



January 18, 2023

Corwin Heatwole, CEO
Shenandoah Valley Organic

Dear Mr. Heatwole:

I'm writing with regard to Anthony Lee Lambert—who, while hauling chickens to Shenandoah Valley Organic's Harrisonburg slaughterhouse on July 7, 2022, crashed a tractor trailer on Kratzer Road. He ran off a straight stretch of road, struck two utility poles, crossed the oncoming lane of traffic, ran off the left side of the road, crossed back, overturned in the right lane, and struck a third pole, endangering the public, killing many chickens who were crushed or ejected from crates on the overturned trailer, and leaving many other maimed birds to suffer for several hours along the roadside. Lambert was cited for failure to maintain proper control of the vehicle and was found guilty of improper driving on November 30. We ask that you take immediate personnel and planning measures to protect everyone whose safety is endangered by these kind of wrecks.

[Dashcam footage](#) from Virginia State Police vehicles reveals that troopers believed that Lambert had been looking at his phone when he lost control of the vehicle and suspected that had not been truthful with them when he stated that the crash had occurred because he "might have closed or blinked my eyes." According to one of the troopers, Lambert was "lucky he didn't kill somebody coming the other way, because that's exactly what could have happened." Lambert has several previous convictions for speeding, improper driving, and driving without a license. Additionally, he admitted to troopers on the scene that he had struck a vehicle "up ... at the plant" with a truck in a previous incident.

We urge you, at the very least, to immediately review all company and contract drivers' records and fitness to haul live animals and to prohibit the use of any individuals who have driving-related offenses or are found to have been at fault in any crash. Given your company's claims to "humanely raise" the chickens you cram into transport cages and haul to your slaughterhouse, we also ask that you please develop and implement a detailed plan to ensure that chickens who are victims of crashes are promptly rescued, humanely handled, and painlessly relieved of their suffering on site. Doing all this would be in the best interests of the public and animals alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Colin Henstock
Investigations Project Manager

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