

Letter to the Investigators: Honor the Truth Despite the Consequences

Honoring the truth, regardless of personal beliefs means putting your personal agenda aside to bear witness to what is actually happening in the world. It does not mean lying or covering up the facts. Too many times we see how profits and maintaining the status quo lead to a degradation of the truth, manipulation of reality (gaslighting) or flat out lies. When journalists report lies, when citizens don't see what is in front of them or when authorities protect their self-interests - that is when bullies win.

The fact is East Fork Farms in Brownstown Indiana is a horrid dungeon to the mothers and piglets who reside there. Billions of maggots and cockroaches infest all three barns. Rats scurry in the dark amid barely weaned piglets, many of whom lay dead or dying and cannabilised by their pen mates. Holes in the walls lead directly to harsh environmental exposure. Not windows, but holes where infestation of pests and vermin have destroyed the outer walls, exposing natural elements and other disease carrying animals.

I know this because I was there. I witnessed the degraded state of their living conditions and the distress and the fear you hear in their voices. I witnessed there the mothers who must live confined in crates so tight, they cannot turn around so they are forced to watch their piglets die and decompose in front of them. The crates are considered

standard industry in pig farming, which is a prison sentence for the pig but hailed as efficient and profitable farming practice for the producers. The mass amount of dead piglets is direct evidence of this farms failure to provide a healthy environment for their animals. If the standard practice is intentionally causing pain, then the standard needs to change instead of protecting it further from any scrutiny. Just because you removed the animal's ability to feel in your own mind, does not remove the animal's actual ability to feel!

There is no such thing as humane when you look upon another with greed and desire for their destruction. There is no such thing as ethical animal farming. You can't honor the concept of providing the five major freedoms to sentient beings when you intend to murder them. At East Fork Farms, all five freedoms are violated. I know, because I witnessed this for a month. The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare are:

1. Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition. The pigs in the gestation barn do not live equally. There are over 1,200 sows and maybe 5-6 boars who reside in one long barn. Nearly 98% of them are kept in gestation stalls, confining them to a space where mobility is limited to standing, sitting or laying down. Turning around is out of the question. There are half a dozen pens where they seem to rotate those who are sick and those who will be culled. Another 2-3 group pens which allow for social interaction. The pigs kept in the communal areas were as distressed if not more than those confined to individual

stalls. Bullied by their cell mates and constantly being mounted, there is no rest for them. There is no food even available. When efforts were made to provide additional feed a frenzy ensued that only the starving would escalate to. Those on the perimeter have to deal with the large holes in the walls with direct exposure to millions of cockroaches and beetles. Living on concrete with concrete troughs that did not distribute water evenly. Some had an abundance of water and others were left completely dry. In the farrowing barn, cockroaches infested the areas, crawling all over the food contaminating the powder. No one at East Fork Farms ate anything but the powder of soy and corn. No fruits, veggies or hard solid foods were available to the pigs which goes against the freedom to be natural. I personally witnessed many pigs suffering so terribly they could not reach the water or food source. Their bones were sticking out of their backside, they were wasting away day-after-day. This takes time. Enough time where the caretakers should intervene but no one ever did. East Fork Farms violated this freedom in all three of their barns.

2. Freedom from Fear and Distress. At East Fork Farms there is nothing but fear and distress. Mainly because there is absolutely nothing for these highly intelligent beings to do in their crates. Mothers in the farrowing barn cannot create safe nests for their babies who are physically removed from them way too soon. Evidence is found in the weaning barn where the youngest and weakest lay in feces barely able to move, just breathe deeply as their stronger brothers and sisters constantly

pick and bite them. In this barn, if you are not healthy, you are dead. Nearly every pen has a dead or dying piglet in the lower barn. In the top gestation barn, mothers who were not monitored correctly were accidentally giving birth to their litters while still in their gestation crate. Restricted to turn around, the barn is not built for babies so the slats are too big and there is no piglet confinement. Piglets just wander off in the dark to be stepped on by other pregnant mothers who have no choice. This is the epitome of fear and distress. East Fork Farms violated this freedom in all three of their barns.

