

We wish you all the very best for a kind 2012, especially those in Christchurch who have just suffered three more very severe earthquakes. All New Zealanders feel so helpless and many there are going broke. Thank goodness, farm damage this time was light and their service section has not suffered, which is lucky with cows now in full production.

2011 was so sad for so many people in many countries, suffering because of greedy, ruthless, financial rogues, including banks with managers here getting paid NZ\$4,000,000 a year, while workers who make it all possible, get a miserable \$14 an hour, which is \$30,000 a year. World-wide there were floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis, and other storms. In Japan the tsunami-damaged nuclear power plants will apparently take 30 years to close down and stop emitting radiation. For them and those around Chernobyl, the cost of nuclear power is now not cheap. Japan in February suffered Foot and Mouth disease possibly from Chinese straw. 400,000 cattle and pigs had to be slaughtered. NZ government please take note that their national animal identification system didn't help.

Global warming claimed to cause every climate variation possible, and to be caused mainly by farmers is the favourite scapegoat, but the Brisbane flood was smaller than five others in the last hundred years. Some of the potassium fertiliser that the world now uses was formed 200 million years ago after the evaporation of the Zechstein Sea in Germany over a long period, during ancient global warming. Some Greenies and all Global Warmers, please take note - warming is not new, nor is climate change. Vikings sailed across the north pole each summer. Here climate change occurs almost daily, going by weather forecasts on one day and what actually happens on the next.

David Henshaw feels for farmers. Below is from his calendar. Read the caption below.



Kyoto bureaucrats found that New Zealand had sixty million ruminants, with only four million people which was the worst ratio in the world, so together with our stupid government and bureaucrats worked out a tax on ruminants, but what they had not woken up to, is that our ruminants are not pets, they are the most efficient producers of low cost healthy pasture-fed milk and meat in the world. Also, 90% is exported to countries needing protein and healthy food. Kyoto used USA grain-fed animal methane production figures, which are higher than our pasture fed ones, and used them to make inflated claims against New Zealand.

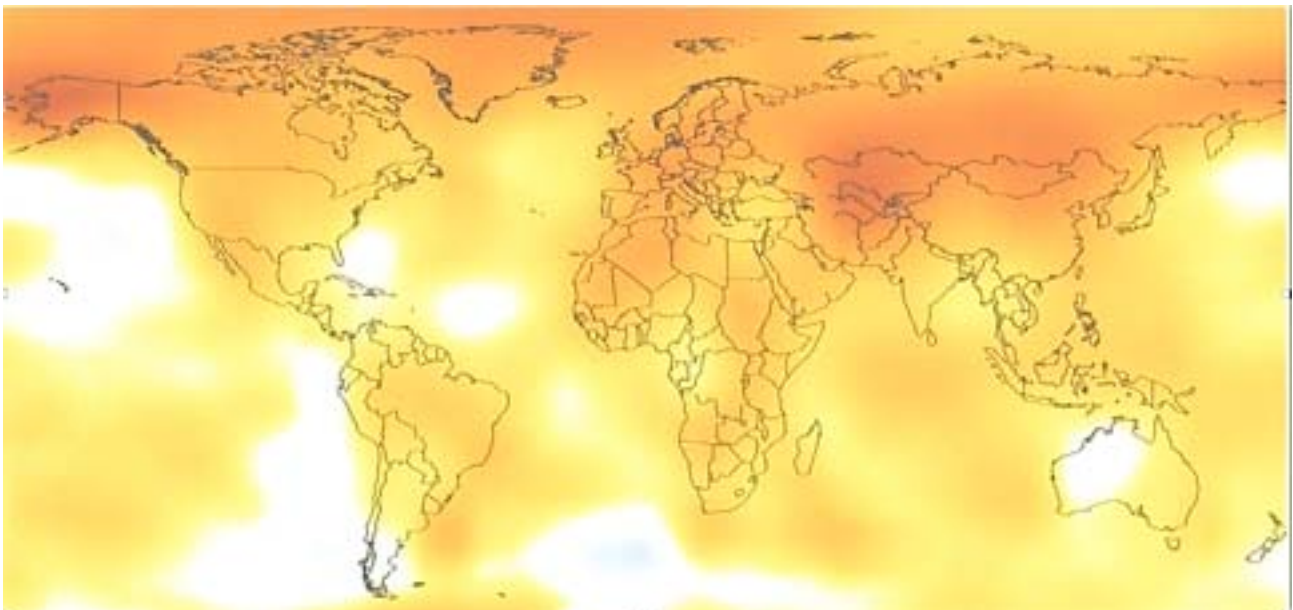
Many of the world's meat and milk producers, envious of New Zealand, write so much that is incorrect. They don't know that Asia's paddy fields emit much more methane than all of New Zealand, and that methane comes out the front of ruminants, not the back. It takes a 1,200 litres of oil to grow one beef animal in USA (June National Geographic), and about the same in most of the northern hemisphere countries, while ours take less than 100 litres per beef animal. Currently they are promoting "Food miles" and telling people to not buy New Zealand meat which shows their propaganda is commercially based, rather than factual. New Zealand's promotion machine is too gentle. They should flatten the misguided critics.

