November 18, 2021

Solari Food Series: When Michigan DNR Went Hog Wild with Mark Baker
Pete Kennedy: Welcome to the Solari Food Series audiocast. This is your host, Pete Kennedy. Over the last 20 months, we’ve seen an increase in the distortion of language and the true meaning of words. Purchasing food at Walmart is an ‘essential activity’ while going to a mom-and-pop restaurant is not. Going to a casino is an ‘essential activity’, but attending church is not. Those dying within two weeks of receiving the COVID ‘vaccine’ are counted as unvaccinated; vaccinated individuals testing positive for COVID are called ‘breakthrough cases’.

Our guest today, Mark Baker, who went through a distortion of language a decade ago when a swine Invasive Species Order (ISO) for feral swine issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) threatened to shut down his heritage hog operation.

The DNR interpreted the order in such a way that it could find any pig that farmers like Mark were raising to be illegal, threatening the livelihood of those raising nutrient-dense pork while giving the hog confined animal feeding operations an even greater market share.

Mark owns and operates Baker’s Green Acres with his wife, Jill, in Marion, Michigan. He will talk about his battle with the DNR, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Attorney General to defend his right to make a living.

The attack on his business and that of other heritage hog farmers was a forerunner of many of the moves since to put high-quality producers of real meat out of business. So, let’s get started.

Mark, welcome to the Solari Food Series. It’s great to have you on.

Mark Baker: How are you doing, Pete? Thank you for having me on.

Kennedy: Let’s get to reasons for you getting into farming in the first place. What was the motivation for that?

Baker: I was in the United States Air Force from 1984 until 2004, so I did 20 years in the service. During my time there, I worked with many people – a lot of
young men. At that time, I got married and started having children. It seemed like the best thing for children was to get the farm experience. My wife and I had a little place while I was still on active duty. We had a 10-acre parcel, and we started doing some chickens and a few small pigs and a couple of steers – things like that. We were getting our own food going, and I really liked that.

When I was getting ready to retire, we looked around for something to do along those lines, and we found a farm here in Michigan. My wife’s parents are from here. Many times, we came here on leave, so I wanted to come here and be near them.

We got an 80-acre farm, and started the learning curve of how to farm. My children benefited from it the most. They learned how to do meaningful work, and they learned to do a lot of things. So that was my main reason for doing it.

Kennedy: This Invasive Species Order that I was talking about came out at the end of 2010 and went into effect in 2012. I know you had a successful farm business at the time that you first got wind of it. Describe your farm and what you were doing before the ISO came out – who your customers were, and that type of thing.

Baker: We had gone down the road of getting our farm certified with the Department of Agriculture. What that means is they came in, looked things over, and had a bunch of forms for us to sign. Then we payed them money every year. That’s about it. They don’t do anything else, but without those papers signed and money transferred from me to them, I couldn’t do business with farmers markets or restaurants or retail stores.

So I did that, and paid them for 14 years. Our farm had pastured poultry. For people who don’t know what that is, we raised them on the field. They are in separate ‘chicken tractors’, which are 10x12 enclosures with 75 chickens in each one. So, we had 30 of those going. We would reload them about five times a summer.

We had many chickens, and had chicken processing on the farm. We have a butcher shop on the farm that we built. All of this we built; none of it was here when we got here.
We raised pigs-Mangalitsa-type. We were the first farm in Michigan to have Mangalitsa. I was actually the third farm in the United States to have them, and I’m the only one who still has them.

I had between 10-15 restaurants that I sold to, and about five retail stores. We started with a distributor, but then we took over the distribution ourselves.

Kennedy: For the listeners and readers, describe what a ‘heritage hog operation’ is. Basically, how most of the pork is produced-unfortunately, I think they call it ‘the other white meat’. Contrast the two for the listeners and readers.

Baker: A hog operation could be either heritage or what is called CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operation). A CAFO would be where you have a huge hog house, and it sits above a lagoon, and the manure drops through. There are between 1,000 and 5,000 pigs there at a time, and the pigs never see the light of day; they never see direct sunlight, so the meat is pale. That is where the slogan came, “The other white meat.”

Heritage pigs would be like a Mangalitsa or a Red Waddle. There are 26 breeds of heritage pigs. They are more Old-World pigs; they are not hybrid pigs. We choose to raise them out on fields or pastures. So, we will grow things for them on a 5-acre field, and then we will let them in there. They will do the self-harvest.

So, their meat is not pink or white; it’s deep red. It’s definitely not ‘the other white meat’. It looks more like beef than pork. The flavor of it is in a class by itself.

We were doing very well with Mangalitsa. We started them in 2009. That is what we began with, and then this whole thing started for us in 2011.

Kennedy: When did you find out about the swine ISO? What exactly does it say?

Baker: I found out about it in 2011 in December. We were making deliveries to our restaurants in Traverse City, Michigan, and one of the chefs who I had known quite well for a while said, “We can’t buy your pork anymore because the
Department of Agriculture is saying that your pigs are feral pigs, and they are illegal. So we can’t have them, and you can’t raise them anymore.”

I thought, “There’s no way that my pigs are feral.” I had vocabulary in high school, and it just didn’t fit. These pigs were imported from Austria at great expense, and the definition of a feral pig is a pig that has either escaped or has been released or abandoned. Our pigs were highly valued. I was getting a great deal of money for these pigs. We were doing quite well with them, so I wasn’t going to let them escape by any means.

That evening when I got home, I contacted the agricultural commissioner in the state of Michigan. I think we had five of them at that time. They are liaisons between the farmers and the Department of Agriculture. That boggles my mind right now. It’s almost like we can’t speak to them directly. It’s like going to confession: You have to go through an intermediary.

The commissioner was on board with their program and said, “If you’re not raising pigs in a hog house, then they are feral.” That was their thing; if they’re not in a hog house, then they’re feral. But they missed a few steps. What they meant to say, which we found out later, was that they, “couldn’t become feral”.

It was sort-of a pre-crime unit at the Department of Agriculture; they wanted to head it off at the pass.

**Kennedy:** That leads us to the declaratory ruling. Could you explain to the listeners and readers what the declaratory ruling was about and what it said? You talk about night as day, black as white, and war as peace. Is this the declaratory ruling?

**Baker:** The declaratory ruling was something that was sent to me by the Department of Agriculture. It had a lot of legalese in it. It had the State of Michigan’s signature block on the top. It had the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture’s signature block on the top. It was very official-looking. You read through a lot of boilerplate stuff, and you get to what they call the ‘description’, and it was a list of characteristics.

There were nine characteristics. It said that if your pigs had even one of these
descriptions, called ‘characteristics’, then your pig was feral. I swear this is true, and I have one someplace – not at my immediate disposal – but I have it quite well memorized.

The sentence structure didn’t even make sense. I graduated from high school and have some college time. I looked at it and said, “They must be mistaken.” I came out of the military, and it was highly professional. Every ‘T’ had to be crossed and every ‘i’ had to be dotted. I thought, “They clearly made a mistake here. This can’t be correct.”

Here are some of the characteristics:

If your pig has a distinct skeletal structure, then your pig was feral (but they gave no qualifiers on how to distinguish your pig).

If your pig was brown, it was feral.
If your pig was white, it was feral.
If your pig had floppy ears, that is a feral pig.
If your pig had erect ears, that is a feral pig.

There was another one that was rather good:

If your pig has a curly tail, that is a feral pig.
If your pig has a straight tail, that is a feral pig.

My favorite was number 9:

Other characteristics not currently known to the Department of Natural Resources.

That was my favorite! When I read it, I thought, “This is a script from Saturday Night Live; this can’t be real.”

I think that since then, those comedy guys, Key & Peele, have taken a lot of material from the Department of Natural Resources because it’s so rich.

More seriously, they were serious about it. No matter what we said to them to try to point out that this was really dumb, they would say, “This is the way it is.
It is not dumb.”

We went to several briefings, and they would have many people there with suits on and bulletproof vests and guns. They would say, “This makes perfect sense. You are the one who is delusional, Mark, if you think that vocabulary is obsolete in 2010.”

Kennedy: One of the things that I remember you talking about was that at these meetings, they wouldn’t give a blanket, general answer to people. They said, “We want to talk to you one-on-one. You come to us. You tell us what is wrong. You describe your pigs, and we will make the determination.”

In other words, they didn’t want a general standard for people to rely on.

Baker: Absolutely. That is what they do; they try to keep people separated. They don’t want us to talk to each other. They don’t want us to discuss these things.

We went to their briefing. We had to drive to Grayling to do it in the wintertime. We believed that we would talk to them, and they would say, “Oh, we didn’t know that a lot of pigs have floppy ears and curly tails.” We thought they would see the problem. But they separated us out, and used quite a few techniques that they thought farmers would never understand. There were many guns in the room that were supposed to scare us. And they brought us jelly doughnuts.

