

An Industry Worth Fighting For

Editing Sample from Allyson Brooks

Author's Original Manuscript

2. *Cow/Calf Separation*

This issue in the video was particularly troubling to me. The producer encouraged viewers to assign human emotions to cows. In other words, human mothers relate to the intense feeling of distress they would experience if they were to be separated (by an outside force) from their human baby. That's pretty much written into the DNA of humans—and to be fair, of most animals. Mammals protect their young to ensure the survival of the species.

Dairy cattle, however, are different.

Allyson's Re-Writes & Edits

Cow/Calf Separation

This issue in the video was particularly troubling to me. **The producer encouraged viewers to assign human emotions to cows,** which is known as anthropomorphism.

Anthropomorphism is a normal human behavior; the areas of our brain that trigger empathy and understanding also light up when we anthropomorphize (Nauert, 2018). However, animal rights extremists use a form of toxic anthropomorphism where the imagery flashes into view so fast, the person watching only has time to feel emotions instead of critically think. This is most evident when *very fast* jump cuts are shown out of context of wailing cows and calves. Because we are human, we anthropomorphize; we interpret the sounds of these animals as to be cries of distress (Brown & McLean, 2013). Parents (yes, even dads!) deeply empathize with this interpretation. No one wants to think about forcibly taking a baby from its momma!

Dairy cattle, however, are different from human beings.

Commented [AB24]: The original text here used a pseudoscientific theory that connects maternal instincts to DNA, when, in fact, no genetic evidence exists. A greater point exists regarding the dangerous use of anthropomorphism by animal rights activists. What is in the rest of this paragraph is my wording; feel free to modify to the author's voice as needed.

Final

Cow/Calf Separation

This issue in the video was particularly troubling to me. The producer encouraged viewers to assign human emotions to cows, which is known as anthropomorphism. Anthropomorphism is a normal human behavior; the areas of our brain that trigger empathy and understanding also light up when we anthropomorphize (Nauert, 2018). However, animal rights extremists use a form of toxic anthropomorphism where the imagery flashes into view so fast, the person watching only has time to feel emotions instead of critically think. This is most evident when very fast jump cuts are shown (out of context) of wailing cows and calves. Because we are human, we anthropomorphize; we interpret the sounds of these animals as to be cries of distress (Brown & McLean, 2013). Parents (yes, even dads) deeply empathize with this interpretation. No one wants to think about forcibly taking a baby from its momma.

Dairy cattle, however, are different from human beings.

what Timothy said was evil. We should give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but not *covet* the cash.

Money is like any other commodity. Throughout the history of the world, people have figured out what had value and what did not. That way, our ancestors could trade with each other to further advance their survival. Whether it was water, food, knowledge, or oil—humans work with each other to swap valuables.

Currency (money) is one such item...it started with biological necessities (animal pelts), moved to shiny things (gold), which then evolved to what we now use as currency (dollars, pesos, yen, Euros, etc.). A dollar bill does not have inherent value—unless you need kindling to start a fire. We have a *concept* of what a dollar will trade for (purchase), and that gives it *perceived* value.

I won't bore you with an economics lecture. Frankly, I'm not sure I know enough to pull that off. But here is what I do know—everyone needs currency. It's how we trade in a modern world. However, if your entire existence is to amass more and more and more currency—hoard it at the expense of your community, family, or health—then The Bible would consider your actions to be sinful.

I don't live that way. I like nice things (and I know Kaycee does too), but money is only

itself, is not evil—the *love* of money is what Timothy said was evil. We should give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but don't *covet* the cash.

Tracing the history of money is nearly impossible, thanks to the poor record-keeping of so many complex civilizations. We don't even have a record of any society that used only barter (Surowiecki, 2021). We do know this: people figured out what had value and what did not. Our ancestors would trade with each other to get what they'd need to survive.

But, trading can be tricky. One person may be in need of some arrowheads and he has a bag of dates. To start, he needs to find someone who has arrowheads. Then, he has to find someone who has arrowheads *and* who wants some dates. That's a tall order right there.

To keep trading fair, the use of money as a medium of exchange came into play. Our person can now simply trade the dates for some gold coins. He can then take the gold coins and exchange them for some arrowheads. These gold coins were a form of commodity money. This type of currency has value in and of itself. In colonial America, beaver pelts and dried corn were used as commodity money—those items had an intrinsic value (Investopedia, 2021).

