

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION



Between August and October of 2017 an ARM Investigator was hired by Burnham Dairy as a dairy milker. Burnham Dairy is a small family owned farm. The investigator was under the direction of Richard Couto, President of Animal Recovery Mission. The ARM Investigator was issued and utilized surveillance equipment (no audio) to capture the violations noted within this report. The ARM Investigator is a combat veteran who conducted tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. It should be noted that Burnham Dairy was not specifically targeted. The Investigator was sent to multiple dairy farms in Okeechobee County. Burnham Dairy was the first farm to hire the investigator.

Due to the following actions detailed below, the Animal Recovery Mission is requesting that **Randy Burnham** (Burnham Dairy owner and location boss) be charged with a third degree felony. This is due to being a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty. In addition to this, charges are also being sought on employees for tormenting any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The Florida Department of Agriculture (FDA) has conducted multiple inspections on Burnham Farms. There are documented violations of unsanitary structures and lack of rotation of the milk in the refrigerators. In March of 2016, the FDA issued an audit for a regulatory inspection, due to these same repeat violations. In April of 2017 inspectors noted the failure to keep the parlor and pit floor clean. Again, in July of 2017, FDA Inspectors were back on site and noted the failure to keep the milk-room clean along with the non removal of old milk out of the chiller. This highlights a major infringement of mandatory industry standards that are not being met or enforced.

Animal holding areas are overcrowded and unsanitary forcing cows to lay in their own urine and feces after extended periods of standing. At times, the ARM Investigator noted up to 4 inches of feces on the ground within the holding barn and over a foot of water during rain storms. Deceased dairy cows were also observed within the same enclosure laying lifeless in the standing water while nearby cows stand and rest. There is also a constant issue with overheating within these barns due to the overcrowding and lack of air circulation. The milking barn is also covered in feces. Feces are observed on the walls and milking equipment.

When the dairy cows are released from their holding area they must enter the milking barn through a narrow enclosure containing a concrete ramp. The ramp is covered in feces and water. On numerous occasions cows are observed slipping and falling to the ground as they attempt to climb the ramp. Employees, to include the ARM Investigator, have slipped on the feces and fallen onto their backs.

While dairy cows enter the milking barn they are repeatedly abused and tormented. As they make their way into the milking stations they are kicked and punched. Employees are filmed utilizing electric prods, long knotted lines, wet and knotted towels, belt like devices and metal clads. The ARM investigator witnessed supervisors of the farm teaching employees to beat the animals so they could get cows into position and retrieve milk faster. This is a common practice in the milking barn due to milking production demands.

Regardless of the condition the cows, they are forced into the milking production line. In the production line, cows become exhausted by being subjected to the mental and physical stress involved to execute the three time a day procedure of milking. Many cows became sick, weak, or injured and were incapable of walking unassisted. Within the dairy industry, these cows are referred to as DOWNER COWS. Due to them being slower, they are electrocuted, prodded, screamed at, kicked and dragged to a holding area where they are left for weeks. During this investigation, the ARM Investigator never witnessed a licensed veterinarian onsite to help any of the injured or sick cows. Animals suffered for days and even weeks rather than be euthanized.

In the company's efforts to obtain its goal of milk production, dairy cows are forcefully impregnated. Unskilled in the correct procedure to inseminate, farm employees would roughly shove their fists into the anus of the dairy cows, causing serious damage and pain. Void of following any sanitary protocols, the same insemination glove is used on multiple cows and in effect, transfer bodily fluids and diseases into multiple cows. Employees were often witnessed laughing and finding humor in 'raping' the cows.

As new calves are born they are pulled from their mothers and placed into cramped enclosures (roughly 4x6 ft. pens). These enclosures are left outside in the harsh environment and are often times left with no drinking water as the temperatures reach above 109 degrees. Calves are observed laying in mud and laying in their own feces. The enclosures are not properly shaded. Most contain ripped or missing tarps which allow the heat of the sun to continuously over power the calves. Many calves succumb to the heat and die. On numerous occasions, deceased calves were left in the same small enclosure as living calves. Due to the poor

drainage in the calf area, the enclosures are often time flooded. Calves are forced to lay in the water and eventually die of hyperthermia. The calves that continue to live, are forced fed utilizing 3 ft metal rod. Many calves at the Burnham Dairy have died due to the misuse of the feeding rod.

Once the calves reach a certain age/weight they are moved into larger pens. The pens are easily flooded. The calves are forced to lay in the mud and their feces. They also provide them with minimal to no shelter.

At no time during the investigation did the calves receive any medical attention from a veterinarian or farm employees. In fact, the farm's supervisors instruct their personnel to refrain from any life saving treatment and to simply 'let them die'.

Instead of being properly buried or removed from the property, as state guidelines stipulate, calves and adult cows who die are piled atop one another, onsite, to decay. Besides the major environmental threat that this is already causing, decaying bodily fluids are entering streams that run through the dumping site which then enter public waterways becoming a public health hazard as well. They are left in the open allowing access to land and flight predators. On any given day, the ARM Investigator observed over 30 vultures picking at the carcasses.

Burnham Farms is comprised of several structures which includes the large processing/animal holding area, a feeding barn and a milking barn. All structures are currently unstable, even collapsing while ARM Investigator on site. There are exposed electrical cables (near water and liquid matter) and open drainage systems which present severe safety hazards to both the animals and employees of the farm. Drains are constantly becoming clogged from animal waste and flood to nearly 1 ft in depth causing cows to fall, get stuck in the drains and injure themselves. In addition, operations being conducted by Burnham Farms, are not up to current building and zoning codes for the State of Florida.

Milk collected throughout the day is picked up by distribution trucks from Southeast Milk. Southeast Milk is a highly profitable co-op owned company that is made up of over 320 dairy farms, including Burnham Farms. Here, dairy products are processed and distributed to large supermarket conglomerates such as Publix.