They gave us this briefing, and then when farmers raised their hands to ask a question, they said, “We’re not going to take any questions. That’s just the way it is. If you want to talk to us one-on-one, we can go to the back of the room. You can have a jelly doughnut, and we will tell you that you will be wrong.”

That is very nearly how it went. There were many plan-clothes guns in the room. There were plenty of busty women in the room with low-cut dresses. I mean, it was planned. The whole thing was planned out. There were uniformed people in the room, and there were probably about 30 farmers who were all looking around like, “This is a joke, right? These guys think that we are this stupid.”
Farmers are not stupid. Bureaucrats, in my mind, are the stupid ones because they believe whatever they are told. We didn’t even know what bureaucrats were before this. Having been military in a uniform for 20 years, I thought the Department of Natural Resources was law enforcement. They wear uniforms, and carry guns. I thought that we were on the same side. I thought that we dealt in a real world, but we found out that was not true; they do not deal in reality.

**Kennedy:** There is obviously an agenda at work here. So, what was in it for the Department of Natural Resources being able to pull off this scam? How did they stand to benefit?

**Baker:** They stood to benefit because, in Michigan, you have people who convert farms into what they call ‘wildlife preserves’. I don’t necessarily agree with this, but they will fence their property in – a farm could be fenced in anyway – and then they will put animals in there and allow people to come in and hunt those animals.

I don’t really agree with it, but I don’t agree with many things: I don’t agree with prostitution; I don’t agree with gambling; I don’t agree with a lot of high school sports. But it is legal. There is no law against it per the Fifth Amendment. If that is what a person wants to do, that is what they can do.

The Department of Natural Resources would benefit because the Department of Natural Resources directly receives the proceeds from licensing agreements. If you want to hunt a deer in Michigan, you have to pay this organization for a permission slip or a license to shoot a deer.

**Kennedy:** That’s for hunting on public land. Is that what you are talking about?

**Baker:** Correct, this is for public lands. It’s somewhat ironic because if you collide with a deer with your car on public property or roadways and you send the bill to the DNR, they say, “Hey, that’s not our thing. We don’t own those deer.”

Then the question would be: Then how come I have to pay you to shoot one? How does that work? But that is a question for another time. That was going to
come up in court because we had many questions for the DNR in court, but I guess we will be discussing that at another time.

**Kennedy:** One thing that I remember you talking about a good deal was how scared some of the people were of the DNR. What made them different from the Department of Agriculture in the eyes of the public?

**Baker:** This wasn’t being done for the benefit of the DNR. You asked me how it would benefit them; that was how it would benefit them. But they were detailed to do this by the Department of Agriculture. In other words, they were summoned to do this. It’s not something that the DNR said, “Hey, let’s do this.” It was the Department of Agriculture that said to the DNR, “We need you to do this.” The reason for that is the DNR are armed. That is the only reason. They are armed, and they have a reputation in the state of Michigan as being bullies and very lawless.

I know many stories of lawless activity that the DNR has been involved in. So, they have a reputation, and that is why they were picked to do this. People are afraid of them; they are bureaucrats, and people are afraid of them. That’s it.

**Kennedy:** You mentioned that they were detailed to do this, so there was another beneficiary from this Invasive Species Order, and that was the Michigan Pork Producers Association. Talk about what was in it for them.

One of the things that you did with your case was personalized things. You called out names of people who were responsible for what we all think are illegal policies. Talk about Sam Hines – who he was and what his role was in the issue with the ISO.

**Baker:** We did depositions, and deposed people from the Department of Agriculture. They said that the Michigan Pork Producers were the ones who pushed the Invasive Species Order. We found this out later. It may be public record, and I have all the documents to prove this.

They hosted the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to their headquarters to formulate this plan. The plan was to move all pork production into CAFOs (Animal Feeding Operations) and off farms. In
deposition, the Michigan Pork Producers said their reason for wanting to do that was to protect the environment. If a straight-tailed pig or a curly-tailed pig were to escape into the environment, they would breed and rebreed, and there would be feral pigs, and there would be millions of them, and they would be overrun with pigs.

They wanted to protect the environment. They were saying that they were heroes, and wanted to protect the environment.

They want to put these grubby little 80-acre farms like me out of business to ‘protect the environment’. That’s what they said. They probably wanted to protect the children, too. So, that is how it benefited the pork producers. At that time, there were many small farms like us – 80 acres or so – that would raise 100-500 pigs a year. We would feed our families and make a living, but that took a cut out of the Pork Producers Association; it took a cut from them, and they didn’t like that.

So apparently, they detailed the Department of Agriculture, which is a very unholy alliance. They detailed the Department of Ag to enforce their Invasive Species Order (ISO) on us, the small farmers of Michigan. It was sort-of a blanket statement that went out that said we had to dispossess our property, and our property was our pigs, because that would ‘save the environment’ and ‘protect the wildlife’.

They had all kinds of things. They said that feral pigs getting out on the roadway was dangerous; people could be killed by hitting feral pigs. They would point to what was going on in Texas and Florida with feral pigs – which I can shed some light on later in the interview if you would like. They pointed to that, and said, “Look at what is happening to the environment because of feral pigs. They are out of control! The end of the United States is at hand if feral pigs are not brought under control.”

Kennedy: I remember you looked at the records for Michigan because they have annual records of how many feral pigs there are each year. What did you find when you looked at that information?

Baker: There are some striking resemblances to this situation and what is going on with the ‘plandemic’. The people who keep records of feral pigs in
Michigan are the DNR. They keep a count of how many pigs there are, and project how many there will be in 2021, for instance. It was terrible; there will be five million pigs in Michigan.

The only problem was that we contacted some trusted friends who work for insurance companies. We wanted to know, “How many pigs have been contacted by automobiles? How many insurance claims have there been in the state of Michigan?”

There were none in the year 2010; it was literally zero. The Department of Natural Resources was saying, “There are 10,000 pigs out there in the woods. They are running loose, killing baby ducks and baby deer and digging up golf courses and stealing cars,” and all kinds of things, but yet there were no insurance claims. For deer that year, there were approximately 40,000, and around 600 people had died from deer. So, their numbers were just blurted out, and they figured that no one was going to check it.

They even blurted these out in a court of law. The judge doesn’t really have time to fact check them, so luckily, we were there and had the facts. We took the stand and told a different story. They looked stupid sitting there with their guns on and their three-piece suits – 30 of them in a room.

**Kennedy:** Didn’t you say that you thought there were under 100 wild pigs in the whole state if you had to guess?

**Baker:** I didn’t even think that there were 100. If you remember, we talked plenty at that time. I was asked to speak at Patriot Groups and We the People groups, and Tea Party groups. They were people trying to get involved with the government and try to hold the government accountable for things. So, I would go all over the state and speak at these events. It made a big splash because I was talking about my right to keep my property under the Fifth Amendment, and people were asking, “What is the Fifth Amendment? We never heard about that.”

So, it made a big splash. Every time I went to one of these events, I would say, “Could I get a show of hands of how many of you have seen a dead deer on the way here today?” We were in Northern Michigan. There are a many deer there.
You see dead deer in the road all the time. You see more dead deer than you see dead squirrels. There are that many dead deer, and half the room would put their hands up.

Then I would say, “Who saw five or more?” Maybe 25 people would put their hands up. Then I would always say, “Did anybody see a dead pig on the side of the road or in the middle of the road? Any dead pigs out there? Even one?” During the entire time that I did these speaking engagements over a period of a year and a half, there was only one person who raised her hand and said that she had secondhand knowledge of a dead pig in the road; one person.

For your information, that one person worked for the Attorney General. She was his secretary, and it wasn’t actually her who had seen it; it was her Uncle Tony who saw a dead pig back in 1973.

**Kennedy:** They call that hearsay in court.

**Baker:** That was the same briefing where her husband tried to pick a fight with me.

**Kennedy:** You mentioned the Department of Agriculture. What was their role in formulating the ISO? There was a state veterinarian, Dr. Nancy Frank, who worked for them and was instrumental in this.

**Baker:** We deposed her, and in depositions we found out that they didn’t have their story straight. Dr. Frank said that the ISO was her brainchild and that she wanted to protect the environment.

The Michigan Pork Producers said that it was their idea, and then the Department of Natural Resources’ lawyers said that it was their idea. So, we couldn’t get a straight answer on whose idea it really was. I only saw Dr. Frank one time, and I think that she is gone from the Department of Ag (she is). She was their top veterinarian at the time.

**Kennedy:** You were coming up on crunch time. The ISO was to go into effect in the spring of 2012. Describe the lawsuit you filed to try to get out from under that.
Baker: I wound up talking to our state senator. Somebody in his office put me onto another group of farmers who were suing the state, so I called them. I didn’t know much about the law then; I didn’t know much about the Constitution, even though I had taken an oath to protect and defend it. I didn’t know much about any of this back then.