The United States stopped using commodity money since we were taken off the gold standard in 1971. Today, we use a form of currency called fiat money. Fiat money has no intrinsic value. Its only value comes from our faith in the government and our country. It gives our economy some flexibility and it's cheap to produce (Chen, 2021).

I know this is a very simplified history of currency; I'm no economist. But, here is what I do know for sure: to get by in this society, you need money. It's how we trade in a modern world. However, if your entire existence, your only goal in life, is to amass more and more and more currency—hoard it at the expense of your community, family, or health—then the Bible would consider your actions to be sinful.

I don't live that way. Sure, I like nice things (and I know Kaycee does, too), but money is

Commented [AB46]: This section is all my words and my research. The original text erroneously equated all money with commodities. Money/currency is not a commodity; it is a medium of exchange. As an editor, I want the author to be presented in the best light possible. This includes conveying correct and succinct information to the reader. By doing so, the author retains his/her credibility.

Timothy said was evil. We should give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but don't covet the cash.

Tracing the history of money is nearly impossible, thanks to the poor record-keeping of so many complex civilizations. We don't even have a record of any society that used only barter (Surowiecki, 2021). We do know this: people figured out what had value and what did not. Our ancestors would trade with each other to get what they'd need to survive.

But, trading can be tricky. One person may be in need of some arrowheads and he has a bag of dates. To start, he needs to find someone who has arrowheads. Then, he has to find someone who has arrowheads and who wants some dates. That's a tall order right there.

To keep trading fair, the use of money as a medium of exchange came into play. Our person can now simply trade the dates for some gold coins. He can then take the gold coins and exchange them for some arrowheads. These gold coins were a form of commodity money. This type of currency has value in and of itself. In colonial America, beaver pelts and dried corn were used as commodity money—those items had an intrinsic value (Investopedia, 2021).

The United States stopped using commodity money since we were taken off the gold standard in 1971. Today, we use a form of currency called fiat money. Fiat money has no intrinsic value. Its only value comes from our faith in the government and our country. It gives our economy some flexibility and it's cheap to produce (Chen, 2021).

I know this is a very simplified history of currency; I'm no economist. But, here is what I do know for sure: to get by in this society, you need money. It's how we trade in a modern world. However, if your entire existence, your only goal in life, is to amass more and more and more currency—hoard it at the expense of your community, family, or health—then the Bible would consider your actions to be sinful.

I don't live that way. Sure, I like nice things (and I know Kaycee

Author’s Original Manuscript

I’ll close this chapter with some thoughts on the other social media platforms.

First, I do not have a Tik-Tok account. I don’t hold any particular malice toward Tik-Tok, except that their parent company is in China and not the U.S. Otherwise, I just don’t vibe with their overall style. Maybe it’s because they were formed after I had already grown to be a big account on a different platform, and maybe it’s because I don’t want to put the effort in making short video stories...but I don’t feel any need to join their platform.

Likewise, I don’t pay much attention to Twitter. I do have an account—mostly to retweet posts from friends. But I’m only on Twitter once or twice per week. In my experience, twitter is the worst platform with regard to bots and idiots, so it has been more a waste of my time and energy than a benefit to my overall mission statement.

Instagram is the only other platform to which I pay attention. And unlike Facebook, where I am mindful to analyze growth patterns and manage my followers, I watch Instagram for a different reason. I have been conducting a long-term experiment to determine when and how they shadow-ban me. I am insanely curious to see exactly what I can and cannot talk about on their platform. And make no mistake: shadow-banning is a real thing.

For those of you not familiar with the term, “Shadow-bannig” is when a platform (and they all do their own version of this) doesn’t delete your post *per se*. That would seem Orwellian if your post doesn’t flagrantly violate and of their community guidelines. Instead, they will allow the post to remain up—but severely limit the number of people who can see it.

It’s subtle, but it allows them to ostensibly control content without looking like they are censoring content.

For example, if I tag a person who is currently being shadow-banned in the platform’s algorithm, I will see a notable dip in the number of people who see my post. Likewise, if I talk about certain topics, I will see a more remarkable dip in reach.

Allyson’s Re-Writes & Edits

As for other social media platforms, I do not have a Tik-Tok account. I’m concerned that their parent company is in China, whose government is real big on censorship. Also, I just don’t vibe with their overall style. They were formed after I already had a successful account on a different platform. I don’t have the time to make video stories that are specific to their app, and I don’t feel any need to join yet another video-based platform.

