

Author devalues his own species



Advocates for ag

By TROY HADRICK

GARY L. Francione has written a new book called "The Animal Rights Debate: Abolition or Regulation," which details the six principles of animal rights.

His six principles are frightening at best.

One claims that no animal should be considered the property of a human.

Another abolishes any institution, such as animal agriculture, that views animals as property.

He seeks an end to "speciesism," which is discrimination practiced by humans against other species.

He says that all animals have basic rights and demands that those rights be protected.

The best way to combat all injustices against animals is to become a vegan. After all, he says, you wouldn't eat your grandma, so why should our culture feel that it's OK to eat an animal?

Most of the time it's easy to laugh off such ideas, but Francione has a fol-

Key Points

- Author of new book outlines six principles of animal rights.
- He says no animal should be considered property.
- He calls for an end to discrimination against animals.

lowing in this country.

This pattern of thinking is the same one that suggests that the life of an ant or a mouse is of the same value as that of a child. Francione is actively working to devalue what it means to be a human being. Not only is this completely ridiculous, but it's also very sad that there is a segment of our society that places so little value on a human life.

Nostalgic farming classes

Several colleges in this country have started small farms to teach students how to farm sustainably. But how sustainable are these farms?

Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt., is a four-year liberal arts college emphasizing environmental sustainability. It started a farm on which students are trying to use as little fossil fuel as possible and relying on a lot of human labor. On its 22-acre garden, they use



two teams of oxen to pull equipment, including plows.

We've known for years plowing isn't a sustainable practice — even if you use oxen. It increases soil erosion, releases carbon and dries out the soil. So why would this practice, which has largely been eliminated today, be taught as a sustainable farming method?

Even though many people might see Green Mountain College's methods as a very romantic way to grow their own food, is it really the most efficient and responsible way to do it? Agricultural scientists have spent a lot of money and time researching the best possible ways

to conserve soil. It's irresponsible for these colleges to undermine that hard work, dedication and sound advice.

Rather than claiming it is teaching a sustainable farming class, Green Mountain College would be more accurate to call it a nostalgic farming class.

Hadrick writes from Vale, S.D. He and his wife, Stacy, have a company called Advocates For Ag. Their mission is to inspire farmers and ranchers to speak up for agriculture. They do presentations about advocating for agriculture and write a blog about the topic. Contact Hadrick at 605-347-9128 or visit their Web site at www.advocatesforag.com.

Big Red Demo Days. Go to bigred.honda.com for details.

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