I joined this lawsuit, and these people were suing the Department of Natural Resources to clarify the declaratory ruling. The lawyers they had at the time felt as though, if they could get representatives from the DNR on the stand and ask them questions about straight-tails and curly-tails, then they would make them look like fools, and the whole thing would go away. That was the thought process involved.

I didn’t know any better, so I went along with it. I said, “Yes, I want in.” I had to put some money in for retaining these lawyers. The lawsuit was before the court and my lawyer would say, “They are going to arrest you on the first day of April if you don’t do this. What are you going to do?”

I said, “I’m not doing it. If they can force me to give up my pigs, then they can force me to give up anything that I own. I’m not going to do it.”

I found out that both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources are sloppy organizations. Their leadership ‘sucks’. Their frontline people are not backed up by their leadership. So, their people are mostly not willing to do what they are asked to do by their leadership.

What they wanted to do was arrest me, but I hadn’t broken any laws. I knew at that point I couldn’t be arrested because I hadn’t done anything. I refused to comply with their declaratory ruling. The first day of April came and went, and I didn’t know what would happen, but I did send my family away. Word of that went from my lawyer to them that, “He’s not backing down,” and I didn’t back down.

They backed down; they didn’t arrest me, but they said I had to shoot my pigs. I said, “You do it then. If you’ve got the authority, then you come in and arrest me, and then you shoot my pigs.”
It was like, “We are going to fire you if you don’t take this vaccine. Then do it. Fire me. Let’s see what happens if you do”.

**Kennedy:** It came off like a bluff. They didn’t actually destroy anyone’s herd, right? They just tried to intimidate people into destroying their own herds, correct?

**Baker:** The DNR killed one pig through this whole thing; they killed one pig. There were farmers, just like there are US citizens now saying, “There is a mandate now. I’m mandated to get a vaccine,” and they are going out and doing it.

There was a farm north of me that was a hunting farm – which, like I said, I don’t agree with. This person shot all of his pigs because he was told to do so by some bureaucrat. It wasn’t like it was the Governor who told him to do it or law enforcement; it was just some stinking bureaucratic department that said, “You’ve got to do this,” and he said, “Okay.”

He went out and did it, and it cost him thousands and thousands of dollars and a lot of heartache. I doubt that he is the same man today.

I said, “No, I’m not going to do it.”

It basically was a bluff, and they didn’t do anything.

**Kennedy:** At the same time that you filed this lawsuit to strike down the declaratory ruling and the ISO, you were also going before the legislature and testifying. What did you make of that process? What effect do you think your testimony had?

**Baker:** I’ll tell you about that, which was ten years later. I was a little shaky. At the time, a senator called me, which sat me back on my heels. I had a lot of respect and admiration for my government at the time, and someone from Senator Darwin Booher’s office called me and said, “This is Senator Booher’s office. Will you take the call?”

I sat there at attention, and he said to me, “You know, we would like to get you
to testify before the Senate Ag Committee about your situation,” and I was nervous. I sat before military boards before with my best uniform on, and I thought this was going to be much worse than that. I thought it was going to be very high intensity. So, I put on my best clothes, and we went there. We were an hour early, and we everything in line. I had all of my children cleaned up and everything.

We went in, and two of the senators didn’t show up. Can you believe that? One of them walked in 15 minutes late. I was floored by their lack of professionalism.

Basically, they all asked me questions. I answered their questions, and it made the Department of Ag and the Department of Natural Resources look like tyrants ordering citizens to get rid of their property.

I’m not sure what their goals were. They didn’t do anything; there was no ink put to paper after this. There were phone calls of, “Hey, we are working on this,” and, “Hey, we are doing this,” but they were basically in the bag for the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources because we later found out that many of these groups like The Michigan Pork Producers and the like are big contributors to the campaigns of these senators and state reps and all this.

So, the Senator and the state rep said, “Poor you. This is terrible what is happening to you. We are going to fight for you,” but then they would come back and say, “Sorry, but we can’t do anything. There is nothing that we can do.”

I started to really lose respect for them because I thought, “If I were a state Senator, there would be something that I could do.” But they wouldn’t do anything. It was all just a bunch of, “Blah, blah, blah.” They never actually did anything.

We started ‘Anyone Can Farm’ through our Senator’s office. There was a person who worked there who was a true patriot. He was starting to counsel me – in secret – on the Constitution and on my rights under the Constitution.
Then a man by the name of Richard Mack came along—Sheriff Mack. He started talking to me about my rights under the Constitution and what my sheriff should be doing and things like that.

I spent a lot of time with Richard in Nevada. He brought me up to speed on my Constitution and the oath I took to my Constitution. Even though I didn’t realize what I was doing, I was actually fulfilling my oath to the Constitution to protect it. If you comply with tyrants and you dispossess your property, then you are giving them your Fifth Amendment right. That was what they wanted me to do, and I refused to do it.

If I refused to do it, if they were in the right, then they should have been able to cuff me and lock me up, but they didn’t do anything. So it was just a bluff.

Did I answer your question?

Kennedy: Yes, and you mentioned Richard Mack. He talks about how the sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the county, and if a federal or state agent is there without a warrant, the sheriff has the right to kick him out.

I know you went to your sheriff for help along those lines. What was the result of that?

Baker: He gave me lip service. He said, “We’re here for you,” but he never put pen to paper.

What your listeners and readers have to remember is when you have these people like a state senator or state representative or a sheriff, and if they are talking to you on the phone, it means nothing; they have to put it in writing. They have to sign it. None of these people signed anything. If it’s not in writing, it doesn’t exist.

This is true because if I get them into a court of law, they can say, “I never said that.” But if they send you an email that is signed or a letter that is signed, if the sheriff had briefed the state of Michigan via a letter saying, “You will not engage this man in my county because he has a Constitutional right to his property guaranteed via the Fifth Amendment,” that would have been the end of it, and
the DNR would have backed down. He has that authority.

You said something about a warrant. Even if the Federal or state agency comes into the county with a warrant and serves that warrant without checking with the sheriff first, that sheriff can lock them up. But some sheriffs are politicians, and they don’t want to make any waves. They don’t really want to protect the people, and they don’t want to protect the oath they took for the Constitution.

Most sheriffs are like that. But then you have a few like Sheriff Mack who was ordered – or mandated – by Bill Clinton, “You as a county sheriff are going to go pick up weapons from these people,” but Sheriff Mack said, “No, I’m not. I don’t work for you; I work for the people of this county. They elected me. Under the terms of my employment, I took an oath to protect and defend their constitutional rights, and I will do that.”

So, he told Bill Clinton and the Clinton Administration, “Go to hell. I’m not collecting these weapons,” and then he sued them.

In my case, suing them for clarification actually played into their hand. I should have refused to do it, and then it was their move. They would have had to somehow try to enforce it with more threats and more intimidation, but I had the blanket of the U.S. Constitution to pull over me. That was my comfort.

It doesn’t rest with a man like the county sheriff; it doesn’t rest in his hands. Ultimately, it is in my hands as the head of the household. As a U.S. citizen, my property is protected under the Fifth Amendment. If they could have taken my property – legal, lawful property – they would have.

If I have something that is illegal to own, like a cache of explosives, I cannot own that as a citizen; that is a controlled substance. If I have that, even though it’s mine, it’s not protected by the Fifth Amendment. My pigs are a legal substance, not a controlled substance, and it is protected under the Fifth Amendment. It doesn’t matter if it has a straight tail, a curly tail, or anything else. My sheriff should have acknowledged that. He would have been a hero if he did.

Evidently he had history with the state, he had history with the Federal
government, and he was more beholding to them than he was to the citizenry. At least that is the way it seemed.

Kennedy: Getting back to the ISO, one thing that I don’t think you ever got enough credit for was when this began in Michigan, and you said ten other states were waiting to do the same thing if the DNR could pull that off in Michigan. What were you hearing from people around the country? To this day, I haven’t heard of an effort since.

What else was going on in the other states from what you were hearing?

Baker: I would get confidential phone calls from other states. I’m still not going to tell you who it was because it is confidential. Other states like New York had hog lobbying groups that wanted to do the same thing, but they couldn’t get it done with their state agencies because their state is such a bureaucratic nightmare.

They come to the Midwest states where they are a bit more organized. You’ve got hardcore criminals in the East. In the middle part of the United States, they’re not quite so hardened, and the state representatives and senators and some bureaucrats are hardcore constitutionalists. I’m not saying that they are all bad. There are probably 50% - but I don’t know the percentages – who are hardcore constitutionalists and who will die on that hill as I will. I will ‘die on that hill’.

The controversy that was stirred up over this was immense. What they wanted to do was take my pigs or make me dispossess my pigs, but people could see that, “Wow! If they can make Mark give up his pigs, then they can make me give up my car or give up my firearms or give up my medication or give up my home because they say so. If a state agency like the DNR can do this with the threat of force, then what won’t they do?”

