

STATEMENT FROM MOWMAR FARMS IN RESPONSE TO PETA ALLEGATIONS

BAYARD, IA (September 17, 2008) – MowMar farms, the new owner of a pig/swine operation featured in a video posted on the PETA website, stated that it is surprised and outraged over the images of animal mistreatment at this newly-acquired farm. As a family-owned farm operation with over 30 years in the swine business, MowMar farms does not and will not tolerate the mistreatment of any animals under our husbandry and we take these PETA allegations very seriously.

According to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the mistreatment of pigs at the farm site was filmed over a period of three months starting June 10th. MowMar farms purchased the farm featured in the video less than a month ago and has retained a new management company to oversee the daily operations at the farm. MowMar was first made aware of these allegations just two days ago, Monday, September 15th, when PETA notified MowMar that it wanted to meet.

Representatives of PETA and MowMar's farm managers had a frank and open discussion in a meeting this morning about what PETA discovered and the actions being taken to correct this unfortunate situation. These commitments by MowMar and the farm manager include:

1. A thorough investigation has been initiated of the incidents, policies and personnel that were in place prior to the acquisition of the farm by MowMar. Employees who committed animal cruelty violations have been and will be terminated based on the findings of the investigation.
2. An animal handling expert will be invited to come to the farm and conduct a review of the policies and procedures to insure there is an independent authority providing additional guidance and best practices.
3. Any policies or procedures that are not consistent with MowMar's policies and generally-accepted standards for the treatment of farm animals will be revised and strengthened.
4. Current and future employees of MowMar and the farm management company will receive extensive training on our policies and the proper treatment of animals on our farms.
5. Further, the effectiveness of video monitoring equipment is being researched as a tool to oversee all aspects of herd care.

In conclusion, MowMar farms will continue to enforce a 'zero-tolerance policy' with respect to the mistreatment or abuse of farm animals and is committed to correcting this inexcusable situation as quickly as possible.

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