protection on the landowners.

While a few landowners welcome endangered species, those whose livelihoods are endangered by protecting spotted owls, silverspot butterflies, or California gnatcatchers may not. Consider a private forest owner who thinks he has spotted owls living in trees slated for harvest. This owner has every incentive to cut his trees immediately. Waiting until the owls are discovered could destroy the economic value of his asset.

In sum, the federal government makes others—in these examples, ranchers and landowners—bear the cost of providing wildlife habitat. In contrast, Hank Fischer's approach offers a carrot rather than a stick by offering a voluntary

*WOLVES, continued on page 17*

# In the Florida Keys, Saviors for the Sea Turtles

*The effort to rescue a species gripped by a mysterious plague has become a costly obsession for one couple — but a rewarding one.*

Mike Clary

MARATHON, Fla. — The patient arrived in a panel truck, agitated, bewildered and using her flippers to whack the sides of the plastic swimming pool that held her. She looked terrible. At least 25 bulbous tumors stuck up around her eyes, mouth and the leathery skin around her shell.

"Actually," said Richie Moretti, flipping the 60 pound green sea turtle over on her back, "this one is pretty healthy. I think she might be in the 15% we can save."

Moretti, 48 is a former Volkswagen mechanic who moved to the Florida Keys nine years ago after buying a motel next door to a topless lounge. Moretti still runs the Hidden Harbor Motel, but the lounge, called Fanny's, has been converted into what is believed to be the world's only veterinary clinic devoted exclusively to treating endangered sea turtles plagued by a mysterious and debilitating disease.

The disease, called fibropapilloma causes grotesque tumor masses that are not malignant but usually prove fatal when they grow over the animal's eyes and mouth and hinder feeding. "They literally starve to death," Moretti said.

Up to 60% of some green turtle populations found in the Florida Keys and areas of the Caribbean are believed



*What is believed to be the world's only veterinary clinic devoted exclusively to treating endangered sea turtles plagued by a mysterious and debilitating disease has opened in the Florida Keys. Up to 60% of some green turtle populations found in the Florida Keys and Caribbean areas are believed to be affected by fibropapilloma. The disease causes grotesque tumor masses that can prove fatal when they grow over the animal's eyes and mouth and hinder feeding.*

to be affected, according to Elliott Jacobson, a professor of zoological medicine at the University of Florida who is working with Moretti and his partner, Tina Brown.

years it has "increased in prevalence and distribution, and we don't know why", Jacobson said. His studies found that papilloma is related to the herpes virus.

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*"Brown and Moretti have been effective in calling attention to a little-noticed plague"*

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Turtles in Hawaii have also been affected, and the disease is beginning to show up the warm waters of Central America and Australia.

The disease was reported in 1938, but in the last few

"It is a devastating, life-threatening problem which could knock out whole populations," he added. "We're seeing it primarily in juveniles, and when they become breeding

adults at 15 to 20 years old, they could pass it on through the egg."

For Moretti and Brown, who moved to Middle Keys from Orlando seven years ago, the turtles have become a costly obsession. "Our plan was to compete in fishing tournaments and take it easy," Moretti said.

Instead, the two have poured the proceeds from the 21-unit motel and a couple of video rental stores into the nonprofit turtle project. Moretti figures he has spent about \$250,000 to buy the former lounge, remodel it and install operating tables, lights, a sterilizer and an anesthesia machine.

The clinic officially opened in June, but Moretti and Brown say they have treated more than 350 diseased or damaged animals since 1985, when a fisherman

brought the first injured turtle to them.

Of the dozens with papilloma, most have died, so underweight when found that no amount of tube fed Gatorade and Nutri-Cal could save them.

The one arriving in the panel truck could be an exception. Brown turned on the garden hose near the marina and scraped from the animal's shell masses of yellow eggs laid by marine leeches. Moretti readied a shot of antibiotic. Days later, when the turtle is accustomed to her new surroundings in a salt-water swimming pool, a veterinarian will come by to surgically remove the

tumors.

This turtle faces at least six months of rehabilitation, Brown said.

Fibropapilloma isn't all sea turtles have to contend with. Collisions with boats and propellers are also frequent.

Moretti and Brown have learned to use fiberglass to make repairs to cracked shells and how to sew up flesh wounds vulnerable to infection.

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*"This is a global disease, a forcaster of other problems in the marine environment."*

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This turtle also had a deep gash on one flipper and cracks and a dash of blue paint on its shell, evidence of a run-in with a boat hull.

Brown and Moretti have been lauded for their work by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and they were mentioned in a recent issue of National Geographic magazine.

Their work with the turtles has led them to environmental activism; they have gone to sea to protest the military's use of the Atlantic as a practice bombing range and have sued the Commerce Department to halt the harvesting of sea grass-prime turtle habitat-in the Sargasso Sea. Some seaweed is used as protein in animal food.

Jacobson, the marine biologist, said that while battling long odds in trying to

save individual turtles, Brown and Moretti have been effective in calling attention to a little-noticed plague.

"Government agencies have avoided these kinds of problems, and so it's left to the private sector to provide humane care of these animals," he said. "This is a global disease, a forecaster of other problems in the marine environment. People concerned with the quality of life should be concerned about what's happening with green turtles."

For Brown, a former hairdresser, working with troubled turtles now seems inevitable. "Living here in the Keys, it is impossible to ignore nature, and turtles are a part of it," she said. "Nobody else was doing anything so we did."

Moretti recalls winning the first two deep-sea fishing tournaments the couple entered in 1984. "That was satisfying but lightweight compared to fixing sick animals and returning them to the wild," he said.

"I like being needed and these animals need us. If I could think of any way to enjoy life more, I'd do it."