So, the people in Michigan pushed back really hard on this. You mentioned the Attorney General. He was in line for the next slot as far as the Governor’s office was concerned. Because of this, the machine told him, “You didn’t handle this very well. You could have made peace with this person, but you didn’t. Because of that, we lost lots and lots of money.”
I cost them a large amount of money because now people are farming again in Michigan and are not afraid of these agencies like they were.

Kennedy: Right. You talked earlier about your restaurant business and the accounts that you had. Once this ISO went into effect, what happened to your business? What was the upshot of that?

Baker: In the short term, there was no upshot. In the long term, there was.

In the short term, restaurants are under the thumb of health departments, and health departments are under the thumb of the Department of Agriculture. So health departments were told, “We don’t want Baker’s Green Acres stuff in these restaurants.”

So, they would do things like go into the restaurants and question the chef, “Do you know this guy? Are you sure this is a safe product? Has anybody ever gotten sick?”

They would also go into a restaurant or retail store, and would buy one of my products. They would tell the store owner, “We are going to need to take this stuff.” Of course, they have their official garb on and their official car. “We are from the Department of Agriculture.” They show the badge, and say, “We are going to take this stuff with us.”

What that does to store owners and restaurant owners is make them say, “I don’t know if I want to be involved with this.” Everyone is so tight anyway.

Another thing they did was pertaining to a store we had in the upper peninsula of Michigan in Marquette. The store owner was rather hardcore. He said, “Mark is standing up against the machine. I’m going to do business with him.”

He called me and said, “I want your product in my store.” I said, “Okay,” and we sent them the products. We sent them chicken and beef and pork and a few other things at his expense. He wasn’t going to make much, but he wanted to support us.

He had a sandwich counter in his store. The Department of Agriculture went
there. They opened up their laptops and their briefcase at lunchtime, and inventoried the entire lunch counter. Then they cataloged every piece of produce that had ‘Baker’s Green Acres’ on it. They did this twice, right at lunchtime.

So, all of these official cars were in front of the store, and the customers coming in at lunchtime went away. So, it cost him two meal times, which nobody is doing so great that they can sacrifice that.

These are bureaucratic organizations that are basically parasite people. They create nothing, build nothing, and grow nothing, but they have some authority, and they were putting this man out of business because he was doing business with us.

Finally, we lost all of our accounts. So in the short term, there was no upside to it. We basically had produced a lot of product that we couldn’t sell because most of our customers wouldn’t buy from us.

I feel bad for them because restauranteurs and storekeepers are not patriots. They are struggling to keep businesses alive. Many of them called me on the phone and apologized. They said, “I’ve got to feed my family. These guys are bearing down on me.”

There were no safety issues, and there was nothing wrong with our product. It was just that they didn’t like me because I wouldn’t comply with them.

Kennedy: I remember they went at you by cutting your access to slaughterhouses so that you couldn’t get your animals slaughtered and processed. What happened there?

Baker: They didn’t directly do it. A friend of mine owned the slaughterhouse that we used. He was a retired marine. We have a very good friendship and a very good rapport.

I walked in on a conversation of his. His cell phone rang, and he said, “Yes, yes, yes. He’s standing right here in front of me. Do you want to talk to him?”
They said, “No.” But what they did was call the slaughterhouses and say, “Are you butchering for Mark? Are you doing this? Are you doing that?” It was supposed to intimidate him, but everyone knew who they were and what they were doing at this stage of the game, especially this person being a marine. They were not going to intimidate him.

He backed them down right away. He said, “You do your own dirty work if you want to go after this guy.”

This was after the lawsuit was settled and they had moved for a dismissal. So, the lawsuit was no more; it was dismissed from the court, and it was dismissed with prejudice, which meant they couldn’t come after me again for any of this.

**Kennedy:** You mentioned the original lawsuit where there were four parties. Then you decided to break away for your own lawsuit. What led you to do that?

**Baker:** The lawyers that we had were not hired by me. They were not being paid by the other farmers, and I was paying them. At one point, they did not like the questions that I was asking them about the Constitution, and how I wanted them to proceed in the court, and they quit taking my phone calls. So I quit paying them. I basically fired them, and then I got another lawyer.

**Kennedy:** You mentioned the Attorney General earlier. You personalized this; you put the names there. You didn’t just say, “I don’t like the Department of Agriculture or the Attorney General’s office,” but the Attorney General at the time was Bill Schuette. What I remember is that you really bothered them. With some of the things you did in your case, you were able to use media and become your own media.

I remember at least one story in the *Chicago Tribune* where they tried to make you seem like some gun-toting extremist when you were only standing up for your rights.

Talk about the YouTube channel and what set up your thinking behind that. You did a very effective job in the court of public opinion. Talk about your YouTube channel and the Bill Schuette podcast.
Baker: I stumbled across this. I did not know that this was going to be nearly as effective as it was. I didn’t even know how to do a YouTube video. My son set it up, and I made a video and said, “Look, this is what is happening to our farm.”

I wanted to be able to explain to all of my customers that they were going to put me out of business, and that I couldn’t really do much here. So I made a video. I was sitting there in my coveralls at the table, and I explained it all.

The video got 100,000 views in three or four days. It went berserk. I started getting all kinds of phone calls from people who were saying, “You’ve got to stand up against them,” and all kinds of positive input. This was before I got involved with the lawsuit.

Then we started getting people saying, “We should hire a lawyer.” That is why we went with the lawsuit. We probably should have hired our own lawyer at that point, but we didn’t know who to hire. We didn’t have a lawyer. I was just a retired GI trying to scrape a living out of the earth.

I had six children at the time, and I didn’t know what to do. So I made this video, and it got plenty of views, and I received many phone calls from people. That’s how Sheriff Mack got in touch with me.

Then we started getting phone calls from media and the papers here in Michigan. We got calls from the Detroit News and other big name media. There were papers from Chicago and papers from the east that called.

I didn’t get the warm fuzzies from them. They would try to get me to talk about things that I did not think were relevant to the issue at hand. They would try to get me to talk about firearms and explosives and what I did in my military career.

There was part of my training that kicked in like a red flag, and I just said, “I don’t think I want to answer these questions,” but they ran with it anyway. They said that I was heavily armed and I was living on a ‘compound’. They didn’t call me a white supremacist. I was surprised at that. That is usually where they go. But they did try to disparage my character and make me look like I was somehow violent or ‘extremist’, which came up a couple of times.
I would make a video and say, “This is my house. This is the ‘compound’ I live on. I’ve got a 22 rifle that I’ve had since I was a boy. These two dogs that I have are my security system.”

So, I showed the public that I may have been military, but that was my old life. Now I’m on my new life.

I was not a *Rambo* character; I was a mechanic in the Air Force. I wasn’t a killer jungle-type of guy.

I found out rather quickly that I couldn’t rely on the media. They would subtly twist the truth. My videos were getting more views than theirs were. I was getting much more attention from my videos.

You asked me about the thing with Schuette. This person who I was talking to at my senator’s office would talk about the oath of office in a roundabout way. He said that the Attorney General is hired by us. We elected him like our sheriff. When he is sworn in, he places his hand on the Bible, and takes an oath to protect and defend my constitutional rights. But he was the one who was actually supplying the lawyers for the Department of Natural Resources.

At one point, I got a letter from their lawyers, which were two women lawyers. I’m not sure that I remember their names at this point. I had spoken with them, and they had sickly children who were very sickly. They wanted to know about clean food and nutrient-dense food. I was talking with them about it, so I thought that I had quite a good rapport with them.

I thought that the Attorney General should be defending me from these people instead of paying them. He wouldn’t even take my phone calls. He was ‘too high up’ in the hierarchy, and he couldn’t talk to us peasants out here.

I was going to say to him, “Look, pal, you took an oath to protect and defend my constitutional rights. Now do it, and do your job,” but he wouldn’t talk to me. So, I kept at it; I kept making videos about what a dirtbag he was for not doing his job, that he was derelict in his duties, and the public could relate to that.
In some ways, I think that President Trump was watching me going after the social media. He thought, “Hey, that will work. I’ll try that!”

I showed the fine paperwork that the two female lawyers tried to impose on me. They tried to impose $10,000 for every pig that I would not dispossess. At the time I had 70 of them. So, in their paperwork, they had this written.

**Kennedy:** They amended their complaint, right? They wanted a much greater fine.

**Baker:** Yes, they amended it. It was on Bill Schuette’s letterhead. They were seeking a fine of $700,000 from me, which was $10,000 per pig. That is a violation of the Constitution as well under the Seventh Amendment. It was cruel and unusual punishment and excessive fines. They can’t do that, but they were doing it anyway.

He just heaped more coals on his own head when he did that, and I showed the pictures of the two female lawyers that did it. I gave out their information because, here they are as American citizens, and they say, “Hey, I’m just doing my job.”

