



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

September 19, 2023

Les Goff  
General Manager  
Turkey Valley Farms

Dear Mr. Goff:

In light of federal records that detail a pattern of turkeys' egregious pain and cruel deaths en route to and at Turkey Valley Farms, we ask that you immediately implement changes in the hope of reducing birds' suffering in your operations. Underscoring the need for changes are the following facts:

- Over three days in January 2023, at least 1,181 turkeys died while being hauled up to 600 miles—from factory farms as far away as Missouri—through sleet and snow while the temperature was as low as minus 6 degrees. Many of these birds were unwanted hens “with little to no feathers,” and survivors were wounded, bleeding, and “shivering.” Up to 193 more turkeys apparently suffered from hypothermia before they were slaughtered.
- In September and October 2022, severely crowded, caged turkeys were found standing on top of each other on at least seven trailers, which evidently caused some to suffocate.
- In February 2022, a worker “slammed” a hen against shackles, which “made a loud crashing sound.” The worker then “hit the turkey against the shackles two more times.”
- Live turkeys were plunged into scalding-hot water—as they raised their heads, flapped their wings, blinked their eyes, and gasped for breath—in March 2023, January 2023, October 2022, and July 2021.

Will you please publicly livestream video from *all* areas of your operations where live turkeys are handled? Workers would take more seriously their duty to handle and transport animals lawfully if they knew caring people were watching. As the world's foremost expert on livestock welfare, Dr. Temple Grandin, writes, “Plants [t]hat are doing a good job should show what they are doing.”

Will you also report all those responsible for these animals' pain and suffering to the Marshall Police Department and city attorney Matthew B. Gross for investigation for possible violations of MINN. STAT. §§ 343.21 and 343.24? Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Paden  
Vice President of Evidence Analysis

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