*Reprinted courtesy of Mike Clary and with permission of the Los Angeles Times. Mike Clary is a free-lance writer and Florida correspondent for the Los Angeles Times.* **ff**

**T**wo people were fighting over a piece of land. To resolve their differences, they agreed to put the case before a rabbi. The rabbi listened but could not come to a decision because both seemed right. Finally the rabbi said, "Since I cannot decide to whom this land belongs, let us ask the land." He put his ear to the land and after a moment he straightened up. "My friends, the land says that it belongs to neither of you - but that you belong to it,"

... *The Talmud*

### *Sioux prayer*

A Sioux Prayer for the Earth

Grandfather Great Spirit

Fill us with the Light.

Give us the strength to understand,  
and the eyes to see.

Teach us to walk the soft Earth  
as brothers and sisters of all that lives.

## **Human-Champion Animal Bond News**

### **Dogs Make the Dentist OK**

*Myrna Chandler Goldstein*

*The dentist doesn't seem so bad with a dog in your lap*



Each morning Dr. Neale Eckstein, a pediatric dentist in Sudbury, Massachusetts, leaves for work accompanied by his four-legged dental assistants: Nikki, a Toy Poodle, and Niblets, Silky and Callie, his three Maltese. The dogs have become an integral—indeed, sometimes essential—part of the state-of-the-art dental practice Eckstein shares with his partner, Dr. Norman Goldberg.

According to Dr. Eckstein, the dogs provide an instant means of communication with his

young patients. "They sit on the children's laps and are directly involved with them," he said. "Sometimes we have children who are really scared of being at the dentist's. They come in, see the dogs and begin to relax. Then they want to come back to see the dogs."

On those rare occasions when Dr. Eckstein is unable to bring the dogs to the office, he is very careful to schedule an appointment for a child for whom the dogs are "absolutely essential."

**ff**

# Organic Farming: What's In It For Animals?

*Some of the principles to which organic farmers must adhere include: 1) Herd or flock size must not adversely affect the animal's behavior patterns and 2) The prolonged confining or tethering of animals is prohibited.*



**O**rganic or biological farming, is an agricultural system that seeks to produce high quality food products using sustainable management practices and avoiding damage to the environment. As such it offers an alternative to conventional intensive, chemical-based farming.

Organic farms have been in existence for many years. Before the advent of modern intensive practices most farming was conducted in this way; and in developing countries many farms are still run according to time-honored principles.

However, whilst intensive chemical-based agriculture has come to dominate all parts of the world, over the past decade there has been a significant growth in the organic sector. A recent report published by the UK-based Economic Intelligence Unit indicated that organic production in the European Community is set to increase by 25 percent a year in the next five years. The report also estimated that currently organic farming uses less than one percent of the region's farmland.

Organic farming movements are particularly well established in the USA, New Zealand, Holland, the UK and Scandinavia. In Germany, a system of bio-dynamic agriculture, based on the principles of Rudolf Steiner, has strong roots. In

the EC, proposals are now being discussed which will shortly set European-wide standards of organic farming.

To assess the impact of organic farming on the welfare of animals a close analysis of the standards governing management practices is needed. In the United Kingdom, the Soil Association is the principle regulatory organization and its standards relating to animal husbandry are among the most comprehensive in the world. They also form the basis of organic standards in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland and have been used as a reference document for the proposed EC Regulation.

One of the most important elements in ensuring the welfare of livestock is the amount of space and freedom of movement given to each animal. Soil Association standards give detailed rules for animal housing which set significantly higher welfare principles than conventional farming. Some of the general principles to which farmers must adhere are as follows:

- The permanent housing of ALL stock is prohibited
- The prolonged confining or tethering of animals is prohibited
- Herd or flock size must not adversely affect the animal's behavior patterns

- Stock must have access to fresh water at all times.
- Bedding materials must be provided.
- All stock should have access to pasture during the grazing season

The standards set out more precise guidelines for ideal management practices for each type of animal and also list a range of options that are either permitted, restricted or prohibited.

According to Patrick Holden, Director of the British Organic Farmers Association and committee member of the International Agricultural Movements, the most important element of organic guidelines are the prohibition of the routine use of drugs to control diseases. Virtually all animals in intensive factory farms are given regular doses of antibiotics and wormers to control infections endemic to these systems of husbandry. By eliminating this option farmers have to adopt lower stocking rates, which naturally prevent the spread of disease. Holden feels that "this encourages more extensive management practices in which the health and welfare of every animal is closely monitored."

Feeding practices are also controlled, with limits set on the ratio of forage to concentrates, such as grain and milk. For example, sheep and

cattle can be fed with a maximum of 40 percent concentrates. Overfeeding of concentrates to dairy herds can lead to metabolic disorders and is linked to the development of foot infection.

Organic farming standards also cover the transport and slaughter of animals, an area where in conventional agriculture stress and suffering is often at its greatest. The general principle that animals should not be left waiting at slaughterhouses is adhered to, and slow and ritual methods of slaughter are prohibited. However, the standards do not set maximum periods for the transport of animals. This is due to the fact that in order to sell meat in a wide market, producers need to be able to use certain nationally approved slaughterhouses. However, recent approval of mobile slaughterhouses could prove a solution to this problem.

It would be shortsighted to assess organic farming only in terms of its impact on livestock. Patrick Holden emphasizes that "the movement presents a holistic view of both farming and animal management which encompasses welfare, veterinary and nutritional standards."

The environmental protection afforded by organic standards certainly has an impact on animals other than those raised for the benefit of humans. Wild animals gain through strict controls on the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and regulations designed to protect wildlife habitats. Farmers accredited to the UK Soil Association, for example, could lose their membership if they destroyed habitats such as ponds or hedgerows.

From the welfare point of view, systems of organic farming are superior to conventional intensive agriculture and provide more appropriate conditions to satisfy the physiological and ethological needs of animals. Philip Lybery of Compassion in World Farming comments, "the organic ethic differs from that of the animal welfarist in that it sees improved animal health and welfare in relation to the needs of a better agricultural system rather than as an aim in itself. However, the standards it sets are very high and we welcome the approach."

