



Last Chance for Animals exposes systematic neglect and cruelty at Christensen Farms

Group calls for enforcement of Minnesota Cruelty to Animals Act

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, August 11, 2015 – An undercover investigation released today exposed multiple incidents of cruelty and neglect at the fourth largest pork producer in the nation.

Hidden-camera video taken by Last Chance for Animals at Christensen Farms, a breed-to-wean facility in Luverne, MN, documented systematic neglect and cruelty including:

- workers forcing sows with severe injuries to walk, sometimes dragging their exposed internal organs, before being euthanized
- workers slapping, kicking and stabbing downed sows with pens
- workers dragging sows by their ears and snout
- workers failing to properly euthanize piglets
- management's failure to promptly euthanize pigs suffering from debilitating illness and injuries, leaving pigs to suffer for periods as long as ten weeks

To view the undercover video visit www.factoryfarm360.org.

Christensen Farms markets approximately four million hogs per year and is the largest shareholder of Triumph Foods. Christensen Farms' products are sold by major retailers across the U.S., including Walmart.

After completing the investigation, LCA submitted a criminal complaint to the Rock County Sheriff's Office detailing 18 incidents of animal cruelty, 17 incidents of animal mistreatment by neglect and one incident of animal mistreatment by deprivation. Law enforcement has initiated their investigation into the matter.

“This video is without a doubt the most complete documentation of systematic cruelty I have ever seen,” said Bernard E. Rollin, University Distinguished Professor, Professor of Animal Sciences and Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University and one of the world's leading authorities on animal welfare. “As much abuse as is depicted bespeaks very poor, unconcerned management. The managers are as guilty as the workers if they allow the animals to suffer as long as they do. Any legal action brought against the facility should also include the supervisory personnel who allow this sort of behavior to proceed uncorrected.”

“By causing the deaths of these pigs through its pattern of neglect, Christensen Farms is just as culpable as someone letting their dog starve to death in their backyard,” said Adam Wilson, director of investigations for LCA. “Animals on factory farms are not

exempt from Minnesota's animal cruelty laws. It's now up to Rock County prosecutors to ensure that such obvious animal cruelty is not tolerated.”

For more information about the investigation, including broadcast-quality high definition photos and video, visit www.factoryfarm360.org.

Last Chance for Animals (LCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating animal exploitation through education, investigations, legislation, and public awareness campaigns. Since its formation in 1984, LCA has succeeded as one of the nation's pioneer animal advocacy organizations. Working internationally, LCA's Sam Simon Special Investigations Unit documents abuse in research labs, puppy mills, factory farms, and the entertainment industry, and works with prosecutors to enforce animal cruelty laws. LCA's educational and public outreach programs have empowered the public to make positive changes for the animals in their own communities. For more information please visit <http://www.lcanimal.org/>.

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