Author David Kirby Speaking At DCEC Summer Program

World famous author and researcher is coming to Door County

The widely acclaimed activist and author of ANIMAL FACTORY, David Kirby will be the presenter at the DCEC free annual summer program on Wednesday, August 22nd at the Bailey’s Harbor Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

In ANIMAL FACTORY, best-selling investigative journalist David Kirby exposes the powerful business and political interests behind large-scale factory farms, and tracks the far-reaching fallout that can contaminate our air, land, and water supply.

David's best-selling book Animal Factory has brought raves in support and the wrath of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations out in reaction to the facts of this eye-opening book. Recent public health crises and food recalls raise urgent questions about how our animal-derived food is raised and brought to market.

Bring your friends to this outstanding presentation on Wednesday, August 22nd at the Bailey's Harbor Town Hall, 7:00 P.M. Come Early, Limited Seating

(More about David on page 2)

Upcoming Seminars Scheduled at Crossroads at Big Creek

2041 Michigan Street • Sturgeon Bay • WI • 54235

• Wednesday May 23rd 7:00 P.M. "BLUE GOLD" World Water Wars Coming. A powerful message about the Worldwide water crisis that is affecting nations now and will increase drastically as global temperature changes modify our world. "Blue Gold" the exciting documentary explains the long-range plans that oil barons have in been developing to control water resources all over the planet as the oil profit diminishes. A powerful warning for our future generations.

• Wednesday June 13th 7:00 P.M. "Dealing With Global Warming in Wisconsin". Megan Severson, Wisconsin Environment of Madison along with a global warming expert will address the effects of known global warming on Wisconsin. They will demonstrate and explain the ways we need to react to the changes that are and will be taking place all over our country. Specific areas in Wisconsin will be impacted by changing water levels as a result of climate variances.

• Wednesday September 12th 7:00 P.M. "The Last Mountain" A Fight For Our Future. The stirring saga of the West Virginia mountains under siege by the Massey Coal Company as they blast away mountaintops to get easy access to the coal deposits. Robert Kennedy Jr. leads the battle to protect the pristine mountains and valleys from total destruction and the ultimate union busting with loss of local jobs as a result. A very graphic story of the local peoples' successful effort to stop the plundering of their historic homeland. This type of devastating open pit mining is much like the planned northern Wisconsin Iron Mine.
David Kirby, Speaker for Summer Program

David Kirby is a journalist based in New York, and a regular contributor to the New York Times since 1998. Kirby wrote the award-winning Times bestseller, EVIDENCE OF HARM: Mercury in Vaccines and the Autism Epidemic – A Medical Controversy (St. Martin’s Press – 2005). Evidence of Harm sparked a national debate in private homes, leading universities and the halls of Congress, and Kirby has appeared on such venues as Meet the Press, Larry King Live, The Today Show, Imus in the Morning, Montel Williams, Air America, and dozens of local radio and television stations. Kirby, a contributor to the Huffington Post since it’s founding in 2005, has been a professional journalist for over 15 years.

From 1986 to 1990, Kirby was a foreign correspondent for UPI, and Newsday in Latin America, covering wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and he covered politics, corruption and natural disasters in Mexico. It was during this time-frame that he also served as a reporter for OutWeek. Since May, 2005, Kirby has been a contributing blogger at The Huffington Post, and has been interviewed by outlets such as The New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Associated Press, Financial Times, Bloomberg, Newsday, The Lancet, Salon.com and more.

From 1990-1993, Kirby was Director of Public Information at the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), where he acted as press spokesman for Chairwoman Elizabeth Taylor, and witnessed first-hand the inner workings of Congress, the White House and powerful Federal agencies like the FDA, CDC and NIH.

David’s best-selling book Animal Factory has brought raves in support and the wrath of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations out in reaction to the facts of this eye-opening book. Recent public health crises and recalls raise urgent questions about how our animal-derived food is raised and brought to market. In ANIMAL FACTORY, best selling investigative journalist David Kirby exposes the powerful business and political interests behind large-scale factory farms, and tracks the far-reaching fallout that can contaminate our air, land, and water supply.