In order to satisfy these standards, prices for organic produce are high and for this reason it supplies only a very small proportion of the food needs of most industrialized countries. In the near future, the European Community is to consider giving financial support to organic farmers, as part of widespread reforms of its agricultural policy. This would be a major boost to the industry, enabling producers to reduce the price of organic goods and thereby increase the organic share of the market.

Organic philosophy presents a viable alternative to intensive farming which, if promoted more heavily among customers, retailers and legislators, could provide a decent life for all farm animals. However, at present due to the restricted size of the movement, its impact on most agricultural animals is small.

For information on organic farming contact: IFOAM, Oekozentrum Imsbach, D-6695 Tholey-Tholey, Germany.

*Reprinted courtesy of Animals International, Summer 1992.*



## Cows Eat Better Than People Do

Walden Bello

Every time you eat a hamburger you are having a relationship with thousands of people you never met. Not just people at the supermarket or fast food restaurant but possibly World Bank officials in Washington DC, and peasants from Central and South America. And many of these people are hungry.

The fact is that there is enough food in the world for everyone. But tragically, much of the world's food and land resources are tied up in producing beef and other livestock—food for the well-off — while millions of children and adults suffer from malnutrition and starvation.

The mathematics are simple. For every pound of feed-lot beef on our plates, an American cow eats nine pounds of grain and soy feed. In the 1980's, the world grain supply alone was enough to provide every human on the planet with 3,600 calories a day—more than enough to meet everyone's average nutritional requirements. As Frances Moore Lappe, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, explains, "Our food system takes abundant grain, while hungry people can't afford, and shrinks it into meat, which better-off people will pay for." Cattle and other livestock eat 70 percent of the grain produced in the United States.

We may think that U.S. grain exports feed the hungry around the world. But in reality, three-fourths of the corn, barley, sorghum, and oats imported by poor countries goes to feed animals.

How can it be true that

people are hungry—even starving—while an abundance of food is produced? The problem is not scarcity of food, but that cows often eat better than people do. It all depends on how meat is produced. Livestock, such as chickens and pigs, raised on kitchen scraps and other waste, can supplement a poor family's diet by converting inedible materials into meat and eggs. Livestock raised by small farmers who rotate pasture with food crops can improve soil fertility while raising livestock for additional home consumption or market income. Paradoxically, however, grain-fed meat and meat raised through extensive farming on land that used to be accessible to peasants and small farmers to produce subsistence and market crops can create hunger while it creates food.

In Central America, staple crop production has been replaced by extensive cattle ranching, which now occupies two-thirds of the arable land. The World Bank encouraged the switch-over by dumping cattle credit into the region, with an eye toward expanding U.S. fast-food and frozen-dinner markets. The resulting expansion of cattle ranching has deprived peasants of access to the land they depend on for growing food. And because of ranching's limited ability to create jobs (cattle ranching creates thirteen times fewer jobs per acre than coffee production), rural hunger has soared. Concentrating on Central America's "comparative advantage" in cattle exports has not created the kind of economic growth that can end hunger. Poor people, deprived of land on which to grow food and without adequate income to buy imported food, are not

the ones who benefit from beef exports.

In parts of Mexico and South America, beef production is linked to increasing poverty in a different way—the switch-over from growing food crops to feed crops. In Brazil, half of the basic grains produced are sold as livestock feed, while the majority of the rural poor suffer from malnutrition. The shift from black beans, a basic food crop, to soybeans feeds the beef appetites of the Brazilian elites and foreign importers of Brazilian livestock feed, not Brazil's hungry masses. A study by David Barkun of the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico City found that in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela, production of meat for the rich has crowded out basic food production for the poor.

What does all this have to do with our hamburgers? The American fast-food diet and the meat-eating habits of the wealthy around the world support a world food system that diverts food resources from the hungry. But we do not have to unknowingly go along for the ride. Choosing to eat a diet lower on the food chain is a way of rejecting our position at the top of what environmental activist Jeremy Rifkin calls the "protein ladder." A diet higher in whole grains and legumes and lower in beef and other meat is not just healthier for ourselves, but also contributes to changing the world system that feeds some people and leaves others hungry.

That is why we at Food First are joining the Beyond Beef campaign to encourage Americans to eat less beef and other meat.

Walden Bello is Executive Director, Food First/The Institute for Food and Development Policy, San Francisco, California.



# American Farm Bureau Federation Claims Ranchers are Allies of Public Land

Herbert F. Manig

Among America's greatest public treasures are the 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands. These public lands are held in great appreciation by the American ranchers. Out of their concern for the environment, ranchers today also employ improved methods to better manage public lands for a full range of values, beyond grazing.

Traditional uses of these public lands, such as for livestock grazing, must balance with the environment, as well as America's other values, including outdoor recreation, wildlife and the desire for open space by an increasingly urban society.

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*"Grass is like money in the bank to a rancher and he has to make sure he leaves enough behind as a future investment."*

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Not only are ranchers who use public lands balancing these interests, but studies show they are paying fairly for their use of these lands. The actual costs of public-lands grazing are equal to or higher than rent paid for grazing on similar private land. The current fee is tied to livestock prices and the marketplace.

Increases, as proposed by some, would only make public land grazing uneconomical, and would not only



*Should the government lease grazing rights to public land? According to the American Farm Bureau, due partially to carefully managed grazing, the Bureau of Land Management and the Society for Range Management both report "public rangelands are in better condition than at any time in this century."*

jeopardize numerous family ranchers, but also the communities that depend on their financial support. A Montana study showed that if 25,000 cows were removed from public land in one county, the annual loss would be \$16 million in commerce. This is in a state where cattle mean as much to the economy as wheat does in Kansas and oranges do in Florida.

Steep grazing fee hikes proposed by some groups could sound the death knell for traditional ranching in the American West. For more than a hundred years, cattle and sheep have grazed the vast Western rangeland.

