Abstract: There are three basic movements in the USA, which are imposing ever increasing pressure on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO’s). These three movements are: Environmental Improvement, Animal Rights and Welfare, and Labor Limitations. Any one of the three can spell disaster for CAFO’s, but all three at once certifies the end. When, you might ask, is the end? I say one human generation....and that generation is already some 5 years spent. That leaves 40 years to the end for most CAFO’s in the USA. Meanwhile, due to the competitive efficiency of large confinement production facilities, they are likely to have been duplicated in other countries less concerned about the three forces at work in the USA.

Where the CAFO’s go, so do the feed grains. The consumers in the USA will be left to choose imported foreign foods or to pay more generously for domestic foods considered to have higher value. There lies the opportunity for the USA livestock and poultry producers. With management-intensive grazing and other natural or organic methods, they can produce foods of higher value to serve the discriminating food buyers of the future. Already, proof of that market can be seen with Whole Foods and Wild Oats having marked growth and admirable profits. The crop lands idled by the loss of feed grain markets here can be turned to pastures, fruits and vegetables, golf courses and useful green spaces among the settlements of urban expansion. This mode of production can be economically sound, environmentally correct, ecologically justified and socially acceptable. Can you accept this transition?