

# Weekly Posting of the Conservative Cow Doctor

*Krayton Kerns, DVM  
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## **Psychology 101**

Having never tainted reality by taking a college psychology class, my life experiences with dogs, cats, cows, horses and cowboys, has taught me how people and animals think. They are more similar than you might expect, so here is a synopsis of psychology from a cow doctor's perspective.

Self-esteem, the 1970's bizarre psychological concept created to justify laziness and sub-par achievement, exists nowhere in the animal kingdom. To have self-esteem animals would have to comprehend self, goodness, and time—things far beyond their mental capacity. You may have the smartest and most highly trained dog, horse, monkey or dolphin, but every decision they make is based solely on self-preservation at that specific second in time. An animal's obtuse disregard for tomorrow, next week, next year, or next decade interestingly also exists in one small segment of the human population. I'll come back to that, but first let me prove my point.

If you leave the oat bin open, horses will eat themselves to death. Every bite is so satisfying; it is immediately followed with another and another and another. Self-restraint, or saving some oats for tomorrow, are things horses never consider. Unfortunately, massive quantities of digesting carbohydrates produce toxic chemicals eventually leading to cardiovascular collapse and the horse's demise. It's not pretty. If a grain-overload is caught early, mineral oil and activated charcoal are given to halt digestion and speed the over-consumed carbohydrate safely out the apple-factory end of the horse. This works well, but must be done before the horse looks sick, because to wait is too late. Here is a real life example.

It was August several years back when Kathy called with an interesting predicament. It had been a great wheat harvest on the Pryor Creek divide and the bins were bulging. Unfortunately, persons unknown had left the grain bin door open and this particular pasture also housed Kathy's 20 pregnant brood mares. By the hoof prints and the wheat scattered around, obviously someone had been eating wheat, but we didn't know which mare and how much? We had no option but to pass a stomach tube into each mare and pump in a gallon of oil and charcoal. Fortunately, all recovered without ill effect, and this brings me to the small segment of the human population showing as much self-restraint as a mare with her head in the wheat bin—politicians.

Politicians passionately love being charitable with other people's money, so much so they have generously spent America 14.3 trillion dollars in the hole. Now they want more. Actually, the only difference between Kathy's situation and today's federal debt ceiling debate is Kathy's bins actually had wheat in them. The grain bins in Washington DC are

empty all while the politicians argue about the level they should be re-filled—of course, we must first borrow the wheat from China. Washington politicians scream, “Fill the coffers now, and we will make the hard cuts in the future.” Are you kidding me? It was the complete disregard for tomorrow which has given America this debt, and you want to borrow our way out of this mess? This is insane.

Elected officials demanding further spending, lack the self-discipline to be trusted with a full grain bin, but the analogy gave me an idea. In a half dozen phone calls I know I could round up a crew of cowboys stout enough to grab an ear and slap a twitch on the upper lip of lawmakers advocating for America to borrow more money. Since mineral oil and charcoal treats grain overload so effectively, let’s stomach tube the politicians before they get in the grain bin. What do you think? It certainly couldn’t make things worse. This brings us to the end of Psychology 101