In 1919, our public lands were used to graze 2,135,527 cattle and 7,935,174 sheep. As recently as 1989 however, those numbers dropped dramatically to 1,423,465 cattle and 972,135 sheep.

Today, proper stocking rates are determined through a range analysis which measures the type and amount of forage available.

Grass is like money in the bank to a rancher and he has to make sure he leaves enough behind as a future investment.

On the range today, there's also a new attitude on the part of those who make their living there. Ranchers today have multiple goals. They respect the landscape for its ability to support not only their cattle, but also native wildlife and the recreational needs of others.

\$28,000 per family. Such family ranchers have a long-term relationship with our public lands and are ever-conscious of caring for the future of the range. Ranchers know it's a privilege to use public lands. They use these lands with next year in mind. The public as well as their cattle herds benefit from that stewardship.

Cattle thrive on grass, but for their part, grasses also need to be grazed. According

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*"The BLM and the respected Society for Range Management both report 'public rangelands are in better condition than at any time in this century.'"*

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According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), there are more than 31,000 grazing permits issued on our public lands. Nearly 27,000 of these permit holders are family ranching operations that earn less than

to experts, the grasses and forages eaten by livestock evolved for that purpose.

In addition, grazing removes some of the fine fuels that generate fire hazards on the range. Animals coming in at the right time

and grazing the right amount tends to knock the seed into the grass, while their hooves act as cultivators. Grazing at the right time in the right amount improves the health of the range ecosystem.

Due partially to carefully-managed grazing, the BLM and the respected Society for Range Management both report "public rangelands are in better condition than at any time in this century."

Because there was no quantifiable monitoring of our rangelands prior to this century, public rangelands may very well be in their best condition ever. We can only rely on several historical statements of their past condition.

In 1827 the Jeremiah Smith exploration party were forced to eat their horses or starve in the same region that today is famous for its wildlife. In 1841, pioneering priest Fr. Pierre DeSmit described the Great Plains this day, "Our beats of burden are compelled to fast...for scarcely a mouthful of grass can be found." Twenty years later mountain man Jim Bridger wrote, "Forage scarce ... animals becoming much emaciated."

Wildlife have benefited from proper range management. The improved condition of the range has increased the numbers of wildlife. According to the Department of the Interior, since 1960, wildlife numbers have increased by: 782 percent for elk; 476 percent for moose; 435 percent for bighorn sheep; and 112 percent for antelope.

Livestock grazing on the

national forests and grasslands has a long tradition, but that's not why it should continue. It will continue because grazing can be a cost-effective, environmentally sound tool to complement other uses and values. Livestock grazing can be carried out in harmony with the range by one of the strongest allies of our public lands—the Western rancher.

*Herbert F. Manig is Director, Natural & Environmental Resources Division, American Farm Bureau Federation, Park Ridge, Illinois and Washington, DC.*



*WOLVES, continued from page 11*

trade. Defenders of Wildlife, the demander of wolves, is willing to pay ranchers for their supply.

Such an approach could be adopted to protect other species, including the spotted owl. A reward program that paid timber owners \$5,000 per pair of nesting spotted owls could motivate landowners to raise spotted owls as well as timber. The invisible hand of free market environmentalism offers an effective alternative to the heavy hand of command-and-control.

*Mr. Anderson is a senior associate of the Political Economy Research Center in Bozeman, Montana; and co-author with Donald Leal of "Free Market Environmentalism" (Pacific Research Institute and Westview Press, 1991).*

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## Worth Watching

Two films produced the National Audubon Society, Christopher Palmer, Executive Producer:

**"Battle for the Great Plains"**

*Narrated by Jane Fonda*

*Nominated for a 1992 Environmental Media Award*

and

**"The New Range Wars"**

*Narrated by Peter Coyote*

*Look for them on your local PBS station*

Limited copies available from the Latham Foundation or contact the National Audubon Society, 666 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-547-9009.

*TUFT'S, continued from page 19*

in complete combustion of fossil fuel, the burning of vegetation and our wetlands all produce large amounts of methane. Rice paddies and termites alone produce almost twice as much methane as cattle.

### Feed a cow, starve a human?

Yet another problem with beef, Rifkin asserts, is that because some people eat it, a billion humans are starving. At issue is the fact that more than half the grain harvested in the United States is fed to livestock. Rifkin maintains that if we were to reduce our cattle production, we would use our agricultural resources to grow more food for starving humans instead. No doubt many Americans would be willing to forego some of their own beef if they knew for certain that the grain spared would be used to save poor families in poor nations from starvation. But Rifkin ignores the very real dilemma that the production of grain in one area of the world does not guarantee that it will be used to end hunger somewhere else.

Even at our current levels of beef production, some 200

million tons of surplus grain are already available in the industrial world. In fact, in the United States alone, 60 million acres of cropland have been withdrawn from grain production in order to prevent agricultural surpluses from depressing prices. The unfortunate reality is that in many areas of the world, hunger is as much a product of politics, civil wars, entrenched wealth, inefficient distribution networks, and corruption as it is of inadequate food supplies and production capabilities.

None of this is to say that stamping out world hunger shouldn't include efforts to produce and distribute our food more efficiently and with greater attention to its effect on the environment as Rifkin reminds us. But long-range, realistic solutions are necessary rather than answers based on zealous arguments that seem grounded in facts but are in reality opinions with, at best, shaky foundations.

*Reprinted courtesy of Tufts University, Diet & Nutrition Letter, 53 Park Place, 8th Fl., New York, N.Y. 10007, June 1992*



# THE BEEF DIET— Prescription for Disaster

Neal D. Barnard, MD

Imagine if two jumbo jets collided over a major city and, in the resulting fireball, 4,000 people died — it would be a national tragedy — one of the worst accidents ever. People would demand that airlines and the government make sure nothing like that could ever happen again.

