

Dr. Richard Marsh - An Unsung Hero in the Fight Against Mad Cow Disease

by John Kinsman Family Farm Defenders



Richard Marsh

UW-Madison veterinary scientist, Dr. Richard Marsh, and I were interviewed for BBC television shortly after the English cow slaughter. In 1985 Dr. Marsh brought up the probability that Mad Cow could pass from animal to animal through cow parts used in feed. Several years earlier he did extensive research on the outbreak of spongiform encephalopathy in farmed mink. He traced it to their diet that contained dead cow parts. After the mink farmers slaughtered all of their animals, disinfected the premises, and discontinued the diet of dead cow parts, the epidemic ended.

I remember the question I had: what else after this? Dr. Marsh stated that the only way to stop the spread of Mad Cow is to stop feeding dead cows to cows. He also suspected that the rash of "downer cows" was a variant of Mad Cow disease. At the time of the

BBC TV special, I had the opportunity to speak privately with Dr. Marsh and his wife. They were overjoyed that he was finally able to get his findings out to the world. It was obvious that his unbiased research was not popular with the majority of UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) researchers who relied on grants from corporations that reaped immense profits from the dead animal industry. He died about a year after the BBC TV interview. According to the obituary in the March 28, 1997 edition of the New York Times, Dr. Marsh - who was just 58 - died at his home in Middleton, WI. The cause of death was cancer, his family said.

Dr. Marsh found that the prions behind Mad Cow could not be destroyed, that young animals could be infected for up to eight years before showing symptoms, and much more. His findings were released a decade before the British outbreak. The USDA, the FDA, and cattle organization authorities continued to parrot the line that "it is against the law to feed dead cows to cows. Therefore there is no cause for alarm." Why then are four dead cow dealers competing for any potential dead cows that I or any area cattle farmers may have? Why is 20% blood meal in calf feed offered by feed dealers? Independent inspectors need to trace the source of the meat and bone meal that is listed weekly in farm papers, openly traded at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), and so widely promoted as a major source of protein in the diet for cows. "Bypass fat" is another one of the labels put on high protein feeds that contain dead animal parts from cattle, hogs, and chickens.



source: WWW.organicconsumer.org/images/stopMC.jpg

There appears to be no enforcement of the law. It is obvious that the dead animal industry would object to any laws that would threaten their immense profits. Nor would the huge confinement animal operations allow it. Where would they dispose of the millions of dead animals from their factory farms? "Recycling" them back into livestock feed is a win-win solution. The owner of Creekstone Farms Premium Beef in Kansas was threatened with a fine and possible jail sentence by the USDA if they continued to test for Mad Cow on their own. Dr. Marsh exposed the truth decades ago, yet industrial agribusiness is still trying to cover up the ongoing Mad Cow crisis today.

It's Time to Stop the Midwest Sand Rush!

