



The Logjam in Meat Processing is Killing Producers & Meat Plant Workers

Greetings!

Reflections on the Moment

Last month I mentioned the tragic events surrounding the [deaths of poultry processing workers](#) at a Foster Farms plant in California's San Joaquin Valley. It is a sad fact that



along with hospitals, elder care facilities, prisons and homeless shelters, meat processing plants are the

work sites with the greatest COVID-19 infection rates. Closely stationed workers on the processing lines, many of whom travel together in cramped vehicles and live together in crowded homes due to low wages, are at high risk. As of September [nearly 43,000](#) workers in 496 plants across the US had contracted the disease and over 200 have died. And this is only one critical part of the large meat processing challenge in America where five companies control nearly 90% of the meat supply. [READ MORE](#)

(Photo credit: Doris Meier)

Action Alert

Help End the Meat Processing Logjam and the Harms to Producers and Workers

Join us and our allies in the Midwest to fix this problem by asking the US Senate to support local meat processing! Members of the House of Representatives Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)



introduced the [Strengthening Local Processing Act](#). We need some Senators to do the same in their chamber. Please [hit this link](#) to make your voice heard in Washington DC!
(Photo credit: FrancineS0321/Pixabay)

This Week's Flipping the Table Podcast

The Bay Area Ranchers Cooperative (BARC) Meat Processing Project

Three dynamic northern California women are organizing livestock producers to create a unique solution to the processing logjam. They are as serious as the problem is big, I think they have a chance to succeed if they rally the region. Here is their story and how you can help.



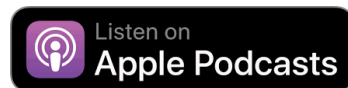
Duskie Estes
[BlackPig Meat Co.](#)



Kathy Webster
[TomKat Ranch](#)



Sarah Silva
[Greenstar Farm](#)



**Next Episode on November 12th:
The Imhoff Archives with Wendell Berry**



There is no American who has done more to stimulate the development of the good food movement than Kentucky farmer and writer, Wendell Berry. Dan Imhoff felt his interview with Wendell must be the first episode of the 6-part Imhoff Archives series.



Wendell's seminal writings have influenced many of the major voices that have reshaped how we think about agriculture and rural communities. In light of today's focus on livestock, Wendell's following statement from this interview, really struck me. He says WWII was the great fulcrum of his life. Prior to that event, farmers had "joined ourselves to the land with sentient animals" and it allowed for a "creaturely existence." After the War, animals were replaced with machines and that began the great "oversimplification" of agriculture that is the source of its current problems. He calls on us to mitigate the oversimplification in order to repair the land, farms and rural economies. At first glance you may think his statement is wrong, but listen and think, and it may make perfect sense for you as it does for me. And if you still disagree, please let me know why at michael@rootsofchange.org. (Photo credit: Guy Mendes)

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I hope our range of actions to create a just, resilient and healthy food system is of interest to you. Please consider making a donation to support our work.

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Thank you!



Michael Reid Dimock
President
Roots of Change
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