A tragedy of this proportion happened the day before yesterday. It happened yesterday, too. It will happen again today and tomorrow. Every single day in the United States, 4,000 lives are taken by heart attacks and almost nothing is being done about it.

For years now, we have known of the role diet plays in health, yet unhealthy diets are still promoted by the government, livestock industries, advertisers, and even doctors. Healthy diets must be presented and encouraged by these groups if America's health care crisis is going to be solved.

Dietary changes are worth making. Two of the three leading killers of Americans are heart disease and stroke. Both are linked to "hardening of the arteries"—atherosclerosis—which, in turn, is largely caused by high-fat, cholesterol-laden diets. As we all know, animal flesh, and beef in particular, is a major source of cholesterol and saturated fat.

The enormous toll of these diseases is taken one patient at a time, as doctors finally give up trying to resuscitate yet another heart that is

controllable factors. Foods rich in fat and oils increase our cancer risk. About 40 percent of all the calories we eat comes from the fat

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*"The Beyond Beef Campaign  
is encouraging people  
to make this simple change —  
to step away from beef."*

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damaged beyond hope. The toll is also felt in the national pocketbook. Coronary bypasses and expensive diagnostic tests are now the budget-breaking routine in every city in America.

Many other diseases also have their roots in our daily meals. Breast cancer, which has reached epidemic proportions, killing one woman every twelve minutes, is clearly related to diet. The same connections have been drawn between diet and cancers of the colon and

in meats, poultry, fish, dairy products, fried foods and vegetable oils. These fats stimulate the over-production of hormones which encourage cancer and promote the development of carcinogens in the digestive tract.

Not only are beef and other meats high in cholesterol and saturated fats, but they are also low in some vital vitamins and minerals, and they contain zero fiber. Recently there has been enormous scientific attention given to the role beta-carotene and other vitamins and minerals play in blocking cancer growth. Whole grains, fruits, legumes, and vegetables are full of vitamins and minerals. And plant foods have fiber—a substance completely lacking in beef and other meats. We have long known that fiber helps eliminate many common gastrointestinal problems such as constipation; however, evidence shows that it also is protective against a wide variety of diseases ranging from colon cancer to diabetes, and from gallstones to appendicitis. It also binds with carcinogenic substances,

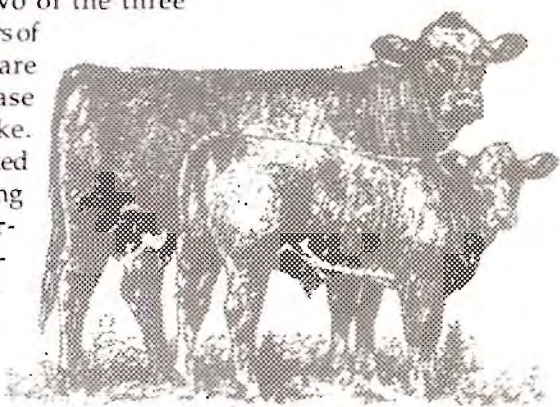
bile, and excess hormones which would otherwise rest in the digestive tract, and moves them out of the body.

As one studies the diets of people around the world, one thing becomes clear: as people give up traditional diets that are low in fats, high in fiber, and predominantly plant-based in favor of beef and other meats, the incidence of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and kidney disease rises. At the same time, life expectancy and quality of life decline. In recent years, Japan has been the target of American beef and tobacco promotional campaigns that seem to be some sort of Pearl Harbor revenge program. Members of the higher socioeconomic strata, who are adopting Westernized diets, have much higher rates of breast, colon, and prostate cancer and heart disease than their counterparts who eat less (or no) meat.

The Beyond Beef campaign is encouraging people to make this simple change—to step away from beef. It is a move that is good for you, for others, for animals, and for the environment. So live a little; try some new cuisine; experiment with traditional and ethnic foods. It could well help you live a lot longer.

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Dr. Neal D. Barnard is  
President of the  
Physicians' Committee for  
Responsible Medicine,  
Washington, DC.



prostate. In fact, according to the National Cancer Institute, some 80 percent of cancer deaths are attributable to smoking, diet, and other identifiable and



# Tuft's University Diet & Nutrition Letter Reacts To Beyond Beef Campaign

## One Man's Beef with Beef

There's a man in Washington who foresees a "new chapter in the unfolding of human consciousness" accompanied by "an ecological renaissance, a grand restoration of nature on every continent." In his vision, "ancient rivers will flow" and "children will have a chance to grow up with sound bodies and minds capable of experiencing the fullness of human existence."

What will usher in this utopia, according to the vision's author? The end of the "world steer complex," an alleged international conspiracy by the industrial nations that supposedly subjugates the world's poor and plunders the earth of its soil, grain, and water by keeping beef a mainstay in the diets of most affluent countries. That's the startling pronouncement made by D.C.-based philosopher-activist Jeremy Rifkin in his new book *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture* (New York: Dutton, 1992), the opening sortie in an eight-year international campaign he has designed to convince Americans to stop eating or at least drastically reduce their consumption of beef. Television commercials and newspaper advertisements are planned to begin this month.

There certainly is much to criticize about eating too much beef, especially fatty cuts. And in building his indictment, Rifkin taps into some real fears many have about our health, humanity, and the environment. But a steer for Rifkin is not so

much meat as it is a metaphor for everything wrong with the late twentieth century. And the picture he paints is so one-sided and the solution he proposes so simplistic that he distorts what are legitimate problems about how we produce and eat our food. Unfortunately, readers could become impressed enough with the enormity of the case he presents against cattle, with his impassioned defense of the planet's environment and the world's poor, and with his extensive documentation, that they may find themselves swept along with his indictment without fully realizing there is a lot more to the story than he lets on.

