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Comments from the ICA President and Executive Director



Robert Bruner, ICA President

Mr. Bruner has asked some of the State Directors to share in the place of his monthly column.

By Phil Sadler and Chloe Nunley

It is in times of turmoil and distress that people show their true colors. A test of many Texan's generosity, livelihood, and sanity was given this year as drought and fire, among other things, tore through Texas. Texans helping Texans was a sight seen across the state, but these acts of generosity did not stop at the state line.

Ferber Robinson, a 64-year-old Chicken farmer from Mississippi, stepped up to answer the call for help. His attachment to the land is as strong as his attachment to the Lord. Mr. Robinson watched as the people of Texas bore hardship after hardship and decided to act. He contacted his local newspaper and reached out to a number of organizations in Texas. Independent Cattlemen's Association received an email detailing this man's concern and generosity for and toward the welfare of our farmers and ranchers. Mr. Robinson had premium hay available for worthy agriculture citizens, with the only stipulation being that transportation would not be provided.

Phil Sadler and Billy Patrick were some of the few that had the chance to visit with Mr. Robinson. Like a true southern gentleman they had a warm welcome and shared a genuine interest in the welfare of the industry. They parted ways with the sight of hope and a new found friendship.

As the drought continued on and the fires kept burning, Mr. Robinson continued to supply hay to Texans for as long as he could. When he could no longer help by giving what he had, he gave contact information for more people that would be willing to help. He not only did this once but twice. This man was unflinching in his efforts to help a state in need.

Ferber Robinson is what every farmer and rancher should strive to be: dedicated to the land, trusting in Lord, and helpful to a neighbor in need, no matter the distance. His act of helping and kindness has provided the opportunity for many operations to keep going. Thank you, Mr. Robinson for all you have done for Texas. God Bless and hats off to you!



Bill Hyman, ICA Executive Director

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The recent video released by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) showed sows being raised in gestation crates and workers castrating squealing baby pigs. The moderator of the video told of how the sows were not allowed to run in the grass and hills. A recent lawsuit by animal activists against Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples accused his agency of allowing laying hens to be crammed into wire cages. One of the parties suing Commissioner Staples accused his agency of allowing eggs produced in unsafe conditions to be sold to the public.

The HSUS and other groups have even stopped the humane processing of unwanted horses in the United States for the past several years, inadvertently subjecting them to inhumane treatment in Mexico and allowing others to starve to death because their owners had nowhere to go with them. Animal activists recently admitted to committing acts of terrorism by burning up fourteen trucks and trailers belonging to a California cattle company.

Rather than trying to show how inaccurate the motives of these extremely misinformed individuals are, maybe we should ask them to tell us how we (2% of the population) are expected to feed the world. Keep in mind, none of the activist groups have provided a solution to any of the “issues” they have identified...simply to put the US farmers and ranchers out of business and we can rely on other countries for our food.

Animal activists believe in their cause and have recently shown they will violate the law to accomplish their goals. They come with a vision of a quiet, rural farm with a dozen chickens, two horses, several cows, and a happy pig sleeping in the mud. They are right, this is a beautiful scene. In fact the occupants of the adjacent farm house can probably provide some of the necessary food for their existence, maybe even a few extra eggs for their cousins in town or an extra gallon of unpasteurized milk, too. They never take into account the two million other folks living in the city thirty miles down the road. Who will feed them? The food at the grocery store just doesn't happen, an army of farmers, ranchers, processors and deliverymen put the food on the shelf. The food on the grocery shelves is as safe as we can make it, having been inspected and produced using accepted industry standards. If we were to follow the activist's guidelines, the store shelves would be bare and the food that was available would be unbearably expensive.

In America we have free speech and we can disagree, but complaining, bringing lawsuits and arson don't solve the task of feeding the world, farmers and ranchers do. As my daughter used to say, “Get real!”