Get your mind out of the dairy farm management ghetto By Tom Weaver

## **Inner City Ghetto**

A subculture that thrives on and is perpetuated by ignorance. Controlled by a small number of powerful, but immoral exploiters that reap huge profits from the many.

Drug dealers offer a false "escape" from the harsh realities of ghetto life. Often the drugs are offered at low cost (or even free) in the beginning until dependency is established, then the cost is significantly more - failure to pay may even threaten the existence of an individual. Never are the residents exposed to a way out by the dealers. Rather the dealers exploit this perceived need - even to the point of driving them to self destruction.

Some turn to prostitution to get their drug money.

Drug empires are maintained by greed and fear. New street level dealers are recruited with easy money and retained by threat of great personal loss if they ever try to come clean. *Especially* if they try to become an agent for change and truth. Individuality is not tolerated.

Government intervention (limited police action [at times criminally influenced], counseling, welfare services, etc.) is increased in order to "help" solve the problems. All the while government "helps" the problems and bureaucratic budgets grow calling for more and more funding and intervention. One wonders if government "help" doesn't create an ever greater demand for the very problems it is intended to fix? If the problem went away would there be a need for the bureaucrats?

The people who make up this subculture remain in their traditional way of living –trapped within the ghetto system – of their own will. This in spite of the fact there are no fences to prevent their exit and no lack of opportunities to learn of new paths to tread. Not only do these people voluntarily live in misery, but also coerce others into remaining in or only looking to, previously noted, accepted, helps for answers to problems. Thinking new thoughts and learning superior ways is discouraged by peer pressure. The entire self-deceived, defeated, fear-of-change driven social system is kept together by a relatively small band of DUD's (duped useful dummies) controlled by the exploiters.

If something proves to have profit potential in the ag marketplace you can be sure it'll eventually have research studies to support it. -T. Weaver

## Dairy Industry

A subculture that appears to encourage a minority people group called farmers to focus on hauling manure, writing checks, and taking financial risk while allowing a relatively small number of exploiters to direct management protocols and reap huge profits.

Ag suppliers / marketers offer products / management advice that are self-promoting and often set in motion a dependency cycle of greater and greater need for other products and services that might not otherwise be in demand. As the harsh realities / side effects set in (after the short term "high" of additional milk production through "pushing cows") dealers offer more new product oriented "solutions." Farmers are rarely exposed to the way off of the dependency treadmill.

Some prostitute themselves to stay on the money trail.

Young college recruits are enticed by salaries and company vehicles. They quickly learn the highest ethic is determined by sales figures. Loyalty to the company/Co-Op must come before loyalty to the profession/farmer.

Government intervention (additional regulation, university research / guidance, direct payments, etc.) is increased in order to "help" solve the dairyman's problems. All the while bureaucratic budgets grow calling for more and more funding and intervention. One wonders if government "help" doesn't create an ever greater demand? The situation seems to be influenced by outsiders also —why aren't anti-trust laws enforced in ag and why does production management advice serve agrisales before farmers?

Farmers remain in their traditional way of managing – trapped as gerbils on the treadmill system –of their own will. This, in spite of *multiple options* to reduce production costs, risks / debt load and even improve market prices (less corn production and high forage rations [and/or grazing] plus the organic opportunity to name just a couple). Not only do *most* of these people live in voluntary misery, but they also put pressure on their neighbors (or sense it *from* them) to *conform*. Thinking new thoughts and learning superior ways is discouraged by peer pressure. The entire social system is kept together by a relatively small band of DUD's (poster farmers of agri-sales and milk processing) controlled by the exploiters.

Before the rush of spring and summer field work, take time to read a book- <u>Animal Farm</u> by George Orwell. A short 128 page fictitious story of farm animals who fought to gain their freedom, but ultimately lost it to their accepted leaders. As a farmer you will identify with Boxer the workhorse. (Call American Opinion Bookstore at 800-342-6491 (\$5.95 + S&H), or check your local library.) If big government (BG) and/or big business (BB) blatantly demanded that dairymen become slaves and provide milk regardless of compensation, cows would remain unmilked even at the threat of a gun, but if BB and BG pretend to care *all the while assisting farmers to put on their own strait jacket*, they will fight tooth and nail, *even one another*, for the privilege. The answers to dairy's woes won't be found in *conventionally accepted*, more of the same, solutions. Get out of the ghetto mentality, get *outside the box*. I pray that KOW may be a catalyst for needed change, but the ultimate solutions must start at farm level.