Consider, for instance, the author's statements about the effect of beef eating on health. According to Rifkin, Americans are fat and dying by the millions of cardiovascular disease, colon and breast cancer, and diabetes specifically because of beef consumption. He documents the very real issue of obesity in the United States with official government statistics and scientific research demonstrating that it is widespread and growing, then says "not surprisingly, as Americans have come to consume greater amounts of marbled beef ... they have become increasingly overweight." It all sounds very convincing. But Rifkin never points out that Americans were overweight long before beef became the most popular meat in the United States in the early 1950s, or that they

are still overweight now that consumption of beef has been overtaken by that of poultry.

Rifkin does pause for one sentence to admit that "many other things contribute to overweight," yet ignores that qualification as he continues his emotional denunciation of beef eating for causing Americans to become so fat.

This pattern of argument is repeated in blaming beef eating for cancer and heart disease. Eating too much fat has, indeed, been linked with certain cancers, and consuming too much saturated fat and cholesterol is one of the risk factors for heart disease. But Rifkin fails to disclose that together, pork, poultry, dairy products, and eggs provide far more of the fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol Americans consume than does beef.

In Rifkin's defense, he does concede that there may be other sources of fat in the diet but he undermines that point when he says that it is from beef that Americans as well as Europeans are "dying by the millions." He also undermines his credibility as someone knowledgeable about nutrition when he wrongly implies that the RDA is the maximum amount of a nutrient the body can absorb rather than the amount of a nutrient that is recommended for good health in the population at large.

### Beef eating's influence on the environment

Beef's effect on health is

actually not Rifkin's biggest gripe. It's that beef production is "one of the most destructive environmental threats of the modern era." Particularly chilling is his description of the ecological ruin that clearing rain forests for grazing land has caused in Central and South America.

Each of us bears some measure of responsibility, Rifkin scolds his readers, because the production of a single quarter-pound hamburger from a steer raised in Central or South America involves the eradication of about 165 pounds of living matter that come from 20 to 30 different plant species, perhaps 100 insect species, and dozens of bird, mammal, and reptile species.

Certainly, the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources for whatever reason is deplorable, and the U.S. bears a share of the responsibility for deforesting nations with fewer natural and economic resources than our own. But contrary to the impression Rifkin creates, some experts believe that the worst of the plunder is over and that the American taste for beef has little impact today on what happens in the tropical rain forests. Less than one percent of the beef Americans eat is imported from Central and South America, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, and even that small amount is steadily declining.

As for the impact of cattle production on global warming, steers do exhale methane gas, which rises to the atmosphere where it traps heat escaping the earth, and thus help to create the "greenhouse effect." But cattle are not the only culprit. Coal mining, oil and gas drilling, the

TUFT'S, continued on page 17

## Book Reviews

**Editor's Note:** *The Latham Foundation reviews humane and related environmental books. To order, please contact the publishers directly.*

### Healthier People Making A Healthier Planet

## Tasty Recipes For Ecological Cooks

*Never doubt that small groups of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

In *Recipes From An Ecological Kitchen: Healthy Meals for You and the Planet*, Lorna Sass has created a veritable joy of cooking for earth-friendly foods, offering a practical solution for everyone who recognizes that while caring for ourselves we are simultaneously caring for Mother Earth.

"As more and more people come to understand the devastating effect that our present diet has on human health and on the environment," says Sass, "I am convinced that they will want to focus their meals more on the exciting world of vegetables, grains and fruits."

Inspired by Frances Moore Lappe's *Diet For A Small Planet* and John Robbins' *Diet For A Small America*, Sass has developed over 250 sophisticated, flavor-packed recipes that present irresistible alternatives to a meat-centered diet. And she provides abundant food for thought as well, with dozens of wise and inspirational quotations interspersed throughout the book, calling to mind the urgency for change and the

value of individual effort in making the world a better place in which to live.

All of the recipes follow the simple guiding principles of the ecological kitchen:

- *Emphasis on vegetables, grains, and fruit.*
- *Use of regional and seasonal produce.*
- *Focus on unprocessed and minimally packaged foods.*
- *Efficient menu planning.*
- *Creative recycling of leftovers.*

To demystify the items stocked in health-food stores, Sass provides an extensive glossary, "Ingredients A to Z," which describes how to select, store and cook hundreds of ingredients. She provides at-a-glance cooking charts for preparing grains, vegetables, and legumes.

*Recipes From An Ecological Kitchen*, bursting with flavor and timely information, is considered by many to be Lorna Sass' most ambitious project.

*Recipes From An Ecological Kitchen: Healthy Meals for You and the Planet*  
by Lorna J. Sass  
William Morrow & Co., Inc.  
Publication Date: August 18, 1992  
\$25.00, hardcover, 512 pages  
ISBN: 0-688-10051-1

### Video Available ...

A video is available from HSUS's recent conference **BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CHILD AND ANIMAL ABUSE** held August 10th in Sacramento, California.

For further information contact the Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office 916-344-1710.

## Main Dish Vegetables



*Main Dish Vegetables*, a new volume in Anne Willan's Look & Cook Series, will surely be greeted with the same enthusiasm by beginning cooks and professionals alike. The strikingly effective step-by-step photographic format details the preparation of sumptuous classical and contemporary specialties, with over 500 photographs accompanying the 25 master recipes and 25 variations in each book. Reflecting Anne Willan's vast culinary knowledge, superb teaching ability, and marvelous creativity, the recipes in the new volumes are deliciously to be practical, affordable, and appealing to today's cooks.

Anne Willan, founder of the famed Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne in Paris, currently directs culinary teaching programs at the Chateau du Fey in Burgundy and at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

*Anne Willan's Look & Cook-  
Main Dish Vegetables*  
Dorling Kindersley, Inc.  
\$19.95  
ISBN: 1-56458-098-9

## Free Market Environmentalism

Terry L. Anderson &  
Donald R. Leal  
Pacific Research Institute for  
Public Policy  
177 Post Street, San Francisco  
94108  
(415) 989-0833;  
FAX (415) 989-2411  
192 pages, softbound  
\$14.95 US

As environmental concerns increase, policymakers seek alternative means of managing the earth's resources and achieving environmental quality. Co-authors Anderson and Leal are among a growing number of resource economists, who are developing a new approach for managing the world's finite resources, based on property rights, individual decision making, and market-oriented solutions.



