



July 2, 2021

Jay Jandrain
President and Chief Executive Officer
Butterball, LLC

Via e-mail: jjandrain@butterball.com

Dear Mr. Jandrain:

Your attention is urgently requested. PETA has learned that Butterball, LLC, executives have drastically increased the weight and age of “super tom” turkeys killed at your Carthage, Missouri, slaughterhouse, apparently after layoffs gutted staffing.

We are told that birds usually slaughtered by 21 weeks of age, who already suffer from a plethora of ailments as a result of the unnaturally large size that your industry has bred them to reach, are now being kept alive for 24 to 25 weeks and allowed to reach a weight of up to 60 lbs., with no consideration for their density in the sheds. They face a significant risk of heat exhaustion—which we understand Butterball acknowledges as a threat even for much smaller birds, who apparently die a horrific death if factory farmers don’t use power washers to blast them with water and drive around the sheds on ATVs, honking their horns to startle the birds into standing up and dissipating some of the heat built up under their massive torsos. Furthermore, we’ve been told that those who have worried about this new policy’s impact on the birds have simply been told, “Pray for a mild summer.”

Whether it’s heatstroke or being hurled into cages, hauled down the highway, hung upside down by their fragile legs, or slashed across the throat, Butterball turkeys face a terrifying fate. At the very least, they should be spared several additional weeks of unrelenting misery. Given Butterball’s claims to be “committed to maintaining the health and well-being of [its] turkeys ... [and leading] the industry in Animal Care and Well-Being standards,”¹ **we urge you to put an immediate stop to the policies that risk allowing even more birds to suffer and die of heat exhaustion and to take action without delay to keep the flocks sufficiently cooled and hydrated.**

I can be reached at ColinH@peta.org, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

¹Butterball, LLC. *Frequently Asked Questions*. <http://www.butterball.com/about-us/faqs/general-company-information>.

PEOPLE FOR
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