3. Freedom from Physical and Thermal Discomfort. East Fork Farms has huge holes in the wall in their gestation barn that expose outside element. The weaning barn has huge holes where one can see the adjacent room. One can also see the rats who use the holes as tunnels and nests. There are also gaps in the pens and in the flooring so the barely weaned piglets fall into the waste pit below. That is more than discomfort when a baby piglet must swim constantly in the manure, cockroach larvae and maggots and amid the dead who gave up on swimming! I personally pulled out five piglets found swimming in the waste pit. This job is the responsibility of the owner whose staff is no where to be found. At least the farrowing barn interior was in the best shape. Still the mothers were confined to crates, considered standard practice, but how comfortable do you think they are when they are crushing their babies to a slow death? When they can't turn around and they can't help their young when they cry out for their mom? East Fork Farms violated this freedom in all three of

their barns.

4. Freedom from Physical Pain, injury and disease. Pain, injury and disease is everywhere. Not just because of the confined spaces and the pest infestation but because the waste disposal was incredibly backed up where their own urine floated above the waste pit! And the removal of the dead was not a priority. Dead piglets turned black with only hide and bones remaining were found in the gestation barn. Dead and dying were all through the lower barn. And deformed piglets suffering in front of their mothers or worse, crushed by them because there was no escape riddled the farrowing barn. East Fork Farms violated this freedom in all three of their barns.

5. Freedom to express normal patterns of behavior. This is joke. All modern intensive farming is now indoors and inside pens and stalls. Pigs are considered units of production. Here at East Fork is no different, they do not have access to the outside. The adults are kept in individual stalls. They have only enough space for their body to exist but not to move. Imagine that? We give a room of space to convicted human felons but to innocent pigs who are born with instincts to be walk and move, it is acceptable for industry to keep them in a cage, shoulder-to-shoulder with hundreds of others of their kind in a large open room for their entire life. How is that their normal behavior? The piglets, in pens of 20-25, inside with nothing to do but eat and sleep. They eat this powder of soy and corn that the rats and the cockroaches also seem to feast on. There is zero evidence of any natural behavior

happening for any of the thousands of pigs in their care. East Fork Farms violated this freedom in all three of their barns.

East Fork Farms is where all this footage delivered to Colin Henstock with PETA came from. I can confirm every single frame was captured and delivered as a testimony of a single contract producer of “food” which is East Fork Farms. This is an injustice to those pigs and shows the lies that industry claims when they talk of humane treatment. East Fork Farms is an example of what small, family owned farming really is. Kept in the dark and off the grid in a sleepy little town where the sheriff is friends with the farm owner, they are not diligently investigated for the truth.

Why did I go there? First understand that anyone can peer through the buildings to see the inhumane living conditions from the outside. The barns are in such state of decay from the mass number of imprisoned animals in such a small space that the walls themselves have deteriorated. From the street you can smell the decay and the rot of the huge waste lagoon. A smell that when it hits you even at 200 meters, it stops you in your tracks as you choke on it. For farmers who are used to this smell, you shouldn't be. It is a warning your farm has too many animals with too much waste and too many deaths. From down the street you can hear the screams echo in the wind. It is like the worst horror film screams you have ever heard. I can still hear them screaming in their pain.

When anyone thinks life is at risk of harm, we all have a duty to intervene. That is what I did then and that is why I reported to PETA. Isn't that something...that there is more trust in an animal rights organization to expose the truth than going direct to the owner or the local authorities. A reflection of a well groomed culture of mistrust surrounding animal industry and all its knowing participants. It is a reflection of the hope that something good will be done for those pigs instead of something harmful being done to me.

So I personally charge Sgt. Stephen Wheelles to look at the truth instead of trying to defend the lies. All the footage you were given by PETA on this case is definitively captured on East Fork Farms from the end of August through September. The only reason I remain anonymous is because I honor the trust, good order and discipline of being a U.S. government official, just like you. Lest we undermine our representation, we charge our brothers and sisters to perform their duties the public charges us with, to look at the facts and hold those responsible actually accountable for their neglect. There should be meaning to the words "See something, say something" without fear of retribution or worse, physical and mental harm. We are not extremists to fight for the basic freedoms of life. Please do what is right not what is easy. What you see in this footage is evidence of the real East Fork Farms.