

Iowa Select Farms Statement Regarding Mercy for Animals Undercover Video

IOWA FALLS, Iowa (June 28, 2011) -- Iowa Select Farms has a long-standing history of meeting high-quality animal care standards. This is why Iowa Select Farms takes 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 senior veterinarian Dr. Howard Hill said, "Iowa Select has a long-standing commitment to animal welfare. Training and compliance with our animal welfare policies is a condition of employment." "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. 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."

"As a veterinarian I took an oath to provide for the care and well-being of animals," Hill said. "I am deeply troubled that someone would video-tape what they believe is animal abuse if they had a chance to report it and stop it. Anyone who sees abuse has an ethical obligation to stop it immediately. Iowa Select has ultimate responsibility for assuring animal care on our farms, but video-taping abuse instead of reporting it is indefensible."

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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