

The Honorable William Honsal
Sheriff of Humboldt County
826 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Sheriff Honsal:

I'm writing to request that you investigate the Alexandre Family Farm's pattern of animal abuse, neglect, and indifference to chronic animal suffering over the past five years, as well as dozens of incidents that may have violated California state water protection laws.

Less than 24 hours ago Farm Forward released the results of [our investigation of Alexandre Family Farm](#). Our investigation was covered in [an extensive article in *The Atlantic*](#) released today. Our own eyewitness experiences investigating this report, combined with extensive documentation (including hundreds of videos, hundreds of photos, ownership papers, and written consultations with veterinarians we contacted) as well as hours of interviews with whistleblowers reveal that Alexandre's practices ensure that cows routinely suffer egregiously, and that diseased animals are sold into the humane food supply chain.

We did not uncover a handful of isolated incidents or "a few bad apples." Instead, our investigation shows that Alexandre practiced systematic abuse and neglect, driven from the top of the company. Alexandre's violations of basic standards of animal treatment included, but were not limited to:

- Regular incidences (all left untreated or treated inadequately) of
 - severe lameness and/or foot rot,
 - eye disease and cancer, and
 - disease and/or malnourishment leading to emaciation and poor body condition;
- A cow dragged by a skid loader more than 50 yards across concrete and gravel;
- Sick and injured animals described by a consulting veterinarian as "severely lame" being transported and sold to an auction house;
- Dozens of cows trampled to death;
- Isolating calves for durations far exceeding industry norms in hutches where more than a dozen calves were found dead on just one day;
- A cow's clogged teat cut off with a rusty knife and no pain management;
- A calf left stuck in a stanchion for three days;
- A nonambulatory disabled cow left lying out in the pasture for two weeks before she was shot;
- A cow so hungry that she fell into a feed trough and suffocated;
- An objectively severe case of spinal injury, incurred 6–12 months prior, resulting in the cow's ongoing tail paralysis, ataxia, and fecal and urinary incontinence;
- Hundreds of mature cows having their horns cut off through innervated tissue, long after their horn buds had fused to their skulls;
- A longstanding practice of transporting severely sick, injured, and lame cows to a sales auction instead of treating their illness or euthanizing them on-farm;

- Hundreds of instances of “treating” cows’ eye infections and cancers by pouring finely ground table salt on the cows’ eyes, and then gluing on an improvised eye patch, often gluing cows’ eyes shut in the process.

You can find additional explanation in [our report](#) and in [The Atlantic article](#).

We urge you to review our report and take all appropriate action to prevent or prosecute Alexandre’s violations of California anti-cruelty laws (including [CPC§597a](#)) and water quality laws (including [FGC§5652a](#)).

Thank you for taking time to review this matter. I would be grateful for a timely response, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best,



Andrew deCoriolis
Executive Director