DCEC is proud to bring author and activist David Kirby from Brooklyn, New York to Door County, Wisconsin with his important message of changes needed to restore agriculture to small farmers.

Bring your friends to this outstanding presentation on Wednesday, August 22nd at the Bailey’s Harbor Town Hall, 7:00 P M. - Refreshments - Come Early, seating is limited.

What Can I Do? This is an often asked question! Just what is the POWER OF ONE? Often times we are told that an election is decided by one vote, or that an idea comes from 1 person, like the light bulb. What Can You Do? We had the same questions 10 years ago. You can write a letter to the editor like Karen Sunstrom did about a leaner, greener and smarter postal service for the future. 10 years ago we used our string shopping bags at the Piggly Wiggly and got some stares and a lot of confusion from the bag packers and people in general. Today, we get compliments and few stares.

10 years ago we started driving at 55 mph on the freeways and toll roads and got a lot of finger salutes. Today we get passed up by fewer cars and see some friendly waves and a lot fewer salutes. What can you do? A lot! But only you, with persistence, can do it. Lead the way to a brighter and less costly future.

(Don Pardonner –DCEC Renewable Energy Task Force)

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Mega-Farms Fast Becoming The Rule In Wisconsin

Family farms are fast being replaced by big-money's operations

The popular concept that someone in Madison has the wisdom and the knowledge of local conditions to make determinations for locating large animal operations within remote counties flies-in-the-face of common sense. To remove local government entities from any process of determining the location of large farm operations within their jurisdiction makes no sense to anyone.

Those locally elected officials and others who are familiar with their particular area, its potential and its liabilities are best qualified to know what their community and populace would support. It also takes away the democratic processes which most of us traditionally operate under. With the karst fractured dolostone geology features prominent in a major portion of this state, the utmost of careful animal operation planning must be utilized, involving local entities that are familiar with local problems. Madison officials have little concern over air quality in the farmland areas of Wisconsin, they have their own problems with air quality.

Official State manure spill records since 2000 indicate there have been 67 manure spills from the year 2000 to 2005. From 2005 to 2010 there were 165 documented manure spills, with over 230 in 2011. The message given by these figures is that the newest, most recent farm operations, though fewer in number than in 2000, have more than tripled the number of documented manure spills. It is a fair and basic assumption that this trend will continue as small farms disappear and are replaced by mega-CAFO's or similar livestock operations hauling animal waste on our public roads.

Kewaunee and Brown counties lead the state in the number of concentrated animal feeding operations, and that is viewed by most residents as a bad and undesirable distinction. A large amount of transient Kewaunee County animal waste is being spread on karst soil areas on rented land in southern Door County.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that agencies responsible for regulation of CAFO's and animal waste utilization are becoming more lenient in the permitting processes and the enforcement of obvious violations that are brought to their attention, most times after-the-fact. We have found that violations that have occurred and are reported often receive an agency response that furnishes an alibi or excuse why the obvious has happened. There are arguments made by those in authority that these mega farms are necessary to provide food for the future, that conventional farming methods wouldn’t be able to satisfy the needs. This is complete nonsense and ranks right there with the hunters’ argument to shoot buffalo that wander out of Yellowstone Park to control Brucellosis (Bang's disease) for which there is a vaccination.

Efforts have been and are being made to control access to the mega farm operations, to the point that stiff penalties would be mandated for anyone attempting to document the conditions that often are offensive to anyone who has a respect for humane animal treatment.

Close confinement animal raising is conducive to disease spread and requires extra close scrutiny for abnormal animal health problems that would have a good chance of decimating an entire herd if unnoticed. We hear about mad cow disease going unnoticed in California until discovered by accident and more locally, an instance of Johne’s disease (mycoacterium avium) in dairy animals where the entire local herd had to be removed and destroyed. These, and other animal diseases also affect small farm operations but are much more easily brought under control in a closely controlled environment. It is safe to presume that other unknown maladies could run rampant in confined animal feeding operations if undetected.

