The Washington Post investigation found that one cargo ship full of 36 million pounds of soybeans that originated in Ukraine and ended up in California added approximately $4 million to its value when the word “organic” was fraudulently added to its shipping records. The USDA organic label is controlled by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) but relies on a system of inspection systems that is the backbone of the organic label.

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The article explained what was impacting U.S. markets for organic corn and soybeans: surging levels of imports of organic corn created new opportunities for fraud, with products that didn’t meet the requirements of the USDA organic label still being sold as organic.

How can this happen? Groups like the Organic Farmers’ Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM), which works with organic grain producers, has noted the Hispanic workers paving the streets, building houses, working in the fields, and working in a congenial manner.

Immigrants also do a disproportionate share of the work on fruit and vegetable farms. Immigrants are big animals and don’t always act in a congenial manner. Immigrants are not unskilled; they are hard working and good at their jobs. Most immigrants work in Mexico and Central America, without them, without their farming skills, U.S. domestic agriculture production would be in serious trouble.

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People ask, ‘Why don’t farmers just pay more and hire American workers?’ Wouldn’t this eliminate the need for immigrant workers? No, it’s not that simple.

With the exception of the higher farmgate milk prices of 2014, dairy farmers are generally paid below the market for their milk and in the 1980s when, as the US economy faltered, Mexican immigration to the US was increasing. The passage of NAFTA in 1993 accelerated this migration.

One such thing as a living wage for a good share of our population, we depend on poorly paid immigrants to exist. Unconscionable that we have such an income disparity that we have immigrants working underpaid because they have no recourse to whom they would protest.

Then there is the problem that not many American workers are willing to do this kind of work. I have milked cows all my life and consider it to be the best job I could have asked for, but you either have to love it, or really need the paycheck, and I mean, really need it.

Immigrants are vilified when they want to be accepted for what they contribute, it is immoral. A Salvadoran immigrant noted, ‘We only want to live in peace;’ he said, ‘Work, have a home, be a family.’ Clearly, in Trump’s mind:

We Are A Nation of Immigrants—Always Have Been

Jim Goodman - Dairy Farmer from Wonevoc, WI

Resentment of immigrants in America began in 1492 when European explorers began the process of taming the wilderness in this “newly discovered” land. The Americans who were living here at the time, always knew exactly where they were, and, I am sure, had a decidedly different view of who needed taming.

Immigrant resentment has progressed ever since, with different ethnic groups targeted, in different times for different reasons. Currently, Hispanics are targeted because they supposedly take our jobs and Muslims are targeted because many people cannot accept diversity.

Without a doubt, immigration issues affected the outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election. The big beautiful border wall, immigrants stealing American jobs, immigrant crime (immigrant crime rates are actually lower than the general population) -- these lies had their intended effect.

Perhaps the current, intense resentment of immigrants began in the late 1800s when, as the US economy faltered, Mexican immigration to the U.S. was increasing. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 and the subsequent dumping of subsidized US corn into Mexico further hastened the migration of Mexican farmers to the US.

I remember driving in Phoenix AZ in 2006, a time when immigration had again, became a hot button issue. I noted the Hispanic workers paving the streets, building houses, working on power lines, mowing lawns, working in stores and restaurants, and wondered who would take care of these Americans if the immigrants were deported.

We depend on poorly paid immigrants to exist. Unconscionable that we have such an income disparity, that we have allowed this cycle of poverty to exist. We depend on a cheap food supply. It is unconscionable that we have such an income disparity that we have allowed this cycle of poverty to exist. Unconscionable that we have such an income disparity that we have allowed this cycle of poverty to exist. Unconscionable that we have such an income disparity that we have allowed this cycle of poverty to exist.