It’s kind of like somebody loading people into cattle cars with a machine gun saying, “Hey, I’m just doing my job.”

If that’s your job, there are many people out there like me – retired GIs and farmers and regular guys – who would like to know what you look like and who would like to know where you live if you are ‘just going to do your job’. That is the beauty of our country; we are governed by consent, and I refused to consent to this because my Fifth Amendment says that I have a right to my property. They kept pushing it anyway. So, I thought they were outlaws, and I thought the public deserved to see what an outlaw looks like. I think they deserve to know where an outlaw lives.

“How do you feel when you have a group of angry farmers who know your name, what you look like, and where you live? You don’t mind doing that to me with the full force of the state and your three-piece suits and your $160,000 a year jobs. But guess where your money comes from? It comes from me. You
take it from me, and then you dole it out to them.”

That had a tremendous effect because those poor girls – and I will call them girls because they were in their late 20’s – had the daylights scared out of them. They wanted me arrested for showing their picture.

“I will refer you to the First Amendment.”

**Kennedy:** I don’t think they called it doxing back then, right?

**Baker:** No, I was a forerunner to that.

**Kennedy:** For the Attorney General to propose fining you $700,000 showed how you were getting under their skin.

A supporter of Schuette tried to befriend you and give you advice on the case was another thing they did. What happened there?

**Baker:** Much of the time, politics is a dirty game. You will find out how dirty it is when it touches your family.

The Attorney General had people on his staff who made me believe that they hated him. They made me believe that they wanted somebody else elected. They tried to become friends with me. They called me on the phone and said, “This is terrible what has happened to you. That guy’s a real jerk. We want to get him out of there,” and all these things.

They would say, “Hey, why don’t you come down to a baseball game at the Detroit stadium? We’ve got a box seat out there for you, and all the free beer you can drink. You’ll have a good time.”

I thought they were on the level. I thought they were my friends, and I fell right into their trap. I went to the baseball game; I wanted to see a professional baseball game. At the last minute, they said, “Oh, your wife can’t come.” So I went anyway, but I shouldn’t have gone.

We were in a suite with numerous people there. I still remember everybody who
was there. I thought they were all my friends. They said, “You know what, Mark? We think that you should run for governor because you’ve got so much support. People really love you. You’re a real American,” and on and on. “You should run for governor.”

I was smitten, and just ate it up. “Me? Governor? Yes, I could be the governor. People love me.”

I drove home from there that night thinking, “Governor Baker. I can see it now.”

Then some of my saner friends came to me and said, “They’re just setting you up to make you look like an idiot.” I didn’t believe them at first. I kept believing these people. One of them was a retired Air Force person who I looked up to. He had been a state rep, and I looked up to him. The other person owned a radio station, and I looked up to him.

What they wanted me to do was put a suit jacket on and sit behind a table and make a video about, “I’ve decided to run for governor.” They would have made me look like an idiot. Luckily I didn’t do it. I didn’t have the nerve to do it, and my wife wasn’t giving me the ‘okay’. She didn’t say, “No, don’t do it,” but she just got quiet, and I took her cues.

I didn’t do it, so nothing came of that.

**Kennedy:** It’s just another example. If you weren’t effective with your YouTube channel, that never would have happened. It was another way of trying to get you out of the way.

You talked about the opposition back then. I’m going to ask you about a couple of groups. One of them is the Midland Mafia. Maybe they are still referred to as that. How would you characterize them?

**Baker:** I heard that, too, but I don’t know anything about them. It was only politicians who came out of Midland, Michigan. There are some big companies there that you probably would have heard of, and they have many lawyers, so I’m not going to mention their names.
I don’t think they carry a card that says they are Midland Mafia, so I couldn’t comment on that. I’m the wrong person to ask about that.

**Kennedy:** What about the agricultural leaders of Michigan? They were another prominent group. I think the Pork Producers were a part of them.

**Baker:** Yes, the Pork Producers are part of them; it’s a lobbying group. They were all on board with centralizing agriculture; they want to centralize it. That’s what I know about them; they wanted it controlled.

They don’t want all of these smaller farms out there. To me, an 80-acre farm is a huge farm. If you have to fence it, it’s huge. But it seems as though they want food production centralized and corporately held.

We were up against them—Ag Leaders of Michigan (ALM).

**Kennedy:** Part of one of the organizations in that group was GreenStone Farm Credit Services. They are one of the more prominent ones.

**Baker:** Correct. I never did business with GreenStone Farm Credit Services. The way it looks from the outside is they are a contractor that is charged with the equal and equitable disposition of funds to the agriculture industry. So, it’s money that the Federal government has, and they are supposed to distribute it to farms because food security is a big deal, as we are finding out.

The only thing wrong with that was they wouldn’t distribute it to small farms; they would only distribute it to the mega farms. So, they were picking winners and losers, and they were part of the whole sign-on with the Ag Leaders of Michigan; they signed onto it.

In other words, they were in direct opposition with me. I tried to borrow money from them twice, and they would not loan money to me. I guess I’m not really a ‘farm’.

**Kennedy:** It’s the same thing with the Farm Bureau, right? They favored the corporate agriculture.
Baker: Oh, yes. Farm Bureau Insurance was part of Ag Leaders of Michigan, too. It just so happens that after the lawsuit came to an abrupt end with the dismissal, the Farm Bureau insurance agent ‘just happened to be in the neighborhood’, and thought he would stop by when I wasn’t home and my wife was. A week later, we had no insurance on the farm.

He just happened to be in the neighborhood; he was just doing some ‘spot checks’.

How would he know that I wasn’t home? I think you will be going to go into that as well, and who all is involved here.

Kennedy: You mentioned the dismissal of the lawsuit. You had a couple of memorable hearings before that final hearing where the lawsuit was dismissed. You had one hearing that was only a pretrial hearing. Usually, these are rather routine. There might be a few family members in the court. I think I remember there were people out the door that day; you probably had 250 to 300 people. Talk about that particular hearing.

Baker: I remember very little of what went on in the proceedings. It was the first time that I was actually sitting next to a lawyer in front of a judge. Like you said, there were 250-350 people there. It was a small, country courtroom. The judge allowed people to sit in the middle, which I thought was something. On both sides, every seat was full. The doors were open, and into the corridor it was full. Outside the courthouse there was a huge group of people.

There was representation from 13 states. After it was over, we all returned to the farm and had food. We hung out and ate and talked. It went on until late, but we had fun. That was that one.

Kennedy: It was one of those events where the national local food movement came together and supported you. It happened in the Vernon Hershberger trial and maybe one or two other events. That is solidarity, which you don’t see often.

We mentioned earlier that you made it personal. One person you brought to people’s attention was Bill Schuette. Another one was the state attorney, Hal
Martin. Could you talk about the preliminary hearing where he spoke?

**Baker:** I was making weekly videos to keep people up to date as to what was going on is the way that started. The two females who were representing the state didn’t want to do it anymore. I don’t know why, but I never saw them again.

They got rid of them, and they brought in a new person. The new person’s name was Harold Martin. My lawyer called me and said, “I know the guy. I know him from law school. He’s a pretty good guy. I think you’ll like him.” He was the opposition, so I didn’t know why I would like him.

She said, “He is pretty level-headed. I think I can work with him. His name is Hal.”

I looked up his bio, and his name was Harold. So, when I was making my video to brief the public on what was coming up this week, I said, “They brought a new lawyer on. His name is Harold Martin. I would like to say, “Welcome to the struggle, Harry.”

I was trying to be nice; I called him Harry, but his name was Harold. You call people by the name of Harold ‘Harry’. I didn’t think he would mind.

I got a phone call within an hour from my lawyer. She said, “He doesn’t like being called Harry, so don’t call him Harry anymore.”

I grew up in a household with five sisters. So, I know when somebody says, “Don’t call me that,” I hit it!

So, I made videos from that day on, and I always referred to him as ‘Harry Martin’. When I finally saw him in court, I sized him up right away. He was a pudgy, little feminine-looking guy. He was definitely sleazy. He came over to me, and said, “How dare you disparage my family name,” and other things I said, “Harry, it’s just a video. You could make a video.”

Then he went back to his seat, and realized he had been filmed saying what he
said to me; we have it all on tape. It is on YouTube if you want to watch Baker’s Green Acres YouTube.

The courtroom was full, and some members of the audience initiated a Pledge of Allegiance. So, we stood up and said the Pledge of Allegiance. We were going to start a court session in a courtroom. We had a couple of flags – a state flag and the federal flag. So, we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

We all stood up except for Harry. He sat there like a bump on a log. So one of the older men, and I later found out that he was a World War II veteran, said, “What is your problem? Why didn’t you stand up for my flag?”

Martin stood up. He turned around and started chewing out the crowd. He was acting like, “You want a piece of me?” You can see this on YouTube. He made an absolute fool of himself.