Some have indicated that the rush for mega-farm expansion is an ego satisfying effort by individuals who would like to have the biggest of everything, regardless of the impact on their own community and reputation. This hopefully is not the case as in the past, those individuals who had to have the biggest silos, the biggest tractors, newest machinery, and quite often tried to manage more than their ability warranted, quite often also had the biggest auction sales. As in the past the farmer that has some resources in the bank is the one who will prevail.

Taking the community responsibility away from citizens who live here, raise children, pay the supportive taxes and endure others mistakes, is a step in creating a situation that reflects the aim of some politicians to create a new type of remote-control democracy that does not involve the citizens, but gives entire authority to those who claim to know what is best for the local citizens, farmers, non-farmers and everyone else.

(JMV)
TREES are on the front lines of our changing climate. When the oldest trees in the world suddenly start dying, it’s time to pay attention.

North America’s ancient alpine bristlecone forests are falling victim to a voracious beetle and an Asian fungus. In Texas, a prolonged drought killed more than five million urban shade trees last year and an additional half-billion trees in parks and forests. In the Amazon, two severe droughts have killed billions more. The common factor has been hotter, drier weather.

We have underestimated the importance of trees. They are not merely pleasant sources of shade but a potentially major answer to some of our most pressing environmental problems. We take them for granted, but they are a near miracle. In a bit of natural alchemy called photosynthesis, for example, trees turn one of the seemingly most insubstantial things of all — sunlight — into food for insects, wildlife and people, and use it to create shade, beauty and wood for fuel, furniture and homes.

For all of that, the unbroken forest that once covered much of the continent is now shot through with holes. Humans have cut down the biggest and best trees and left the smaller runts behind. What does that mean for the genetic fitness of our forests? No one knows for sure, for trees and forests are poorly understood on almost all levels.

What we do know, however, suggests that what trees do is essential though often not obvious. Decades ago, Katsuhiko Matsunaga, a marine chemist at Hokkaido University in Japan, discovered that when tree leaves decompose, they leach acids into the ocean that help fertilize plankton. When plankton thrive, so does the rest of the food chain. In a campaign called Forests Are Lovers of the Sea, fishermen have replanted forests along coasts and rivers to bring back fish and oyster stocks, and they have returned.

Trees are nature’s water filters, capable of cleaning up the most toxic wastes, including explosives, solvents and organic wastes, largely through a dense community of microbes around the tree’s roots that clean water in exchange for nutrients, a process known as phytoremediation. Tree leaves also filter air pollution. A 2008 study by researchers at Columbia University found that more trees in urban neighborhoods correlate with a lower incidence of asthma.

In Japan, researchers have long studied what they call “forest bathing.” A walk in the woods, they say, reduces the level of stress chemicals in the body and increases natural killer cells in the immune system, which fight tumors and viruses. Studies in inner cities show that anxiety, depression and even crime are lower in a landscaped environment.

Trees also release vast clouds of beneficial chemicals. On a large scale, some of these aerosols appear to help regulate the climate; others are anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral. We need to learn much more about the role these chemicals play in nature. One of these substances, taxane, from the Pacific yew tree, has become a powerful treatment for breast and other cancers. Aspirin’s active ingredient comes from willow.

Trees are greatly underutilized as an eco-technology. “Working trees” could absorb some of the excess phosphorus and nitrogen that run off farm fields and help heal the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. In Africa, millions of acres of parched land have been reclaimed through strategic tree growth.

Trees are also the planet’s heat shield. They keep the concrete and asphalt of cities and suburbs 10 or more degrees cooler and protect our skin from the sun’s harsh UV rays. The Texas Department of Forestry estimated that the die-off of shade trees will cost Texans hundreds of millions of dollars more for air-conditioning. Trees, of course, sequester carbon, a greenhouse gas that makes the planet warmer. A study by the Carnegie Institution for Science also found that water vapor from forests lowers ambient temperatures.

