

November 3, 2003

Gary T. Norris  
AgriProcessors, Inc.  
220 West St.  
Postville, IA 52162

2 pages via fax: 563-864-7890

Dear Mr. Norris:

I am in receipt of a letter dated August 26 from Nathan Lewin of Lewin & Lewin LLP. I was surprised and disappointed to receive such a letter, when in my estimation, our dealings have been productive and above-board. PETA is, of course, more than happy to talk with you about the concerns that Mr. Lewin raised in his letter, but what we really hope is that we can work together to improve animal welfare at AgriProcessors.

As you know, PETA is not trying to change the precepts of kosher law or discourage AgriProcessors from performing ritual slaughter. Rather, we are recommending specific improvements that can be made at AgriProcessors—improvements that are embedded in kosher law. As Mr. Levin notes, the essence of kosher law is the principle of *tzar baalei chaim*, which directs us not to cause suffering to other beings. In that spirit, PETA is happy to supply AgriProcessors with ways to alleviate some of the suffering that we're told is occurring there.

The following is a list of things that we ask AgriProcessors to do to improve animal welfare. I would be happy to discuss any of these points in more detail, although I am certain that an expert like Dr. Temple Grandin would be a more effective resource. Our information suggests that AgriProcessors would improve animal welfare by doing the following:

1. Repair your unloading ramps. Some floors are slippery and poorly maintained, causing animals to balk. No more than 1 percent of animals should slip on unloading ramps and floors.
2. Restrict the use of electric prods to within the guidelines set down by the American Meat Institute (AMI). No more than 5 percent of animals should be subjected to electric prodding.
3. Ensure that no more than 5 percent of cows vocalize within the restrainer.
4. Ensure that each chicken is held one at a time, by one person, for slaughter.
5. Provide fresh, clean water for all animals at unloading.
6. Ensure that all animals are calm at all stages of processing.
7. Engage in self-audits on a regular basis.

Clearly, PETA would prefer it if AgriProcessors stopped killing animals, and we balk at the idea that AgriProcessors considers it OK for more than 1 percent of animals to slip or more than 5 percent to be prodded to their deaths, which your customers are not likely to agree with you about. But we're aware that you're not likely to stop the killing anytime soon, so our immediate goal is to help decrease some of the abuse that we've learned about and to do it in a way that is in keeping with your own stated goals and values. The seven points that we've made here are not really arguable if your goal is to make things a bit less miserable for the animals killed at your facility. Quite honestly, they are the least that should be done.



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.  
NORFOLK, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA  
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org  
Info@peta.org

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THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

As you may recall, Mr. Hunt respected Dr. Grandin, which is part of our reason for suggesting her. As you know, she is one of the industry's leading experts on animal welfare and has a long-established relationship with the kosher slaughter industry. She has written several books on this subject, including *Livestock Handling and Transport* and *Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals*, and has her own Web site at [www.Grandin.com](http://www.Grandin.com), with an entire section devoted to ritual slaughter.

On September 9, I had a conversation with Dr. Grandin about AgriProcessors. Dr. Grandin believes that she can help AgriProcessors reduce blood spots on meat, reduce balking of cattle, and reduce slipping for all animals. She has worked with companies engaged in both standard kosher and glatt kosher practices and says that she is quite willing to help AgriProcessors make significant improvements, both in animal welfare and in product quality.

PETA will refrain from releasing any information about AgriProcessors to the public if we have some assurance that AgriProcessors is moving to eliminate the abuses that I've described, but we are duty bound not to remain silent if nothing is being done to correct them.

I will contact you within a week of your receipt of this letter to discuss these matters. In the meantime, I can be reached at [deleted]. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Jay Gross", is written over a vertical red line.

Steven Jay Gross, Ph.D.

cc: Nathan Lewin, Esq., Lewin & Lewin LLP  
Sholom Rubashkin, AgriProcessors, Inc.  
Dr. Temple Grandin, Colorado State University