



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 221
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
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**Contact: Debbie Poiré
(573) 751-8793**

Propaganda Should Be Pulled From Classrooms

JEFFERSON CITY – Agriculture is lifeblood of Missouri. The state ranks second in the country in the number of farms with 106,000, employing more than 400,000 people. In the 28th Senatorial District, farmers raise more than 380,000 head of cattle.

That's why MAP testing preparation materials provided to Missouri school districts from a Connecticut company are such an affront to the hard-working farm families throughout the state. The materials provided by Queue Inc. include a test-preparation booklet with a segment entitled "Why Be Vegetarian?" which asks students to write a letter to their parents explaining why they have decided to become vegetarians.

The segment tells students that:

- Eating meat leads to large amounts of saturated fat consumption, leading to heart disease.
- Eating animals is unkind.
- Grain and soybeans should be directly consumed by humans, not livestock.
- Animal foods are more expensive.

The same company has a poem-interpretation section in their materials. Students are required to read a poem entitled "The Most Dangerous Beast." The poem describes how dangerous and scary animals are, but claims the true threat is eating beef. Concluding the poem is the limerick, "your brain could rot from eating beef, and Mad Cow disease is no relief."

Missouri farmers and ranchers deserve better than this slap in the face. This is propaganda disguised as an educational resource, and it is having a negative effect on families and our agriculture community. We should not spend tax dollars to administer test preparation that includes an obvious bias against our way of life.

After hearing from outraged farmers and legislators, the company this week agreed to remove the offending passages and replace free, upon request, all books containing those passages.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.