A big question is, which trees should we be planting? David Milarch, is a co-founder of the Champion Tree Project who has been cloning some of the world’s oldest and largest trees to protect their genetics, from California redwoods to the oaks of Ireland. “These are the super trees, and they have stood the test of time,” he says. Science doesn’t know if these genes will be important on a warmer planet, but an old proverb seems apt. “When is the best time to plant a tree?” The answer: “Twenty years ago. The second-best time? Today.”

Recycling to Promote Earth Day

As part of its Earth day activities, Waukesha County gave tours of its Materials Recycling Facility and I had the opportunity to take the tour with a couple of my nieces and nephews. We all gasped "Wow" at the sight of the huge bales of metal, paper and plastic stacked to the ceiling which represented about a weeks worth of material collected in Waukesha County.

Our guide explained the sorting machine that separates aluminum, plastics, tin and glass. For safety reasons we couldn't see the machine in action and because the forced air blower is enclosed, we could only see the separate lines after they had been sorted. From my understanding of the operation, all the mixed materials enter one chute and then a powerful blower pushes the plastic up to one conveyor-belt line. Then a magnet pulls the tin to a second conveyer-belt line, while the heavier glass falls to a third line, which leaves the aluminum traveling to a fourth line.

There is then further sorting by humans who handpick items that don't belong. Each line is then sent to the baling machine to produce the giant bales we saw stacked so high.

The paper operation is hand sorted into two lines, paper and cardboard and also baled to produce a colorful mosaic of gigantic cubes stacked the the ceiling.

The kids thought the entire operation was quite impressive and were asking if they could turn on the machine to watch it in action but the guide said it would be too noisy and dirty.

Every year the workers at Waukesha County recycling facility sort, bale and ship 1,000 semi-trailer loads (20,000 tons) of paper, metals, plastic and glass. To actually see the accumulation of all those recyclable material that 30 years ago would have gone to the landfill is truly remarkable.

The facility also had a learning center that had some examples of the products made from recycled plastic like carpeting, toys, rainbarrels, and artificial wood for decks. The guide told us that since the rock that aluminum comes from is so depleted, the number one source of aluminum cans is recycled aluminum!

Another thing I learned is that I can rinse out my wax-coated cartons of milk, juice or soup and recycle those with my paper.

I have to commend Waukesha County for opening this facility to the public to educate young and old like me on the importance of recycling. If you ever get a chance to tour one of these operations, I highly recommend it. Happy belated Earth Day and keep on recycling.

Eileen Andera  DCEC President

Safeguard Your Water Quality!

Residents who live in the areas of the County where animal waste is being utilized for the soil nutrient value, need to be diligent in maintaining the quality/quantity of your well water. The increasing amount of out-of-county and local waste coming into Door County makes it necessary to take advance measures to ensure that you have some recourse if your water supply is impacted. Under Wisconsin law, individuals who have damaged the quality of a homeowner’s well water through practices and operations are not liable for damages. However, if a municipal well has sustained degradation from the same sources, the municipality can pursue damages. Not very fair and equitable, is it!

You do have a chance to recapture damages through legal action if you have predetermined the quality and level of the water at your specific well location. This means you are going to have to spend some money to ensure that the present condition of your well is legally recorded. A legal, certified and documented test result by an accredited water testing facility should become an integral part of the deed for your property, giving the date of testing, results and a supporting affidavit from the tester so it cannot be challenged.

To further protect from diminished water supply, a licensed plumbing contractor should measure and record the depth to water in your well, and record an affidavit also attached to your deed giving this information. High volume wells are becoming more commonplace and again the responsible agencies readily accommodate the wishes of the requestor with minimal impact study.

This may seem like an unnecessary chore to ensure against something that might not happen, but if the animal waste provider is aware that homeowners in the affected area have documented water quality results, there is no doubt that common sense will be more of a factor in controlling spreading operations.