In their book, the authors provide the definitive treatment of free market environmentalism and challenge its limits. They develop the property rights paradigm by examining historical and traditional resource management in cattle ranching, timber production, and water rights. They then apply their paradigm to public land

management, outdoor recreation, water allocation and quality, offshore drilling, timberlands, and fisheries. Finally, they tackle the tougher problems of pollution, hazardous waste, acid rain, and global warming. What emerges is their thoughtful suggested solution for possible resource management which would be both economically sound and environmentally sensitive.

## Suppliers of Beneficial Organisms in North America

by Charles D. Hunter

*The Environment:  
What can you do about it?*

**Editor's Note:** Long before scientist chemically formulated toxic garden pesticides and combined them with ozone-destroying fluorocarbon dispensers, nature's "good bugs" accomplished the needed control. They're still available and ready to help those concerned about our deteriorating environment.

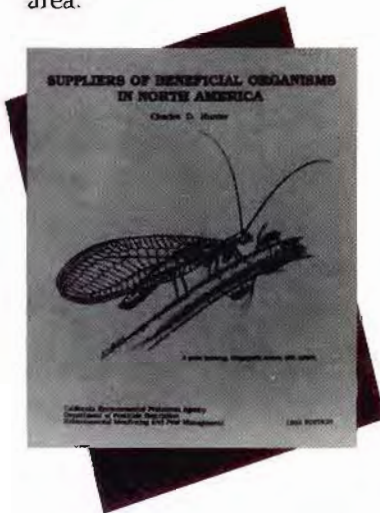
New free directory of suppliers of "Good Bugs" for gardens and farms.

Anyone looking for "good bugs" for their garden or farm is invited to send for a few new booklet available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

"You can find out where to buy everything from ladybugs to lacewings to mosquito fish and parasitic nematodes," said DPR Director James W. Wells. "There are controls for many insects, including aphids, mites and beetles, as well as controls for weeds like Scotch broom, Russian thistle, and puncturevine."

The 31-page booklet, which goes by the unwieldy title of "Suppliers of Beneficial Organisms in North America," includes 95 suppliers of more than 126 different organisms used for biological control of pests on small and large farms, and in backyard gardens.

The listing is an updated version of the 1989 edition, Wells said. "We try to revise it every couple of years. Each year, the number of suppliers and the number of beneficial organisms increases. Biological control is a very exciting field — there's a lot of interest in alternatives to pesticides, and a lot of work is going on in this area."



The booklet includes the names, addresses and phone numbers of sources of beneficial organisms throughout the United States and Canada, along with their product line, whether they sell wholesale or retail, and whether they have a catalog or brochure available. Also noted is whether they supply free information and consulting.

"Our booklet doesn't have any information on how to use beneficial organisms," said Wells. "If we did, it would have to be the size of an encyclopedia. You can sometimes get information

like that from the supplier, and you can always call the University of California Cooperative Extension office in your county for help."

Wells added that using a beneficial organism to fight pests usually takes a little more knowledge than using a pesticide.

"With a chemical pesticide, you can read the label to know how much to use, when to apply it, how to get best results. And you can usually see the results fairly quickly."

"With natural enemies, it's a little different," Wells continued. "Although the results are more gradual, they are often more long-lasting, since you are establishing a system of natural checks and balances. But to succeed, it is important to know the pest you are dealing with, and the best way to approach it."

"That's why farmers call in integrated pest management (IPM) specialists, who know how to diagnose problems and recommend solutions. Home gardeners can take advantage of the tremendous expertise at the UC Cooperative Extension, or ask one of the suppliers in the booklet for advice. Many of them have literature available on the beneficial organisms and how to apply them," said Wells.

The booklet is indexed to help match suppliers with the specific natural enemies they sell. There is also an index of beneficial organisms, with scientific name and target pest. Not listed are biological controls that are single-celled organisms (microbial pesticides, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*), which are considered pesticides under state and federal law and

are widely available.

Although several natural enemies for various whiteflies are listed, there is no commercially available "good bug" to fight ash whitefly. A state-sponsored biological control program aimed at ash whitefly will continue this year, with releases of a parasitic wasp that is proving very effective in locations where it has been released in the past.

Free, single copies of the booklet are available from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Environmental Monitoring and Pest Management Branch, Attn: Beneficial Organisms Booklet, 1220 N. Street, P.O. Box 942871, Sacramento CA 94271-0001. To order by phone, call (916) 654-1141.

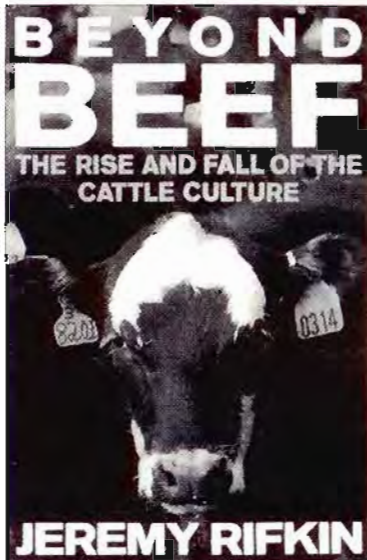
## BEYOND BEEF: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture

by Jeremy Rifkin

There are currently 1.28 billion cattle populating the earth. They take up nearly 24 percent of the land mass of the planet and consume enough grain to feed hundreds of millions of people. Their combined weight exceeds that of the human population on Earth.

Beginning with this startling and unsettling set of facts, Jeremy Rifkin interweaves anthropology, history, sociology, economics, and ecology in a brilliant and devastating examination and indictment of the cattle culture that has come to shape and warp our world.

BOOK REVIEWS, continued on next page



distant from each other as New York, Tokyo, and Moscow.