Then he sat down, and the judge came out. The judge didn’t catch any of this. I guess the judge didn’t want to walk in on it, so he was peeking through the door like, “Is he done?”

Then the judge came in, and within five minutes, the case was dismissed. Our lawyer said, “Okay. Case dismissed,” and it came to an abrupt end like that.

**Kennedy:** I thought that was a different hearing when they dismissed it. They told you that your pigs were illegal for two years, they countersued you when you sued them, and it seemed as if they knew you were going to expose the declaratory ruling – curly tails, straight tails, floppy ears, straight ears – for the sham that it was. Did this come as a complete surprise to you when, after two years, they all of a sudden came in and said, “Your pigs are fine”?

**Baker:** To me, it was an absolute surprise. My lawyer had not prepared me for it at all. When the judge said what he said, I didn’t understand it. It was lawyer speak/judge speak. He was talking to the people representing me and the person representing the state; he wasn’t talking to me.

When it was over, my lawyer told me what the story was. I didn’t think it was a good idea. Looking back on it, what they really didn’t want was the possibility
that the Constitution would have been brought into that court room. That was the cat that they needed to keep in the bag.

This really wasn’t straight tails/curly tails; this was, “Is it private property? Is it legal to own private property?”

If you have something illegal like methamphetamine, that is a controlled substance, and that is not private property. But private property is guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The state can’t take away something that belongs to me. Without private property, we have nothing as a people.

Kennedy: The case was dismissed, your pigs were declared legal, and they are not coming after you for illegal pigs anymore, but it didn’t seem like you were done with the state yet.

The following February, there was another incident at your farm when you weren’t even there. I guess you didn’t find out about it until much later. So what happened on that day?

Baker: This is where we get into the phase that you referred to earlier; how it bolstered my business. I said that long-term it bolstered, but in the short-term, it destroyed my business.

We had a license from the State of Michigan through the Department of Agriculture to run our butcher shop and a food service operation. We could store food, prepare food, and we could butcher animals. That was all through the state.

When we first started, they inspected and made sure that we had screens on the windows, a sink to wash our hands in, and a few other things – it was nothing; we really prepared for it. Being military, I was super-prepared for it, but it was nothing. We had to give them $170. By the time we finished 14 years later, it was nearly $300 for the license. They just send it to you. It’s a piece of paper they send to you in the mail saying that you are licensed to do this, but they don’t ever come and watch you do anything. They don’t inspect for cleanliness; they didn’t inspect for anything. They never even came to the farm.
While my wife and I were gone from the farm, they came and said that they wanted to inspect. Only my children were there.

**Kennedy:** Was this DNR or the Department of Agriculture?

**Baker:** It was the Department of Agriculture. They are all sort-of the same; they all go through the university system. Then they say, “You’re going to work here, you’re going to work there, or you’re going to work here. You want to carry a gun? You can be a DNR or a state policeman. Do you want to do that?”

They are all cut from the same cloth in many ways.

They came when we weren’t home. They knew we wouldn’t be home because they came with the state police. They knew where my farm was. It was done to intimidate my children, which was designed to irritate me, which was designed to get me to either be intimidated or lash back at them. That is what they wanted. These people are just thugs. They don’t do anything all day; they think up ways to make you comply because they want to feel important.

I called them from where I was –in Maine – and told them what I thought about them. They are really cowards. Many of them have big-time personal issues like being born a woman but dressing like a man, and things like that. In my book, that is a big problem. You can say what you want, but I think it’s a huge problem if you don’t know which clothes to put on.

They waited until I got home, and in that time, I was supposed to pay for my license again. It was due on April 1st, but I said, “You know what? I’m not going to get a license. I’m going to sell this farm, and I’m going someplace else. I just want to be left alone.”

They were goading me; they wanted a confrontation. They always bring the state police, and the state police never really know what is going on. In the state police’s defense, there are many good patrolmen, but if they are told by these freaks at the Department of Agriculture that I am ‘violent’ or ‘gun-toting’ or anything like that, they are on edge. So, it places my children in danger, and we didn’t want that. We were going to leave quietly. We won the case, and we were going to leave. We were going to sell our farm and go away.
But when I did not renew my license—as soon as I didn’t renew my license—it all stopped; everything stopped.

Before that, they sent inspectors—an inspector with a friend, an inspector with a policeman, an inspector with three policemen. On and on it went, and they wanted on this farm to look around and inspect, whereas before, they never did. They never wanted to look at my farm before; they didn’t care. Now all of a sudden, they want to look.

They came with an administrative warrant one time. You will remember that because I called you at that time.

On and on it went, and then in 2015, I let the license go. It came to an abrupt end. Then I started talking with some other people including a friend whose husband was a lawyer before he became a chemical engineer. He is quite smart about things, and said, “See? You don’t have a license with them. That means that you don’t have an agreement with them; that means you don’t have a contract with them; that means they don’t have any authority on your property. You are now protected by the Fourth Amendment whereas, when you had that license with them, you knowingly and consciously gave up your Fourth Amendment.”

They could legally come on my property and inspect because of my contract with them, which was a permit or a license. But without the license, now they have nothing, and I’m protected by the Fourth Amendment, the Fifth Amendment, and the First Amendment. I’m disparaging them hard right now. Why don’t they haul me out of the house and shoot me at sunrise? Because they can’t; I have free speech in this country.

I also have my 22; I have the right to own and bear arms, which evens things up a bit.

So we let the license go, and tried to sell the farm. I guess powers higher than me said, “No, that’s not going to happen. You’re not going to sell this farm,” and it didn’t sell. That was strange because at the time, there were many people looking for farms. There still are right now. The price of farms has gone way up.
We continued to raise our own food, and then it was easy for us at that point. We went from 30 chicken tractors down to five chicken tractors. So, our farm became a joy again. We put milk cows back on; we put beef cows on. I started grazing my cattle more; I wasn’t cutting hay all the time.

I started to look at farming as an extension of myself. It was like the health of the farm definitely affected my health. During the whole fight with the DNR and the Department of Agriculture, I had a lot of inflammation and headaches all the time. I was getting in bad physical shape.

We started homesteading again, and I said, “We are just going to homestead. We are going to live here. I am going to get a job.”

I went to the Army base to inquire about a job, but then we started selling things. We started selling milk and hamburger and pork and chicken only to other families. It was private – between us and them. People started to enjoy it, and they started to love us for what we were doing.

Before, we would sell it to a store, and the end user never even knew who we were. So, nobody loved us for what we were doing.

Now we have mothers who come here with little children in tow, and they love me for what I’m doing to make their children’s hair shiny and make their eyes sparkle. It has everything to do with the food that they are eating. Those women will defend you until the end.
So, that business started picking up around 2016, and we decided to stay and continue to run the homestead. Then we moved into the educational part of it, and I would like to talk about that.

**Kennedy:** Absolutely. I think you are performing some critical work right now.

I was just looking at a survey of these slaughterhouses in Virginia. They asked, “What is your number one problem?”

The answer was, “Finding skilled meat cutters.”
You have this program, Anyone Can Farm, which deals with that among other things. Could you tell the listeners and readers about your educational program?

**Baker:** Joel Salatin has a book called *You Can Farm*, which is great. I read that book, and Joel touched me with his book when I was just a retired GI.

Anyone Can Farm came from the movie, *Ratatouille*. In the movie, there was a jolly chef who built the business, and he had died. His saying was, “Anyone can cook.” Then another chef took over and said, “No, only we can cook.”

It was very similar to what the Department of Agriculture was trying to state in a court of law, “Farming is a very delicate business, and only ‘us professionals’ can do it. So, if you haven’t been through Michigan State University, you shouldn’t even be doing it, and farming is a very critical and careful business.”

So, we stole that tagline and said, “Anyone can farm,” because they were trying to say that not anybody can farm; only the professionals can do it. That is their tagline in order to centralize food production. They have an agenda. Make no mistake about that.

I know I’m preaching to the choir here. You can see what has happened with COVID and everything. They have centralized everything so that they can restrict it and starve you. This is Stalin-esque. We saw this happen years ago, but this is the follow through on it.

Our program is Anyone Can Farm. The way to get back at these people is to listen to what they ask of you, and then do a 180 degree.

They are saying, “You can’t raise pigs safely on a farm without a building to put the pigs in,” and we say, “Watch us. You can’t tell us that we can’t do it. You tried that, and it didn’t work. So watch me.”

So, I have many pigs here now; we have a good pig business here. I’m going to go you one better; I will show my fellow citizens how to do this. I’m going to show them everything that I know.

Right now, supposedly if you want to learn agriculture, you have to go to the university. But they get everybody into the confinement way of life and chemical
farming and heavy metal farming.

I’m not saying that should be outlawed; I’m only saying that I choose to do it a different way, and I get to choose what I put in my body. I get to choose what I’m going to eat – as long as I’m not incarcerated. If I get incarcerated, then I have to eat their crumby food. So as long as I’m on my farm, I will eat what I want, and there are many Americans who feel the same way.