Likewise, I don’t pay much attention to Twitter. I have an account, but I mostly retweet posts from friends. I’m only on Twitter once or twice per week. In my experience, Twitter is the worst platform with regard to bots and internet tough guys, so it has been more a waste of my time and energy than a benefit to my overall mission statement.

Instagram is the only other platform I pay attention to. Unlike Facebook, where I am mindful to analyze growth patterns and manage my followers, I watch Instagram for a different reason. I have been testing it to see if, when, how, and why Instagram shadowbans. I am insanely curious to see exactly what I can and cannot talk about on their platform. I want to know what happens with a shadowban.

For those of you not familiar with the term, “shadowbanning” is the practice of suppressing viewership a user’s content from an online community without the knowledge of the user. The content isn’t outright deleted; that would be Orwellian if your post doesn’t flagrantly violate community guidelines. Instead, the post is allowed to remain visible, but the number of people who can see it is severely limited. It’s subtle, but it allows the platform to control content without technically censoring it.

The original intention of shadowbanning was to keep away the trolls. No one will see the nasty comments or the spam except for the person who posts it. The views on the post drop, thus the troll thinks everyone is ignoring them. They get discouraged with the platform and move on to another site (Thompson, 2009). Of course, like any well-intentioned idea, the platforms that implemented it started abusing it. Instagram has become infamous for shadowbanning, although they continually deny it; they won’t even use the word “shadowban.” But it sure seems they have done a lot of apologizing for stifled content (Thomas, 2021).

Commented [AB19]: I have given a reason as to why the author may not like that the parent company is in China; the previous text was vague.

Commented [AB20]: Fun Fact: Instagram is owned by Facebook as of April 2012.

Commented [AB21]: It is much more informative to define a term by what it is, rather than what it isn’t.

Commented [AB22]: This whole paragraph is my words. The example given in the original text did **not**, in fact, serve as an example of how this concept works.

Final

As for other social media platforms, I do not have a Tik-Tok account. I’m concerned that their parent company is in China, whose government is real big on censorship. Also, I just don’t vibe with their overall style. They were formed after I already had a successful account on a different platform. I don’t have the time to make video stories that are specific to their app, and I don’t feel any need to join yet another video-based platform.

Likewise, I don’t pay much attention to Twitter. I have an account, but I mostly retweet posts from friends. I’m only on Twitter once or twice per week. In my experience, Twitter is the worst platform with regard to bots and internet tough guys, so it has been more a waste of my time and energy than a benefit to my overall mission statement.

Instagram is the only other platform I pay attention to. Unlike Facebook, where I am mindful to analyze growth patterns and manage my followers, I watch Instagram for a different reason. I have been testing it to see if, when, how, and why Instagram shadowbans. I am insanely curious to see exactly what I can and cannot talk about on their platform. I want to know what happens with a shadowban.

For those of you not familiar with the term, “shadowbanning” is the practice of suppressing viewership a user’s content from an online community without the knowledge of the user. The content isn’t outright deleted; that would be Orwellian if your post doesn’t flagrantly violate community guidelines. Instead, the post is allowed to remain visible, but the number of people who can see it is severely limited. It’s subtle, but it allows the platform to control content without technically censoring it.

The original intention of shadowbanning was to keep away the trolls. No one will see the nasty comments or the spam except for the person who posts it. The views on the post drop, thus the troll thinks everyone is ignoring them. They get discouraged with the platform and move on to another site (Thompson, 2009). Of course, like any well-intentioned idea, the platforms that implemented it started abusing it. Instagram has become infamous for shadowbanning, although they continually deny it; they won’t even use the word “shadowban.” But it sure seems they have done a lot of apologizing for stifled content (Thomas, 2021).

Author's Original Manuscript

While I'm on the topic of economics, I'm going to have a quick sidebar with you. I will get an occasional DM flame or have somebody loop me in to a post about how the government is propping up farmers. It's as if some taxpayers are outraged that their dollars are being used to keep our industry—an industry that would otherwise fail on its own—afloat.

As with many of the topics covered in this book, this is one that wears me out. I cannot stop crazy people from lying, but I can shine a light in the dark room of ignorance.

Some people will tell you agriculture is federally subsidized. And if a farm can't make it without these subsidies, it should "collapse." Let's put that statement into perspective.

