



INVESTIGATION REPORT

Client Name:	Lone Star Organic Dairy LLC
Report Generated By:	Edmond Throckmorton
Date of Report:	March 19, 2024

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

Complaint Request for Investigation: NOPC-9883-24 Other:

Date Received:	PETA – November 16, 2023; NOP – January 4, 2024
ID #:	NOP – NOPC-9883-24
Details:	Allegations of animal welfare violations.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION & EVIDENCE:

The following sources of information were used to complete this Complaint Investigation Report:

Name of Document	Link to Document
Appendix A	PETA Complaint
Appendix B	Notice of Request for Additional Information 11.21.2023
Appendix C	LSOD Response to Notice of Request for Additional Information
Appendix D	Notice of Request for Additional Information 12.01.2023
Appendix E	LSOD Response to Notice of Request for Additional Information
Appendix F	Livestock Inspection Report
Appendix G	Crop Inspection Report
Appendix H	Inspection Review Notes
Appendix I	NOP Investigation Request
Appendix J	Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification
Appendix K	Notice of Decision on Certification

FINDINGS:

- November 16, 2023: Organic Certifiers (OC) received a complaint from Colin Henstock (Investigation Project Manager) with the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The complaint alleged numerous animal welfare violations at Lone Star Organic Dairy LLC (LSOD) See Appendix A.
- November 17, 2023: The Investigation Team discussed the PETA allegations and determined the following course of action:
 - PETA published the allegations regarding LSOD on their [website](#) on November 16, 2023. As such, it was determined the complaint is no longer confidential and LSOD would be knowledgeable about the specific allegations identified in the complaint.
 - Based on this information, OC decided to issue LSOD a Request for Additional Information. Also, an unannounced inspection would be conducted as part of their annual review.

- November 21, 2023: OC issued LSOD a Notice of Request for Additional Information. See Appendix B.
 - LSOD responded to the Notice of Request for Additional Information. See Appendix C.
- December 1, 2023: The Investigation Team reviewed LSOD response to the Notice of Request for Additional Information and determined additional information was needed pertaining to the PETA complaint. OC issued LSOD a second Notice of Request for Additional Information. See Appendix D.
 - LSOD responded to the Notice of Request for Additional Information. See Appendix E.
- December 6, 2023: OC conducts unannounced inspection of LSOD.
 - See Livestock Inspection Report (Appendix F)
 - See Crop Inspection Report (Appendix G)
 - See Inspection Review Notes (Appendix H)
- January 4, 2024: OC received an Investigation Request from the NOP. See Appendix I.
- March 14, 2024: OC issued LSOD a Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification (Appendix J) and a Notice of Decision on Certification (Appendix K).
- OC’s findings in response to the NOP’s Investigation Request (NOPC-9883-24):

NOP Investigation Request	OC Findings
Cows had access to the facility’s concrete manure waste separating system. A cow fell into a deep pit filled with liquid manure, and when she was finally extracted, she could barely walk and was sold for slaughter.	See Noncompliance #3 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
Nails left in bedding materials resulted in injured and crippled animals.	See Noncompliance #3 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
Collars on cows were not loosened causing them to be embedded in animals’ necks causing wounds and abscesses.	Upon review of the inspector’s assessment and photos, OC determined the collars are being used properly.
Animals grazing stuck their heads and necks through barbed wire fencing, to graze forage on the other side and were cut. Some animals were reaching for grass and hay that had been dumped on the other side of the fence.	Upon review of the inspector’s assessment and photos, OC determined there was no evidence to indicate the animals were harmed by grazing through the fencing.
A photograph showed where other animals were crowded into a bunch near barbed wire and some of them had bleeding cuts on their rear legs.	Upon review of the inspector’s assessment and photos, OC determined there was no evidence to support this allegation.
Some animals escaped the pastures due to inadequate fencing and were struck and killed by cars.	See Noncompliance #3 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
Blind calves were placed into a pen with electric fencing and were repeatedly shocked.	Upon review of the inspector’s assessment and photos, OC determined there was no evidence to

	support this allegation.
Blind heifers “wandered around the property until they died.”	See Noncompliance #3 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
The number of calves that died from scours and pneumonia had doubled in the last six months due to inadequate, or lack of, care.	See Noncompliance #1 and #2 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
Some bedding and living areas were saturated with feces, urine, and leaking water troughs. Water troughs were not cleaned and filthy with floating debris.	See Noncompliance #2 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.
Dead animals remained around the property, at times for days, before being buried.	See Noncompliance #2 in the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification.

RESULTS & CLOSURE:

Investigation still pending the results of the Combined Notice of Noncompliance and Notice of Proposed Suspension of Certification and a Notice of Decision on Certification.

Closed by:	
Date:	