

**President's Letter**  
**Al Squire**  
**June/July, 2016**

It is always fun to watch the calves when we take them out of their individual hutches and put them into group pens for the first time. They are fearful at first because they are being forced into experiencing change. When they jump out of the trailer, they look around and realize that they are loose. Suddenly their whole world just got a lot bigger. They start to jump and run and play with their neighbors. Prior to this day the calves associated the delivery of all of their needs with the calf care people. This included milk, water, feed, housing and bedding. We have assumed total responsibility for them because it is a necessity for producing healthy replacement heifers. On this day they get a little more freedom, but they now have to start taking a little responsibility for feeding and watering themselves and for seeking shelter under a shade instead of a hutch.

Thousands of years ago, people attempting to settle into one area instead of endlessly wandering and searching for food, domesticated chickens, sheep, goats, pigs and cattle. This enabled them to have a regular supply of eggs and fresh meat, and from the ruminant animals, fresh milk also became available. Tending these animals and maintaining them also provided the added bonus of having wool, hair, and hides available for the making of garments and shoes. A supply of manure was used to fertilize crops and gardens. Tallow became available for candles. One of my clients in the Chino area, Henrietta "Henny" Douma used to say, "Cows are so wonderful. We use everything but the 'moo.'"

Domestication continued as cats were brought inside houses and worked to control pests in return for food and shelter. Cats were prized for their ability to reduce the burden of rats and mice destroying feeds and grain supplies. Dogs became loyal companions and sentinels and were trained to help watch over and protect livestock from predators. They also were trained to assist hunters in the procurement of fresh game. Horses, originally kept for meat and milk, were later used as a means of transportation, speedy beyond the imagination of the people who had tamed them.

In every instance the animals slowly gave up their ability to take care of themselves in return for their free food and housing. It appears that we are allowing ourselves to fall prey to a similar fate. We are relinquishing our ability to prosper as we abdicate responsibility for our own lives and actions by allowing our government to continue to grow and to take care of us in more and more ways. We are enticed into the government corrals by promises of free housing, free food, free money, free cell phones, free medical care, free college, and even free farm payments to produce more of something that the markets say is available in surplus. We do exactly what the government wants us to do and we remain content to reside quietly within the corrals that have been built specifically for us by our own government.

Thomas Sowell, an American conservative economist, social theorist and political philosopher, is a prolific author on many of these same subjects. He is the Rose and Milton Friedman Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University. Although he started out in poverty as a child whose father had died before he was born, he worked hard in school and after a stint in the Marines in Korea, graduated from Harvard, completed a Masters Degree in economics at Columbia and earned a PhD in economics at the University of Chicago. Despite the fact that he claims to have had early Marxist leanings, he soon realized that all men benefit by the free market approach to capitalism.

As a black man, he maintains that affirmative action plans hurt all involved, whether you got accepted or bumped aside. He states that those who got accepted into certain programs may not have attained the customarily required entrance levels of performance and that as a result of this fact, they often failed. He makes the observation that throughout history, whenever any group of people, or nation, could be successful without working, they did not work. They wound up failing when they were forced to compete with those who had to work. Sowell's recent article, "Is Personal Responsibility Obsolete?" refers to the situation whereby the government welfare state removes all challenges for people and they have no need to respond to a challenge by working harder to overcome it. His conclusion puts forth the idea that too many social programs are conceived in terms of what "we" can do for "them." After decades of the massive expansion of the welfare state, the answer seems to range from "not very much" to "making matters worse."

Star Parker, another socially conservative author who wrote the book, Uncle Sam's Plantation, says that welfare programs are similar to an invitation to join a government-run plantation. Those who accept the invitation switch mindsets from "How do I take care of myself?" to "What do I have to do to stay on the plantation?" She believes that stable families with a strong work ethic and strong moral values are far superior to government handouts and are the key to ending poverty. She speaks from personal experience. She was dependent on welfare for seven years before she figured out how to escape from that lifestyle.

Conservative thinkers are taking a lot of heat lately for pointing out the obvious flaws in our human nature that so often cause us to readily sacrifice freedom for security. Those who point out the undeniable similarities between human and animal behavior patterns seem to be especially targeted for criticism and ridicule. The way I see it, domestication of animals has always been about enhancing the survival of humans and improving people's lives. Domestication of humans is about controlling people's lives and enhancing the survival of their rulers.