The odor and road nuisance issues are other factors that will need to be addressed by your town board, even though the State of Wisconsin would like to have entire control over animal waste hauling, (which thus far have proved to be purposely deficient). Remember, it is not that long ago we experienced municipal waste from Green Bay Metropolitan Sewage District being trucked and spread on farmlands in southern Door County, with no permits or supervision.

(JMV)
Environmental enforcement activity by the state Department of Natural Resources has dropped dramatically in the past two years, according to data from the agency, with the number of permit violation notices hitting a 12-year low in 2011. DNR officials say the decrease is partly caused by an enforcement staff that's been hit hard by budget cuts. But they also point to a philosophical shift that emphasizes cooperating with businesses by helping them navigate complex state and federal regulations and steering them into compliance when they violate their permits.

But others see a darker side to that approach. Critics, including current employees and recently retired agency officials, say they see tough regulation and enforcement being de-emphasized by politically appointed administrators, and they worry it is happening at the expense of the agency’s traditional and legally mandated duties of oversight and environmental protection.

There also are recent signs from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which gives the DNR the authority to enforce clean air and water laws, that it is increasingly at odds with the state agency over standards and enforcement. "The decline in enforcement activity in Wisconsin raises concerns about whether the state is adequately carrying out its responsibility to enforce the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and other federal laws that WDNR is authorized to implement," Susan Hedman, EPA regional administrator, said in a statement.

Gordon Stevenson, who retired in January from his job overseeing permits for industrial-sized farms called concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, described a gradual move in the past two years toward less enforcement and more influence within the agency by business interests, including business and farm lobbying groups. The push, he said, is to write permits rather than enforce them. "My conclusion is that there is not an emphasis on enforcement in the current administration," Stevenson said. "The attitude is 'We're in trouble economically so let's suspend the rules.' Is that a good idea? I don't think it is."

"In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods."
DCEC Endowment Fund

The DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND exists so that the future of Door County’s will spaces and family farms can be protected far into the future.

Every year, the fund grows.

You can help this important fund grow even faster by remembering DCEC in your estate. Each bequest, through your wills and estate plans, helps to bring us one step closer to financial independence, allowing us to take tough, sometimes unpopular positions that protect our county for our future generations.

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND.

Legacies, memorials and direct gifts are all deeply appreciated. Please call or have your advisor call, Jerry Viste at (920) 743-6003 for further information.

This amount would really help! Thanks!

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Please mail to: DCEC, P.O. Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 54212
**Water Testing Program Moving Onward!**

The cooperative homeowner well testing program that DCEC initiated with the town of Liberty Grove has been very well received by town residents and far exceeded the expectations. The town of Gibraltar is preparing a similar test program for the residents of their town to be conducted beginning with bottle pick up the week of July 24th. Samples must be taken on July 30th and brought to the town office that same day for transport to UW/Stevens Point. Cost for the homeowner is reasonable at just around $100 for a complete water analysis by this legitimate testing facility.

*Individual confidential* results will be mailed to the well owners and following the completion a public town meeting will be held with University water quality specialists to evaluate home water quality on a township-wide basis. Our thanks to the Gibraltar Town Board and Planning Commission for their enthusiastic reception of this program and also for the extra efforts they made to ensure the success.

We are now working with another town and village in the County to make a similar program happen within their town in 2013. As there are other areas of the State that are utilizing this University program, towns need to plan at least a year in advance to ensure that their space is reserved during the summer months. If you would like your town to get moving on a well water testing program, the time to make arrangements is as soon as possible. DCEC has been contributing up to $500 to assist in the promotion of this program and to ensure its success in each town.

YOU are the person responsible for the health of your family and you should encourage your town board to become involved in promotion of a water testing program throughout your town. You owe this to your family, to ensure that your water is safe, and not responsible for future health problems. We will be glad to work with all town/village boards to make this happen.

(DCEC Board of Directors)

*...and, after you read this newsletter, please pass it along to a friend.*