Total percentage of the federal budget that goes into the "food" is 4% (reference cited under second graph). And of that small slice of the pie, 80% goes to nutrition (for example food assistance for people). Furthermore, 8% helps pay for crop insurance (protecting farmers from crop failure), 6% goes into conservation (leaving farmland fallow or turning it back to natural habitat), 5% goes to commodity price supports and 1% goes to other things.

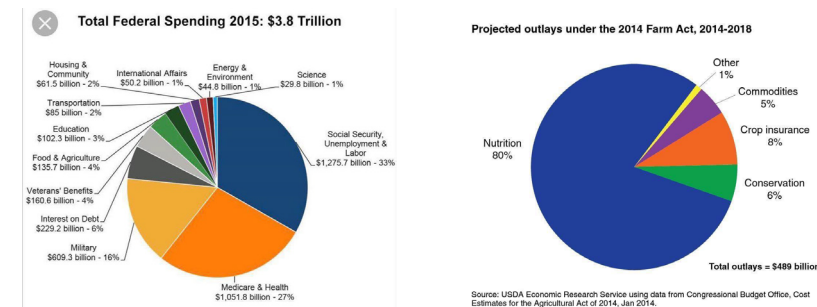
So in reality the vast majority of those "ag subsidies" are actually government welfare to the public. Somehow, those programs got shoved into the farm bill. Or to put it another way, of the 135.7 billion going toward agriculture in 2015, 108.5 billion went toward nutrition and 27 billion went to subsidies, insurance, and conservation.

Which means after removing nutritional programs (welfare to the public), agriculture is less than 1% of the federal budget.

The 8% of *that* tiny slice that goes to insurance helps with the premiums—meaning farmers only see money during a disaster (loss of crop). And then, it's the insurance companies paying the farmer...not the government. Trust me when I say farmers would rather have a crop to sell than have it fail and get paid out by an insurance company.

So we get some federal assistance, I suppose—but not nearly the windfall that activists suggest it is. Have farmers been given money to help offset the costs from trade wars going on? Yes. Would farmers gladly *not* receive them and just be able to sell their products? Yes—but we also understand that what China has been doing for a very long time needs to be fixed.

*the farm act graph is the total amount over 4 years.



You know what? I WISH I made more of a profit than I do. When I back out all the money going to overhead, it is disappointing to see how much is left over...particularly given the amount of work I do around here!

I'll talk about what foods the cows eat in a later chapter, but let me address water before I forget.

Allyson's Re-Writes & Edits

I will get an occasional DM flame or have somebody loop me in to a post about how the government is propping up farmers. It's as if some taxpayers are outraged that their dollars are being used to keep our industry—an industry that would otherwise fail on its own—afloat.

As with many of the topics covered in this book, this is one that wears me out. I cannot stop crazy people from lying, but I can shine a light in the dark room of ignorance.

Some people will tell you agriculture is federally subsidized. And if a farm can't make it without these subsidies, it should "collapse." Let's put that statement into perspective.

The total percentage of the 2015 federal budget that goes into "Food & Agriculture" was four percent (National Priorities Project, n.d.). According to the 2014 Farm Act, the "Food & Agriculture" budget was broken down this way: 80% goes to "Nutrition" (for example, food assistance for people), eight percent helps pay for "Crop insurance" (protecting farmers from crop failure), six percent goes into "Conservation" (leaving farmland fallow or turning it back to natural habitat), five percent goes to "Commodities," and one percent goes to "Other" (Economic Research Service, 2014). This money was budgeted for the fiscal years 2014 to 2018 (National Priorities Project, n.d.).

In reality, the vast majority of those "ag subsidies" are actually budgeted government money that goes back into the government to re-write bills and implement pilot programs to re-write the bill. Somehow, this stuff got shoved into the farm bill. Of the \$135.7 billion going toward agriculture in 2015 (National Priorities Project, n.d.), \$108.5 billion went to government offices and their employees, and 27 billion went to subsidies, insurance, and conservation.

Which means after removing the "nutrition" money, agriculture is less than 1% of the federal budget.

What is left of that budget that goes to "Insurance" does help with the premiums—meaning farmers only see money during a disastrous loss of crops. Then, the insurance companies pay the farmer, not the government. Trust me when I say farmers would rather have a crop to sell than have it fail and get paid out by an insurance company.

So we get some federal assistance, I suppose—but it is *not* the windfall that activists suggest it is. Have farmers been given money to help offset the costs from trade wars going on? Yes. Would farmers gladly *not* receive them and just be able to sell their products? Yes—but we also understand that what China has been doing for a very long time needs to be fixed.