Above all, *Beyond Beef* adds up the cost of all this. It depicts a world in which the poorer peoples of the planet have been starved to support the beef addiction of a handful of wealthy nations. In Europe, the United States, and Japan, this addiction has resulted in millions

of deaths from heart attacks, cancer, and strokes — the diseases of affluence. The book also describes the grim ecological effects of the cattle culture: rain forests burned, fertile plains turned into desert, and climate threatened by global warming.

*Beyond Beef* may well take away your appetite for beef, but it will stir your hunger for change —

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*"This persuasive and passionate book is for the 1990's what Silent Spring was for an earlier decade."*

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before it is too late. This persuasive and passionate book is for the 1990's what *Silent Spring* was for an earlier decade — an urgent warning to everyone who cares about the fate of the earth.

Jeremy Rifkin is an author, activist, and philosopher who is best known for his environmental work and his critique of modern

technologies, including genetic engineering. His books include *Biosphere Politics*, *Entropy*, *Time Wards*, and *Algeny*. President of the Greenhouse Crisis Foundation and the Foundation on Economic Trends, he lives in Washington, D.C. Price: \$21.00

Order through your local bookstore, or call: 1-800-526-0275

**Editor's Note:** *In accordance with the Latham Letter's policy of presenting both sides of debatable issues, we reprint here additional reviews of Beyond Beef.*

"*Beyond Beef* is mostly baloney...The manifesto, laced with muddled 'Green' political dogma, is tinged with an authoritarian hue. Capitalism, free markets and, really, people themselves can't be trusted to make the right decisions ... Rifkin, who isn't a scientist or economist, approaches his subject from a moral perspective. We learn quickly what is good and

"*Beyond Beef* is a polemic designed to shock and outrage ... Suffice it to say that in Rifkin's view, that Big Mac isn't just two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame-seed bun—it's the white-male-American-Judeo-Christian-Patriarchal-Eurocentric evil that makes Western Civilization such a threat to all Right-Thinking People."

*Rocky Mountain News Book Review,*  
John Talton, February 25, 1992.

"Given the passion he seems to have for his subject, it's curious that Rifkin didn't bestir himself to conduct one or two in interviews ... But there is no sign Rifkin did any primary research. Instead, his technique seems to have been to feed the words "beef" and "cattle" into a computer, go through all the data, and compile all the icky stuff into this book. As a result, it reads like a long term paper with an attitude."

*Chicago Sun-Times Book Review,*  
Delia O'Hara, March 25, 1992.

"*Beyond Beef*'s thesis, in short, is that the cattle industry is the root of all evil in the world ... Scarcely discernible in this morass of assertions is any scientific evidence beyond the anecdotal ... *Beyond Beef* is even more dishonest in its assessment of Agriculture Department beef inspection practices ... Worse is his mendacious exploitation of AIDS and cancer hysteria ... In the final chapters of *Beyond Beef*, Mr. Rifkin's semi-coherent rambling degenerates into a maniacal harangue."

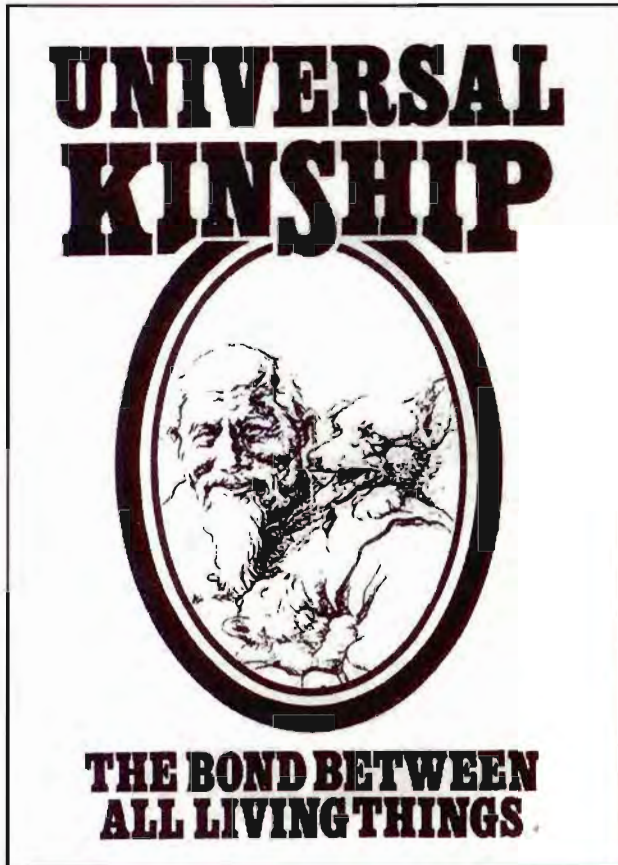
*Detroit News Commentary*  
Matthew Hoffman, March 26, 1992



**Powerful  
Reading!**

*"This special book contains a collection of the best articles from the Latham Foundation's world-wide newsletter. It offers hope, inspiration, and perspective. Its pages contain the timely messages that continue to challenge us to become better stewards of the fragile planet we share with all living things."*

Larry Brown, A.C.S.W.  
Executive Director, The American Humane Association



## **Universal Kinship: The Bond Between All Living Things**

*by The Latham Foundation*

Here is a special book that you will want to read over and over again. This collection of inspiring and comforting articles underscores the deep bonds that unite all living things, and shows us how we all can find hope and greater meaning as we learn to work in harmony with the earth.

Much of the Universal Kinship that is explored in this volume centers on the bonds between us and animals. Within the pages of this book you will learn how pets are attending school, not as students, but as teachers and therapists. You will discover how infants, the elderly, and the sick can benefit from the presence of animals. You will also gain new insights in handling grief after the loss of a loved one. And, you will find critical new information for healing the bond with the planet we live on. This book is a must for everyone. Buy one for yourself, and for someone you love.



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