Top of Form

**The two important conflicting ideas I am focused on are...**

New vs. old

**An important problem that exists because of one conflict between these ideas is...**Often old ideas or ways of doing things (even if they are an established standard that has stood the test of time and remain the best approach) are discounted, especially as more information and experimenting with new ways of doing things is sought after for innovation and progress.

**I would begin by making this introductory comment about this conflict...**In evaluating the best methodology or concept, whether new or old, it is important to focus on the objective and standards of success. This will be the rudder that keeps the evaluation fair and on course.

**In other words...**

Instead of trying to develop a new approach in the name of innovation or “keeping things fresh”, we should look at the problem we are trying to solve, the thing we are trying to accomplish, etc. and analyze the approach by its effectiveness in reaching the desired end state with the most expediency. A new approach with modernized processes and different ways of thinking may not be better.

**For example...**Some environmentalists argue that raising livestock is bad for the environment because of greenhouse emissions and a movement to produce meat-like products from vegetables and mushrooms has flooded the market with alternative “meat” products. Studies have shown that production of these products takes an even larger toll on the environment and is much less efficient sources of protein. This new “meat” product seemed good in theory but is proving to be a less desirable option. What’s more, the greenhouse gasses and damaging impacts on the environment are being caused by the modernized way animals are being raised to grow quickly, take less space, and cost less to produce. If we wanted to find a better way, we should take a step back to examine the original way livestock were raised – sustainably, humanely, healthily, which were all lost to the goal of making more money.

**To illustrate my point...(if possible)...**Consider electric vehicles, which were also created to lessen the negative impacts on the environment caused by fossil fuels. This new approach to transportation sounds great in theory, but since we have not yet shifted production of electricity from fossil fuels, charging fully electric vehicles causes a large expenditure of power generated by burning coal. The carbon footprint on the environment has been estimated to be significant and growing as well as costly for the consumer. It’s a band aid approach that exacerbates the problem and could potentially negatively impact the crude oil markets that are important for many areas of infrastructure and financial stability.

**One reasonable objection to my position is as follows…**

Some may say that new approaches are necessary and are improvements upon the old animal husbandry practices, enabling farmers to make a living despite rising costs.

They may advocate for changes to keep up with the times and that mass production is necessary in today’s fast-paced, high consumption market.

**I would respond to this objection as follows (while crediting the following in this objection)...**

I agree that farmers need to make a living and, with rising costs, it has become harder to produce enough above the margin to compensate for losses.

However, the same modernized animal husbandry practices tend to raise costs by having so many animals in close quarters that makes them more prone to disease, needing extra preventative care and monitoring as well as lost revenue due to increased cases of contamination and bacterial spread.

The more recent studies on greenhouse case emissions point to gas being emitted through burping and flatulence. The grain and unhealthy diet fed to make the cattle grow much faster has risen to the top of the list a culprits.

Returning to the original and healthier animal husbandry practices would resolve the concerns and compensate for a lot of expense while providing healthier meat for consumers. We often approach things with a band-aid to address negative results of newer practices, instead of examining the roots and considering that some old ways are best.