I get to choose what I put in my body, and I can’t buy it, so I have to grow it myself or know somebody who does.

What we do is dedicate some of our time to teaching these principles. I go online for about an hour every night and talk about farming on Baker’s Green Acres YouTube channel at 8 pm Eastern Standard Time. The conversations go all over the place. Sometimes it goes into legal things, and sometimes it’s just how to grow a tomato or how to compost. Then sometimes, we have classes on the farm where we show people how to butcher pigs, how to butcher beef, and how to raise pigs. Anything that we do, we are willing to teach people. So, the Anyone Can Farm program has taken on legs of its own.

I don’t have to be a production farmer to make enough money to feed my family. Some of the money that we make is doing instruction through the school.

**Kennedy:** What have you noticed since COVID? Are you getting greater interest in your program, especially the onsite class on meat processing?

**Baker:** Definitely. You can go back and review the tapes. When COVID hit, it was very similar to straight tails/curly tails. It was nebulous. We got this huge problem, and I kept telling my following, “You wait. They are going to come out with a solution. You wait. They are showing you the problem right now. They are showing Chinese people falling over in the street. You wait. They are going to come out with the answer to it.”

That is what they did with us. They said that these pigs are killing baby ducks and deer and stealing cars and everything. “Here is the solution: We are going to take the products away from these farmers – these stupid, irresponsible farmers. We are going to take it away from them because they are irresponsible.”
They did the same thing with COVID. They said, “Here is the problem, and now we have the solution. The solution is: You can’t go to church anymore; you can’t go to the tavern anymore. We don’t want you standing close together anymore. We don’t want people hugging each other or shaking hands or anything like that. We don’t want human beings to act like human beings. We don’t want that.”

Then the pièce de résistance to this point is that now we have the antidote. “Here, take this antidote. This will fix you right up.”

I think that anybody who has been watching this has to say, “I’m not taking that! You take it! We’ll watch you take it.”

**Kennedy:** When you think of all the things that they are doing to incentivize it, they are offering free donuts, free French fries, free beer, free lap dance – you name it! It’s totally unprofessional.

**Baker:** It’s kind of the same thing.

**Kennedy:** What do you see? They are trying to push this synthetic meat more now. They are pushing this stuff that is absolute garbage. It’s plant-based proteins and cell-cultured meat. No one likes that substance that I know of. These people have billions of dollars to promote it, and they want to eliminate the consumption of real meat in this country. Bill Gates has actually publicly said that no one should be eating meat in the U.S. anymore.

Do you see this propaganda pushing even more people towards real food, or do you think these people are actually getting traction with that garbage?

**Baker:** I see a distinct similarity between that and the parasite at the Department of Agriculture. They’re only there for the money. They show up Monday morning, and then leave Friday afternoon. They get their paycheck, go home, watch TV and drink beer, and then they go in Monday morning. They are just parasites; they don’t produce anything.

You have a person like Bill Gates who has what he considers a big stick, and it’s large sums of dollars. He says, “Because I’ve got all of these dollars, you are
going to take this medicine because I say so.” But he’s dealing with America. It’s tough to govern people in America. We really don’t care how much money he has because many of us are in the know about the U.S. money system. It is failing, and it has to fail because these people, via the Federal Reserve, are using U.S. dollars against us. It’s all of our currency, but because he has so much more than I do, money is the ability to do work, but the U.S. dollar is fake money; it’s fiat.

We are watching the failure of the U.S. currency as we speak; it’s happening right now.

I think they have tried many things. They tried the invasive species thing in the heartland of America. I would consider myself and the other farmers involved in this as people who represent America. We are God-fearing, armed, principled, tough, resilient people, and we will protect our families in a way that you have no idea. This class of people has no idea what they have stepped in. They have no idea, and they won’t know because they are parasites.

So, when they push something like fake meat on a person like me or you or many of my friends, it doesn’t even get a chuckle. I mean, we don’t even giggle about that. For them to say, “We are going to cut down on the amount of butchering, so you have to go to the fake meat,” I have news for them. There is a large amount of money to be made here in processing of animals, and people are going to do it. They seem to think that the USDA has these talons and they can stop that. Well, the USDA doesn’t have any more authority than you give them. You are governed as an American citizen under the U.S. Constitution, and the Fifth Amendment is really clear that your life, liberty, and property – which is your process – is protected under due process of law.

News flash: The USDA doesn’t make laws; they are a lobbying group that tries to manipulate the lawmakers into things, but the bottom line is that we are governed by consent. As a U.S. citizen, I have to consent to this. Many of the things they are doing right now, we don’t consent. The lawmakers are like scared rabbits. They don’t like to see large crowds coming anywhere near them, and I think that is warranted. The parasite class is nowhere to be seen anymore.
If you try to tell me that they are going to have control of the Americans, I kind of chuckle at that. They are not going to. They haven’t done anything that they have set out to do.

They had the full force of the state, and they came down on two farmers. Everybody left except for one other person and me. They basically possessed the other person because they stretched the lawsuit out. It’s still going on now, whereas mine ended ten years ago. They will stretch it until he’s dead, and then it will probably go away because he’s much older than I am.

It came down to one farmer – one U.S. citizen – who said, “I’m not doing it, and you can’t make me.”

They said, “He’s right. We can’t make him. We tried to fool him into it, we tried to coerce his lawyers, we tried to threaten him, we tried to intimidate him, and we tried to put him out of business,” which they did, and they did put me out of business, but all these other doors kept opening up.

We are a blessed nation, and we are blessed people, and we have the U.S. Constitution. In reality, the enemies of the people in the United States are the departments. That is a blanket statement, but they are the ones who restrict our freedoms. They are the ones that if I want to put a well on my land, they say, “You’ve got to get permission from us.” If I want to catch rainwater, all of the state licensing people say, “You’ve got to get permission from us.”

Kennedy: They are a team; they work with the big corporations to give the big corporations as much market share as they can. There are only so many slaughterhouses – thanks to the meatpackers having a monopoly over things—that happened with the meat. That is where people like you come in. You are teaching more people to slaughter their own meat. There are ways that families can go in on a cow or a pig together and not be subject to regulation.

Joel Salatin has said the Founding Fathers didn’t put anything about food in the Constitution because they just assumed that you could do business with your neighbor without any regulations, just sell direct to your customers. Now I think that people are starting to realize that you have to build these local food communities for that kind of thing to happen.
The quality in the supermarkets is getting worse and worse, and the supply chains are breaking down. What you are doing is critical work because you are one of the people building that local food system back together.

I think the key food is meat just because the regulations are so strict on it at the conventional level.

Baker: I agree. We do more than just teach people how to butcher a pig; we teach them how to set up an area where they can effectively butcher.

There are many, many tales that permeate our society. When you say, “Why don’t you set up an area where you can butcher cattle on your farm?” the first thing that the average person thinks is, “Aren’t there laws concerning that?”

Their first thought is, “I’ve got to ask permission.” No, you don’t. The Constitution gives you permission to do everything.

I disagree with Joel on the Founding Fathers not putting things in the Constitution to protect our food. They did; it’s the Fifth Amendment. My life, my liberty, and my process/property are protected under due process. They did put that in there.

What happens with regulation that you speak of, I disregard it. I am a Fifth Amendment farmer; I don’t buy into any of their regulations. Their regulations do me no good.

I bought licenses from the Department of Agriculture for 14 years. Not once did I get a return on that investment that I made to them, giving them U.S. dollars for a piece of paper. Not once did they refer someone to me; not once did they come down here and clean for me, empty trash barrels, or any of the other crummy stuff that has be done. They never helped. They just got fatter on it.

My inspector was a great big, fat, gross woman. She got fatter and fatter. It was not a good situation.

We don’t have to adhere to any of this regulation; we just opt out and say, “I
don’t do it that way.”

If one of these overzealous inspectors wants to trespass and come up your driveway without permission or without a warrant, you inform them that they are not welcome. If they don’t leave, that is a 911 call to the county sheriff. They don’t have authority on your property. You have no agreement with them.

Processing animals – chickens, beef, pork, and all that – is protected under the Fifth Amendment. We don’t have to ask permission to do that. They are our animals, or they could be somebody else’s animals.

If I am providing a service for somebody – if I want to provide the service of painting toenails on my farm – it’s private property, I am providing a service, and I’m painting toenails. I don’t have to get a license to do that.

If you go into town and do these things, it seems like they have departments that will harass you right out of business. I don’t know exactly how that works, but on private property what I’m doing – so long as it’s within the law – is my business; it’s not their business.

We’ve been doing this now since 2016 with no licenses at all. I go online every night and talk about selling raw milk and selling meat and doing classes for people and letting people camp out on my property. I haven’t gotten a single phone call. I haven’t gotten a letter in the mail – nothing.

