Is Global Warming Real?



MIKE PLUMER

CARBONDALE, ILL. s there global warming or is it an agenda? After spending the last year working on committees and documenting information about how agriculture can help prevent global warming, it is always interesting to see how information is

used or misused.

Recently, information was exposed by an investigative reporter who found emails showing that many scientists were manipulating data to try and prove that there was global warming. What surprised me was that more than 480 scientists said "global warming" doesn't exist; it is actually a normal climate cycle.

Then, there is the information on the "solar hibernation cycle" which starts next year; this cycle will drastically lower the global temperature. In addition, we have climatologist information that says warming cycles end when climate is altered by more moisture in the air, which makes more rain, which cools the climate. What do you think? This makes Cap and Trade legislation a little scary.

The Green Movement is also getting some flack about their practice of driving a hybrid car loaded with several large dogs. It seems that when an energy analysis is done, the large dog consumes more energy than the energy used in driving an SUV 12,000 miles per year. Look up the data from the New Scientist published article, http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg 20427311.600-how-green-is-your-pet.html.

I don't agree with the article, and its authors lack high credentials. But, it seems that all the pet food that is consumed in the U.S. could make a substantial impact on the number of acres it takes to produce the grain and meat products. So does that mean foreign countries are clearing more land to produce more grain so we can have or save more pets? That seems to be the logic the EPA and Department of Energy are using when calculating the carbon footprint of ethanol production; the more ethanol produced in the U.S., the more rain forests are cut down to produce grain to feed the world.

The point is, be informed on all the views and data available. Agriculture is one piece of the big puzzle, and we need to make sure that all pieces are looked at before major legislation is passed.

Spend a little time this winter to get informed. A wealth of information is available from your computer. Just be aware of the integrity of the source so that you don't get misinformed. You may even want to write a few letters to people about your concerns. Δ

MIKE PLUMER: Extension Educator, Natural Resources Management, University of Illinois





Link Directly To: **PIONEER**





Link Directly To: VERMEER