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Natural Prairie Dairy Responds To Animal Rights Group's Video

[REBECCA THIELE](#)



Brock Turner/WTIU

Natural Prairie Dairy is responding to an [undercover video](#) of its Texas farm released by animal cruelty activists on Tuesday. The dairy plans to open another farm in Newton County. The dairy says one employee has been suspended pending further investigation — and there could be more.

Activists with Animal Recovery Mission say the video shows dairy cows at Natural Prairie Dairy's Texas farm being abused, neglected, and made to live in

unsanitary conditions. In a statement, dairy owners Donald and Cheri De Jong say the video was heavily edited by a group known to oppose dairy farms. But the couple did say that some scenes require further investigation. In addition to the employee suspension, Natural Prairie Dairy says third-party auditors visited the farm this week to look at its operations. It says that law enforcement is also welcome at the dairy at any time.

Statement of Donald and Cheri De Jong
Natural Prairie Dairy, a certified organic dairy
Channing, Texas July 26, 2019

"We are proud to be certified organic dairy farmers, who strive every day to care for our cows, our land and our organic farm family.

Recently, a heavily edited video, was directed, filmed and released by an individual who had gained access to our family farm. It shows an edited snippet in time, produced by a group that's stated goal is to abolish all American dairy farms.

But the video fails to show our entire organic farm. It does not show our innovative facilities...our dedicated team members...all our cows...our lush, beautiful grasslands that our organic cows feed upon.

That said, some of the sequences warrant additional **internal and external** investigation.

This is our life's work--our family organic farm, where we raised our family.

And the buck stops with us.

It's our training programs, and we take full responsibility to correct and improve. As such, we have done the following since becoming aware of the video:

1. We have welcomed law enforcement to visit our farm and examine everything at any time;
2. One employee involved has been suspended and will have no contact with any of our cows, pending internal and external investigations. Additional suspensions and/or terminations may result pending the ongoing investigations.
3. Independent third-party farm auditors are visiting the farm on 7/25 and 7/26 to perform an extensive audit of all are organic dairy operations, including our animal welfare practices.
4. In the interim, we ask that you also view 85 minutes of *unedited* video of the organic farm filmed over the last year. We believe it will help provide a different perspective on how we care for our cows on a daily basis. Please click to view the video here <https://vimeo.com/350123689>

Please know we take these allegations seriously, and as always, we will take any corrective action necessary to ensure the continued health and well-being of our cows, our land and our organic farm family."

Sincerely,
Donald and Cheri De Jong

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