

H\$U\$--Your challenge!!!

By Sally Schuff and Jim Hughes

The following message is an article written by Sally Schuff and reprinted with permission from Foodstuffs Magazine. The comments inserted are by Jim Hughes to make the points made by Sally applicable to the dog business.

Here is the challenge for the Humane Society of the United States [HSUS].

Try to understand the purpose of Animal Agriculture or you could be the ones who are blamed for the major mistake of killing the industry.

Animal Agriculture is not about torturing animals in “Factory Farms or Commercial Kennels nor poisoning the environment nor obesity. Animal Agriculture IS all about providing high quality human nutrition, not only for the developed countries of the world, but for third world countries where quality, protein rich nutrition is essential for the physical and mental well being of the citizens of those countries.

While we are not proposing that canines can be considered foodstuff, we are contending that a choice made to own a purebred dog, to work it, to show it, to love it, to play with it, to sleep with it, to use it as a companion or best friend, should be made by the individual as per their constitutional rights and not by a bunch of politicians who cannot think for themselves and therefore must listen to the Animal Rights Idiots who tell them what to think and do. And for that matter, who are we or they to think that we have the right to tell an ethnic group of people who do eat dog that we are going to legislate a change on their dinner table.

Meat, milk, eggs, poultry, and fish are high quality protein rich foods that contain the essential amino acids required for human development. They hardly qualify as social evils. This also holds true for the high volume breeder who is producing the family pet for the psychological development and well being of the child.

When Animal Agriculture is attacked, as it clearly is by the H\$U\$, there is a clear danger that it could be destroyed or damaged by well meaning, but uneducated people. Considering global population growth, HSUS might want to think twice before risking the blame for promoting a future protein shortage.

On Sept. 10, Danielle Nierenberg, billed as an animal agriculture and climate change specialist for HSUS, showcased the group’s agenda. Her remarks came in Washington D.C., at a Hudson Institute discussion of a new peer-reviewed paper showing that the use of bovine growth hormones reduces the dairy industry’s carbon footprint by reducing the number of animals and inputs needed to produce milk. In taking exception to the conclusion of the submitted paper, Nierenberg said, “there are numerous studies showing that Escherichia coli and avian influenza increase in factory farm conditions.” However, when Hudson Institute director of research on global food issues, Alex Avery, challenged her to cite her sources, Nierenberg was unable to do so. Nierenberg’s attack was

revealing. She called large-scale operations “filthy and disease ridden” and said, “my perspective is one that is critical of industrial animal agriculture, mostly the largest of the large scale operations. I am not critical of small and medium sized dairy, chicken and pig farmers who have worked very hard in this country to raise animals.”

Is this philosophy also carrying over to the puppy producer? We find that state after state and city after city is limiting the number of dogs one is allowed to keep. Or, does the number keep dropping year after year until soon there are none.

What Nierenberg missed, and what HSUS always misses/is the size of the operation is not the issue. What really matters is management!! People manage animals; they manage animal health and well-being, environmental remediation, public health concerns and community acceptance. The excellence of an animal operation is governed by how good the people are—not how big the operation is.

IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF HSUS COULD UNDERSTAND THIS!!!

Maybe we could hope that HSUS could lower its voice and understand that animal agriculture is not the evil industry that they paint it to be. Animal breeders are always looking for better ways to improve their husbandry and the well being of their charges

Most importantly, it is an industry that produces a product essential to human nutrition, and frankly, it could use all the well intentioned help it could get.

Whatever its motives, HSUS needs to be concerned about what its current attack agenda will mean to the future of animal agriculture. If that agenda brings on a global shortage of high quality, protein rich foods, then the blame will fall squarely on the shoulders of HSUS and its sister organizations.

And my prediction—another industry will leave the shores of the United States.