You know what? I *wish* I made more of a profit than I do. When I back out all the money going to overhead, it is disappointing to see how much is left over, particularly given the amount of work I do around here on the farm!

Commented [AB39]: The source for the chart that this references **IS NOT** at the bottom of the second chart in the original text. Both of these charts came from separate sources.

As far as I can discern, these charts were found from a Google Image Search. The "x" inside the grey circle at the top left hand corner of the "Total Federal Spending" graph gives that away.

Commented [AB40]: As an Editor, I challenge the original phrase, "...government welfare to the public..."

I read the actual section of the 2014 Farm Act titled "Nutrition." **None** of the budgeted money goes to the **recipients** of SNAP (which I believe the author refers to as "the public"). It goes into government pilot programs and the employees involved to help amend the Food & Nutrition Act of 2004.

My references:
2014 Farm Act:
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-113hr2642enr/pdf/BILLS-113hr2642enr.pdf>

Commented [AB41]: I strongly suggest actually reading the 2014 Farm Act to verify this claim.

Commented [AB42]: I strongly suggest that more of an explanation be added to help the reader understand "...what China has been doing for a very long time..." What has China been doing? This sentence is very vague, and the reader may not understand global farm trade.

Commented [AB43]: The two charts in the original manuscript are very problematic.

1. Images found on a generic Google Search may not be public domain unless the search is set to look ONLY for public domain images.

2. If these two images are not public domain, then express permission from the actual owner to use them must be obtained. That may or may not involve a fee.

3. It is my understanding that the interior of this book is to be black and white. Of course, these inserted images are color.

The options to use these charts in the book are:

- Pay Amazon printing extra to have the interior print in color. This will require:
 - Taking care of the first two issues
 - Making sure the images obtained are high resolution
 - If not high res, it will cost extra to have Pandahead re-create the art
- Pandahead will have to re-create the art in black and white in order to use them in the interior. There would be an extra charge to do that. Again, issues 1 and 2 will still have to be resolved.

For the time being, I have removed the charts until a solid decision between author & publisher is reached on this matter.

Final

I will get an occasional DM flame or have somebody loop me in to a post about how the government is propping up farmers. It's as if some taxpayers are outraged that their dollars are being used to keep our industry—an industry that would otherwise fail on its own—afloat.

As with many of the topics covered in this book, this is one that wears me out. I cannot stop crazy people from lying, but I can shine a light in the dark room of ignorance.

Some people will tell you agriculture is federally subsidized. And if a farm can't make it without these subsidies, it should "collapse." Let's put that statement into perspective.

The total percentage of the 2015 federal budget that goes into "Food & Agriculture" was four percent (National Priorities Project, n.d.). According to the 2014 Farm Act, the "Food & Agriculture" budget was broken down this way: 80% goes to "Nutrition" (for example, food assistance for people), eight percent helps pay for "Crop insurance" (protecting farmers from crop failure), six percent goes into "Conservation" (leaving farmland fallow or turning it back to natural habitat), five percent goes to "Commodities," and one percent goes to "Other" (Economic Research Service, 2014). This money was budgeted for the fiscal years 2014 to 2018 (National Priorities Project, n.d.).

In reality, the vast majority of those "ag subsidies" are actually budgeted government money that goes back into the government to re-write bills and implement pilot programs to re-write the bill. Somehow, this stuff got shoved into the farm bill. Of the \$135.7 billion going toward agriculture in 2015 (National Priorities Project, n.d.), \$108.5 billion went to government offices and their employees, and 27 billion went to subsidies, insurance, and conservation. Which means after removing the "nutrition" money, agriculture is less than 1% of the federal budget.

What is left of that budget that goes to "Insurance" does help with the premiums—meaning farmers only see money during a disastrous loss of crops. Then, the insurance companies pay the farmer, not the government. Trust me when I say farmers would rather have a crop to sell than have it fail and get paid out by an insurance company.

So we get some federal assistance, I suppose—but it is not the windfall that activists suggest it is. Have farmers been given money to help offset the costs from trade wars going on? Yes. Would farmers gladly *not* receive them and just be able to sell their products? Yes—but we also understand that the government is an aggregator that negotiates and brokers those international deals. They try to stabilize the global market and balance forces that may be trying to drive down prices.

You know what? I wish I made more of a profit than I do. When I back out all the money going to overhead, it is disappointing to see how much is left over, particularly given the amount of work I do around here on the farm!