



A sad sight ... this virtually empty milk section at a big Walmart store in central Florida. For this fulfillment from the local milk handler – Borden – dairy farmers pay to promote the sale of milk? Apologies in advance if anyone is offended by the poem below.

December 18, 2022 at a Walmart Store in Central Florida

“T’was a week before Christmas, and empty air filled this Walmart’s dairy case.

Near-naked milk shelves that Nature’s most perfect gallons were supposed to grace.

Sadly, that Walmart’s bare milk shelves at Christmas weren’t new.

(But a local dairy farm woman knew what to do ...)

Her cell-phone had recorded Walmart’s bare milk shelves from ’19 thru ’22.

Where were the gallons to fill shoppers’ pre-Christmas orders?

What dairy company was creating these milk case disorders?

For the past couple years, while that dairy gal was recordin’ ...

Walmart’s missing gallons have been supplied by Borden.

Dairy old-timers recall Borden —“Elsie the Cow” on the carton.

Elsie was dairy’s leading icon, before worries ‘bout cows burpin’ and fartin’.

But lately, poor Borden’s fluid milk sales have been down on their luck.

Why? Borden’s top dog – Gregg Engle\$ — is a money-grubbing schmuck.

Engle\$ — he’s the same devious clown, whose high-debt strategies pulled Dean Foods down.

Engle\$ is now dumping remnants of Borden’s milk empire,

If he gets his wish, it’s a good bet in ’23 Borden will expire.

Engle\$’ shutting down Borden has hurt milk sales a bunch.

Thousands of school kids couldn’t get milk for their lunch.

Engle\$’ end-game at Borden has been downright ugly, truth be told.

Last spring, Borden’s Chicago-area milk depot was coated in black mold!

Maybe ... if sale of Borden’s last Florida plant takes place,

By next Christmas, there’ll be no empty spaces

At those Walmart dairy cases.

Next Christmas, milk at that Walmart? To all, Good Health!

As for Engle\$? (Guess where he can stick his wealth.)

— Pete Hardin

DFA Corporate Board Chair Randy Mooney Avoids Regional Election

So much for claims that Dairy Farmers of America is a “grassroots” organization.

Missourian Randy Mooney is the most politically powerful dairy farmer in the United States these days. Mooney is the corporate board chair of Dairy Farmers of America – the nation’s largest dairy cooperative. Mooney is also the board chairman for National Milk Producers Federation –NMPF, the dairy cooperatives’ lobby. In Mooney’s spare time, he slums with the locals as a director on DFA’s Southeast Region board – a necessary springboard for his serving on DFA’s corporate board.

Curious, then, that DFA’s Southeast Council board recently declared that Mooney didn’t have to run for re-election for his directors’ post on that regional Council. Instead of facing a potential challenger, who might have held Mooney accountable for the massive marketing costs deducted from DFA’s members’ milk checks in the Southeast, Mooney sim-

ply games a “free pass” to continue serving on the Southeast Council’s board, DFA’s corporate board and NMPF’s board. Such a valuable talent!

Simply stated, Mooney is one of dairy’s premier “professional per-diem collectors.” He “farms the farmers” — pulling in untold hundreds of thousands of dollars annually while serving as DFA’s figurehead

farmer/leader.

But Mooney’s standing is so thin, close to home, that DFA’s leadership could not countenance risking Mooney facing competition for his directorship on the co-op’s Southeast Council. A couple years ago, angry Southeast Council members dumped another DFA director/suck up –Ryan Anglin of Arkansas.

Closeout Cleanout: 2022’s Issues for \$20

Year’s end means it’s time to clean out 2022’s accumulated pile of the year’s surplus copies of *The Milkweed*.

Anyone interested in purchasing a complete set of 2022’s January-December issues may do so by sending a check for \$20 made out to *The Milkweed*. If there’s a particular issue for which you want a few extras, add a few bucks to the check and let me know what you want.

Otherwise, remaining surplus copies of *The Milkweed* are dropped off at a local dairy farm — where they’re put into the tub grinder and ultimately used to bed cows and heifers. That’s sort of an “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” fate.

It’s a good thing that cows don’t know what goes on in the milk business. Otherwise, they’d have trouble letting down their milk.