Some of my tribe has said, “They don’t want to mess with you.” I don’t believe that. They’ve got lawyers, and lawyers like to send letters. I don’t believe they wouldn’t want to mess with me; I just believe that they can’t mess with me.

We have taken it even a step further. We have a tribe now, and it’s many people. I don’t even know how many people are in it. It’s a Facebook group and the Anyone Can Farm tribe. Occasionally, somebody who will contact us and say that they are being harassed by a county health department and the Department of Agriculture over something. They like to tell people, “If you are going to go to farmers’ markets, wherever you keep food at your house, they have to give you a license.” They call it a ‘food storage’ license. They like to tell people that, and then they collect $170 from these people.
The fine print of the contract says, “We can inspect your property any time we want,” whereas, the Fourth Amendment says, “You’ve got to have a warrant or an invitation.” Those are very stark differences.

You start looking at the Department of Agriculture and the Constitution, and they are 180 degrees apart. My Constitution protects my freedom, my liberty, and my life. What these people represent is the opposite. They want to say what your freedom is, what your liberty is, and what your life is all about.

Now, I’ve no licenses, and I do whatever I want. That doesn’t mean that I can make child sacrifices. That doesn’t mean I can break the law and do prostitution or anything like that; I can’t. But if it’s things within the law, I can do what I want.

The one that I bring up all the time – and maybe I’m wrong about this – is raw milk. If I get pulled over by a state policeman, and he says, “What have you got in the trunk?” and I say, “Raw milk,” he is not going to impound the raw milk because it’s not a controlled substance. He can’t. If it were crack cocaine, he would be calling for backup, and they would take it.

So, I ask you this: Is raw milk a controlled substance? Yes or no? The answer is no. Am I violating the law if I am in possession of a glass of raw milk? The answer is no, it’s milk. So, what is all of this hullabaloo about raw milk? You know what it is; everybody knows what it is. But if you capitulate to them, and if they say, “If you want to do raw milk, you’ve got to ask us ‘pretty please’, and we get to inspect, and you’ve got to do cow shares,” then you have effectively entered into a contract with them, even though they are saying that you can do it.

I’m not going to ask them if I can do it.

Lately, we hear many things – and I learned this in a professional military education – about fascism. We hear it all the time. We see anti-fascists like Antifa. They are putting the word ‘fascism’ in front of us all the time. “President Trump is a fascist, and this one is a fascist.”

I challenge your listenership and readership to look up what fascism is. I could
tell you here, but I want you to look it up so you’re not only getting it from me. It’s privately held; my farm is privately held. I own the deed to it. It’s mine. The definition is: Privately-held, government-controlled. So, when I am in a contract with the Department of Agriculture, they have the final say. My product is in a restaurant. They go in and say, “What’s this? Is this supposed to be here? You shouldn’t buy from this guy.”

They are the fascists; they are pressing a fascist model. I am pressing a liberty model. I raise a chicken, somebody wants to buy it, and between them and me, the deal is done. My government doesn’t have the right to know if I’m selling chickens to somebody; they don’t have that right. I didn’t ask them to do that. We didn’t employ them to do that. It’s nowhere in their job description. As a matter of fact, the job description of all the employees of the state of Michigan is to protect the constitutional rights of the constituents. Are they doing it? I don’t think so, but that is the good news. If you would like to get into that, I would love to talk about that.

**Kennedy:** If people want to find out about Anyone Can Farm, where do they go?

**Baker:** If you want to find out about Anyone Can Farm, you can go to our website, [http://BakersGreenAcres.com](http://BakersGreenAcres.com). My second-oldest son is working with us now, and he is going to be doing much of our media. We’ve been doing this informally for a long time. He is going to help us with our media, and we are going to make many of our how-to videos better and more available.

If you join our website, then you get all the how-to videos. I think that is how that is going to work. He is going to help me clean up the show that we do every night at 8:00 pm and make the quality of it better.

It’s a good program. We’ve touched the lives of many people. Last year, we put 50 people through the Hog Harvest class. So, we’ve got 50 people out there in the United States right now with instructions. I said, “The next time you do this, I want you to show five people how to do it,” and so on and so on. Don’t let these sons-of-guns take our liberty away by starving us.

Before, when I said things like this, people would say, “That’s a little extreme,
wouldn’t you say?” Does it sound extreme now?

**Kennedy:** No.

**Baker:** I don’t think so either. Now is the time to get joined up with Anyone Can Farm. Come to our livestream videos, and get involved.

We can’t all grab our politicians by the scruff of their neck, and they can’t do anything anyway. That is the sad reality. What we have to do is make it so that it doesn’t affect us.

During the whole pandemic, Americans got their first taste of communism. That might sound a little harsh, but it’s not. You were told to do things that were stupid, and you knew that they were stupid, but it’s the rules, and you’ve got to call the rules. You are being told this by a man at Walmart who is making you put a face mask on.

Project that out. Extrapolate that out, and see what that is like when you have the ‘Karen’ class of people saying, “I want to see your vaccine card.”

What you do is, instead of playing on their field with their rules, you play on your own field. That is what Anyone Can Farm is about; it’s creating your own field of play.

We have the freedom to do this under the Fifth Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Second Amendment, and the First Amendment. We just don’t know how because we’ve been fooled and cajoled over our entire lifetimes into believing that the food from the store is good.

We started catching on, and they said, “Okay, we will put in an organic section,” and everything with organic standards are written by lawyers from the companies. They just figure out a way to do it.

If you are eating nutrient-dense food, you don’t need the hospital; you really don’t need the hospital. That’s not a good place to go anyway these days. It’s better to get good food and stay home and play your own game.
Many of these people who are playing that game – the parasite class of people – are all drinking the Kool-Aid, too. So, I don’t know how effective they will be as time goes by.

**Kennedy:** I think that is one of the main messages for the work that you are doing now: Get out of the conventional food system, whether it’s processing your own food or finding someone local who does. Conventional food and the pharmaceutical industry are joined at the hip right now. You get sick in one area, and go to another for treatment. They have you on the treadmill.

**Baker:** They bounce you back and forth.

**Kennedy:** Right. Mark, it’s been great. I appreciate your time.

We are going to put the information about Baker’s Green Acres up. Do you have specific dates listed there for on-farm classes?

**Baker:** Yes. On the website, [http://BakersGreenAcres.com](http://BakersGreenAcres.com), you will see a tab that says ‘Anyone Can Farm’, and the class dates are right there.

We have a class coming up in December that is a charcuterie class. It is a class where we show people how to make hams and bacon. It’s food preservation of the pig. It’s really trendy now, but it’s how it was done in the old days before freezers.

Then we have another class in January in which we are actually travelling to Texas. I believe there are still some seats in that class. That’s a ‘Homestead Hog Harvest’ class. That is where we start with live pigs, and then we wind up after two and a half days with bacons, hams, and pork chops. It’s all hands-on; people get their hands right in it.

My personal goal is to look at each person who is at that class. If I think they have a weak spot, I’ll say, “Hey, you need to look at this. This is a weak spot for you.” I have a background in that. I want those people to go home, and do it on their own, and I want them to be able to teach others.

Once you are exposed to that, you can process a cow, a pig, or a chipmunk –
whatever it takes. It gives people this feeling of empowerment where the centralized food system and the Nancy Frank’s of this world take the power from you. They say, “We have the power to provide your food. You need to depend on us for your food.”

When you start seeing how sick they are – not only physically, but mentally sick – you do not want to be depending on them for your food.

This isn’t a trendy thing right now. One last thing, Pete, that I want your audience to hear or read is this: Where we are in the training business now, we have people coming to us who have left lucrative career fields. They have said, “This isn’t going to last forever. We need to get control of our lives, and we have to get control of our own food supply.”

I’m almost looking at them like, “Are you ready for this? You are a finance manager, and your hands are as soft as a baby’s rear end. Are you ready for this?”

This guy (Baker) is saying, “I’ve got no choice; I’ve got to do this.”

He just knows what is coming. Many of these people know what is coming.

**Kennedy:** I totally agree with that. I think that one of the most important things that you can do right now is build local food systems and get them as resilient as you can. The quality and the reliability have gone down.

Alright, Mark, it’s been great. We will get all the information out on Baker’s Green Acres. Hopefully, you can get some more people going through the school. I know you are busy with it right now, and hopefully, you can get some more people interested.

**Baker:** Thank you, Pete. Nice talking to you.
MODIFICATION

Transcripts are not always verbatim. Modifications are sometimes made to improve clarity, usefulness and readability, while staying true to the original intent.

DISCLAIMER

Nothing on The Solari Report should be taken as individual investment advice. Anyone seeking investment advice for his or her personal financial situation is advised to seek out a qualified advisor or advisors and provide as much information as possible to the advisor in order that such advisor can take into account all relevant circumstances, objectives, and risks before rendering an opinion as to the appropriate investment strategy.