



August 25, 2026

**To:** Russell Redding, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Brandon Peachey, Program Specialist, Bureau of Food Safety and  
Laboratory Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

**From:** Colin Henstock, Associate Director of Project Strategy, PETA

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

**Re: Allegations of Filth, Sanitation Violations, Food-Safety Risks, and  
Biosecurity Failures at Shady Brae Farms outside Marietta**

Dear Secretary Redding and Mr. Peachey:

**Your attention is urgently requested.** This letter concerns a disturbing report submitted to PETA by an eyewitness to apparent filth, sanitation violations, food-safety risks, and biosecurity failures at Shady Brae Farms, an egg farm located at 29 Engle Rd., near Marietta. We have been told the following:

- Hens who fell out of cages were pulled from pits, coated in excrement, and put back into cages and eventually sent to slaughter, while others remained trapped in the pits for months, surviving on spilled feed.
- Feed that had spilled into feces pits was returned to feed lines.
- Workers left rotting, swollen, decomposed, or skeletal hen remains in cages.
- Sheds were crawling with countless mice, raising concerns that hens may be consuming mice—some of whom may have been exposed to poison—or contaminated feed.
- Egg belts broke or tangled so often that eggs sat on floors or piled up for days; eggs covered in flies or feces remained in production; rotten eggs were sent to the wash cycle; and some eggs were not refrigerated, washed, or shipped for days or weeks.
- Black mold grew on the shed walls, electrical wiring becoming wet from a ceiling leak contributed to a February fire, and overheated, dangerous equipment was found smoking.
- Disinfectant powder was rarely present despite posted signs, and workers repeatedly moved between dirty sheds and egg-processing areas without cleaning or decontamination.

Please review [these images](#) that were provided by the whistleblower, who is willing to speak with your agency about these conditions.

We respectfully request that the Department promptly investigate Shady Brae Farms for the sanitation, food-safety, and biosecurity issues described above—many of which pose obvious dangers to public health by increasing the risk that pathogens or poisons, fecal matter, and other filth may enter the food supply—and take all appropriate enforcement action. Please note that the whistleblower

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reported that biosecurity measures were added in advance of prior announced inspections.

I can be reached at [ColinH@peta.org](mailto:ColinH@peta.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colin Henstock".

Colin Henstock

Associate Director of Project Strategy