

TO ALL SUNRIDERS AND FRIENDS:

One day, way back in 1988, Mark Purdey, after working a hard day in the fields on his Sommerset farm in Great Britain, sat in his easy chair and picked up a newspaper which proclaimed another outbreak of Mad Cow's Disease. Another herd had to be entirely destroyed - another farmer dependent on the welfaring graces of the government to let him and his family survive. One of so many.

From that moment on making an all out effort to prevent this fate for himself and others - was Mr Purdey's only goal. Without any scientific background or training this courages farmer began to trace back all the outbreaks of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease and one day, staring at his map, had an incredible "aha" moment that would literally change the medical world upside down. But change, especially when it concerns the ruthless agro-chemical giants, does not come without a high price and his recently published theory (in a well-respected journal) did not go unnoticed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the chemical companies. And because of a 50-year long, dangerously nepotistic relationship between the British government and the agro-chemical industry, Mark Purdey - deserving of the highest honors for single-handedly coming up with the most plausible theory of Mad Cows Disease to date - has been shot at, his telephone lines cut and had his house burned down to the ground.

Why? Because a chemical, an organophosphate pesticide called Phosmet, worth billions of dollars to the chemical industry, is being implicated in BSE. Mark Purdey, a common farmer, has been advising his neighbors not to use Phosmet because in every case a farmer has used it to "treat" the cows by pouring it along their spinal chord - BSE has broken out. His reward has been ridicule, being called a liar and physical attacks. This self-educated and self-financed farmer had the audacity to claim that the basic cause of BSE was a combination of three factors: a lowering of ionic copper in the brain (to which the prion normally binds), a higher uptake of manganese in the brain (displacing the copper) and activation of these now dangerously oxidising prions (which are designed to protect proteins from disintegrating distortions of their former functioning selves) by a higher than normal exposure to ultraviolet light. By tracing the flow of this copper-reducing phosmet to all the BSE outbreak localities and then proving that either high-manganese chicken manure served in cattle feed, manganese loaded sewage (used on fields as fungicides) or even air-borne industrial manganese exposure was possible near all these clusters, Mark Purdey alleges that the higher mountain ultraviolet radiation somehow changed the function of the prion when manganese was substituted for

copper in the brain protein of cattle. This, he asserts, leads to infections with the symptoms seen in Mad Cows Disease. To most people and scientist this is a "far-out" theory - that may prove to be toatally right - and another nail in the chemical industries' coffin.

On the heels of Mr. Purdey's hypothesis comes a paper published by a team of biochemists at Cambridge University this year. Without forgetting who thought of it first - they (also) discovered that when copper is displaced by manganese in the presence of ultraviolet radiation - brain proteins adopt precisely the same changes seen in the infective BSE. With new discoveries like this following every month since then, reporter George Monbiot of the Guardian Weekly, all but nominates Mark Purdey for the Nobel Price! As a non-scientist he certainly deserves the highest humanitarian award possible. To the chagrin of the worlds agro-chemical mafia, the ministries of Agriculture in several Western European countries are now finally sitting up and taking notice. Already some have contacted him and promised research funding to prove his theory. Since the prevailing prion transmission theory has always been riddled with contradictions, this new hypothesis will afford biochemists with a sorely needed welcome breath of fresh air. Let's pray his theory proves correct. It's time for some good news.

Hope this helps.

Warmly,

Dr. Van Beveren

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