

Iowa Select Farms Statement Regarding Mercy for Animals Undercover Video

IOWA FALLS, Iowa (June 27, 2011) -- Iowa Select Farms has a long-standing history of meeting high-quality animal care standards. This is why Iowa Select Farms take any claims of animal neglect or abuse very seriously in order to seek the facts and take appropriate actions.

In response to an undercover video released today by the animal rights group Mercy for Animals, Iowa Select Farms executive Dr. Howard Hill said, "A small portion of the video shows animal handling practices that are not acceptable under Iowa Select's long-standing animal welfare policies and with training that each employee is provided as a condition to being employed."

"We have already initiated an investigation into the portions of the video that show unacceptable animal handling by a few employees," said Hill. Once the preliminary investigation is completed, Hill said, "We have retained Dr. Anna Johnson, [Animal Behavior and Well-being Researcher](#) at Iowa State University to provide additional consultation to deal with specific actions depicted in the video that do not reflect Iowa Select's commitment to animal welfare and continuous improvement. If this independent review determines that we can make improvement to our animal welfare program and training, we will make such improvements."

In addition, if a determination is made that any employee of the company engaged in activities contrary to the policies they agreed to follow, Hill said, "We will take disciplinary action as appropriate, including termination of employment, as is provided in our animal welfare policy. This has been done before when a violation of our policies has been identified."

Hill noted that Iowa Select's Human Resources Department, in cooperation with farm management staff, provides animal care and welfare training to all new employees and also provides ongoing training and certification to long-term employees. Hill said, "We have zero tolerance for violations of our animal welfare policies and those portions of the video that show violations will be dealt with quickly and appropriately."

Iowa Select Farms is an Iowa-based pork production company founded in 1992 and employs over 900 Iowans in 43 Iowa counties.

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