

Dear NOP:

NOP PROPOSED RULE ANIMAL WELFARE ADDITIONS

These proposed rules are not really that bad, but they don't go far enough in a lot of ways. I think intensive rotational grazing is too confining for cows as their natural behavior is to wander freely on thousands of acre of land. I also question the use of fence at all as it inhibits the natural wandering and grazing of the animals, after all are they not free range animals. Maybe the use of perimeter fence around the entire farm so as not to bother the neighbors, but that would come later as the details are worked out and a check of present rules is done. I can see where this could apply to all types of livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and anything else that could benefit from free range grazing.

Not only that let's take this a little further after all humans were not meant walk on anything but the dirt also. So I recommend that all concrete and unnatural working surfaces be replaced with organic soil, as examples farmers homes and barns should have dirt floors as well as processing plants for milk, meat, cheese, cereal, pasta or anything that has to do with organic food production. I know I said cereal after all it is an organic food that does very well in soil as well so should be processed the same way. Humans should be allowed dry shelter with heat after all we are far superior to animals and crops and should not be subjected to inclement weather or should we?

The down side to some of this is it might have an effect on the economy. After all there will more than likely be significant increases in production costs as the more you get back to the earth the more it seems to cost. For example extra labor to find the animals in a blizzard or to help drag the dead or dying animals and most likely humans to an organic disposal site. Of course the folks who came up with the original animal welfare rules will more than likely volunteer to help because it is the right thing to do.

And let's not forget the dramatic reduction in real estate taxes as the houses, barns and processing plants won't appraise for as much with dirt floors and possibly no heat if they take animal welfare truly serious. I am sure the need for more hazardous waste sites will be to dispose of the large amounts of concrete that need to be discarded, because more than likely in large quantities it might cause cancer or at the very least contribute to global warming!

This is not intended for this to be humorous as it will be agreeable to some folks, but if you are looking for a real laugh please read the original NOP animal welfare document.

By the way please feel free you add your own ideas so that we can polish up this proposal and get it to the NOP.

Sincerely,

George Wright
Wright Way Dairy, Hermon, NY