The Emissions Trading Scheme, and all of Kyoto are so wrong. The big polluters don't belong to Kyoto and Canada has recently pulled out. The word "Scheme" sums up ETS. Producers of fuel, the world's biggest polluters, pay nothing - the users pay it all. However, NZ ruminants (no others around the world) will be taxed for producing methane on food that is exported to a hundred countries, many desperate for our high protein food from our grazed pastures, that use little fuel, and conserve more carbon than they produce. ETS is stupid as is the whole of Kyoto. After its first meeting nearly a decade ago, I said, "What a bureaucratic dinosaur, which will cost us as members a fortune, and fail to achieve what is needed."



Lightning burns up methane, as shown here. If all NZ ruminants were disposed of, the world real pollution would decrease by only a fraction of a percent.

The aim of Kyoto should be to reduce pollution, not to allow the rich to buy the right to pollute, and tax the poor producers of the world's best food, which is what is happening now. An organic dry stock grazing client planned to lease Maori land around Lake Taupo and farm it correctly. They were delighted and said, "We can now have some more profitable dairy farming to use your pollution savings and supply our milk factory." She was furious and pulled out.



The chart above of global temperatures from 2000 to 2004 shows where the world's heating occurs - not from pasture covered green NZ, so taxing our grazing animals is ludicrous. Pilots have seen clouds of polluted air going from China to northern USA, and a dairy farmer client in coastal Oregon has seen it and had larger than usual rain drops. When I was in Korea in 1980 they were quick to point out that the red sky in the north-east was pollution from China, not from Korea.

USA, China and India produce the most heating and pollution, and have not joined Kyoto. India's pollution from when they became industrialised caused the Sahel desert to extend at about 6 km per annum south of the Sahara. Google for India + Sahel desert.

New Zealand Efficiency by grazing farmers has increased unbelievably. In the last +/- fifty years pasture production per hectare has doubled, animal numbers per farmer have increased by six times. In 1958 the average dairy farm had 60 cows. Now it has 360. Production per cow has doubled, but the

equivalent payout has halved from \$14 per kg of milk solids to \$7. A cow cost £20. Now they are \$2,000 = 100 difference. In 1958 when we milked 60 cows we bought a new three bedroom Lockwood house from income - no borrowing. In 1963 we bought (again out of income) a Keith Hay two bedroom house for a sharemilker. In 1966 we retired to town. Selling our herd of 180 cows and 20% replacements which paid for a four bedroom house in town. From 1963 we had a 29% sharemilker and I was doing agricultural contracting. Over the 11 years we had bought two neighbouring farms or 48 ha giving us 88 ha.

Despite the above, New Zealand farmers lose money partly because of rising costs, including bureaucrat levies for so many regulations now. NZ dairy farmers earn only about 3% on their investment of four million dollars average. It is not inefficient farming - government farms earn less. Loading farmers with ETS, and government identification costs on all animals, is strangling the proverbial goose that earns nearly half our annual overseas funds. Most beef and sheep farmers have been earning less, but many of their incomes have recently increased, and now there are the misguided "food miles" campaigners See below.

Milk retail price at \$2.20 a litre might be too high, but dairy farmers get only about 60 cents a litre, and need 80 cents to survive long term. Because of the percentage markup system, which is one of the causes of inflation; increasing the farmer price by 33% to 80 cents, would increase the retail price by 70 cents to \$2.90 per litre.

Sorry about this again, but see <http://www.conservativeparty.org.nz/policies.php>

Click "You Want Prosperity", to see their farming plans.

The percentage of Waikato rural voters voting Conservative was double that of townies in Hamilton.

It is the only party that has a fifth generation dairy farmer as agricultural spokes-person, and will wipe ETS. If National sticks with Act and Key's undemocratic dictatorial policies including selling assets and ignoring referendum results, the Conservative Party will throw them out in 2014. National has been dishonest for years and people don't change.

My suggestions for NZ's problems - government and local bodies be fare to farmers, confiscate cars and assets to pay fines (un-paid fines total millions), employ lower paid staff than police for checking alcohol and other mundane jobs, use sniffer dogs with their heads out of car windows for sniffing out drug manufacturing, and no ACC for drunk injuries. Reduce politician numbers. To increase jobs, put import tariffs on some of the luxury items we used to produce. Many countries have 50% tariff on our foods, not luxury items.

The government could easily make 2012 profitable for all.

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