By: Food & Water Watch

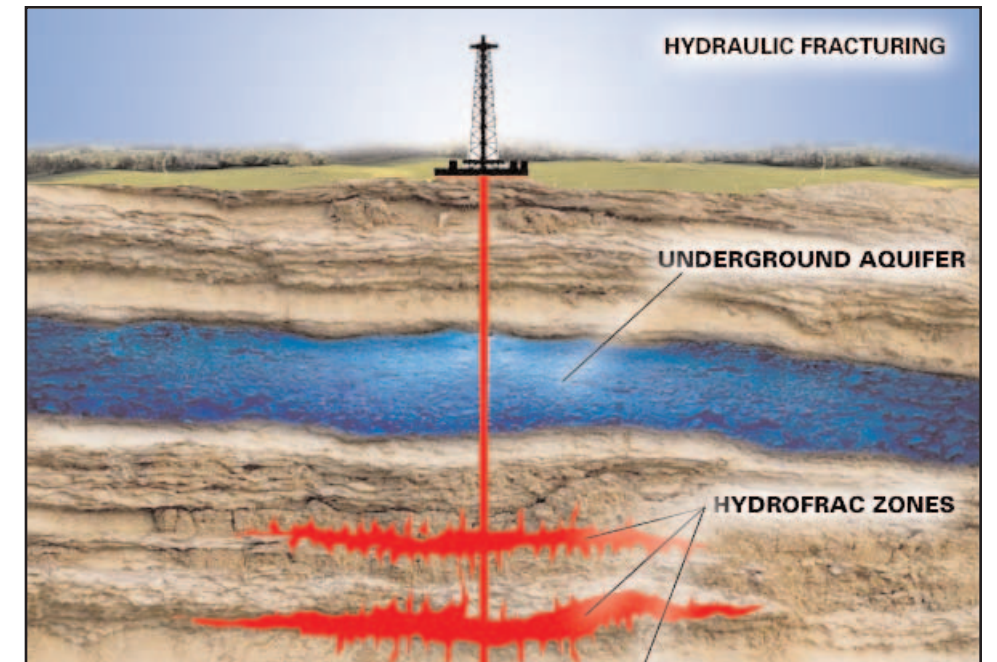
Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a drilling process used by the oil and gas industry to extract natural gas that is locked away in tight rock formations. The process injects large quantities of water mixed with sand and toxic chemicals under high pressure to break apart the rock and release the gas. Over the past decade, advances in fracking technologies have enabled the development of previously uneconomical sources of natural gas, so fracking has expanded rapidly in several regions of the country. And even in parts of the country without gas deposits, fracking is leaving its mark as the industry searches for the perfect sand to use in its wells.

Mining Sand for Fracking

Frac sand is a type of industrial sand — which is often referred to as "silica sand" because of its high levels of silicon dioxide. Frac sand is mined like other types of sand and gravel, which typically involves an open pit using mining equipment. Frac sand goes through a refinement procedure to remove clay from the sand grains and screening so the sand meets certain size specifications.

Frac sand mining facilities can require large quantities of water just to wash the sand. An Enron Oil and Gas sand mining facility in Texas was projected to use 3,700 gallons of water per minute and roughly 2 billion gallons annually. In Wisconsin, it has been estimated that a high capacity well at a mine site will use 200 million gallons of water annually for sand washing, which could strain limited groundwater resources in nearby communities.

Communities near frac sand mines and processing plants are finding out how this new industry impacts their quality of life, citing concerns about noise pollution, decreased property



Source: Live NewsChat.tv 05/17/12

Vermont Becomes First in Nation to Ban Fracking

values, water contamination, road damage and public safety from heightened truck traffic on local roads. Residents also worry about health problems from frac sand mining and processing, particularly due to air pollution. A potentially deadly particulate called crystalline silica, a known human carcinogen when inhaled, can be a byproduct of frac sand operations.

Inhaling crystalline silica is dangerous, and both the mining and processing of frac sand generate particulate matter, which can exacerbate or cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems. When crystalline silica is inhaled, it can cause cancer and a potentially fatal lung disease, silicosis. Studies indicate that workers exposed to crystalline silica dust have increased lung cancer rates. Yet no federal air quality standards exist specifically for silica.

The state of Wisconsin requires non-metallic mining companies to create a reclamation plan before receiving a

permit for mining sites larger than one acre. However, these nonmetallic mining standards were created several years before the onset of the fracking boom, with only traditional sand and gravel pits in mind.

In Wisconsin, counties and local governments are responsible for regulating nonmetallic mining within their jurisdictions. Counties and municipalities that have zoning ordinances in place are better able to control the actions of mining businesses, since zoning systemically regulates the way land is used by specifying what can be done where and to what extent. However, in many places, it is possible that zoning ordinances, land use regulations and licensing procedures were written prior to the onset of the fracking boom..

Counties and localities without zoning bodies are far more limited, and some lack the negotiating power and resources necessary to properly regulate mining. *Continued on pg. 8*