



10 earn credits for web search

causes & news

healthy & green living

take action

community & fun

butterfly rewards

NEWS NETWORK

CAUSES

causes : animal welfare : all posts : this post

- real food
- trailblazers
- education
- ▶ animal welfare
- global warming
- environment & wildlife
- politics
- health policy
- human rights
- women's rights
- civil rights

88,900 supporters!

join this cause

meet our writers

stay informed

Customize your Causes newsletter now

manage newsletters

support animal welfare



Ohio Dairy Farmer Escapes Cruelty Charges

posted by: [Angel Flinn](#) 16 days ago



Tell a Friend Share Print

Like Digg Reddit Care2 StumbleUpon more

310 comments

In May of this year, animal welfare group, Mercy for Animals, released a video showing cows being beaten and abused at Conklin Dairy Farms in Ohio.

Among other forms of violent abuse, the video showed farm workers using pitchforks to stab cows in the face, legs, and stomach, twisting cows' tails until the bones snapped, kicking "downed" cows in the face and neck, beating restrained cows in the face with crowbars, and violently punching young calves in the face and stomping on their heads.

In the week that followed the release of the video, Billy Joe Gregg Jr., one of the workers implicated in the video, was charged with 12 counts of animal cruelty, and has since been held in custody on \$100,000 bail. Each of the 12 charges holds a maximum fine of \$750 and is punishable by 90 days in jail.

After firing Gregg and claiming that the video does not reflect the farm's commitment to animal care, the dairy released the following statement:

"The video shows animal care that is clearly inconsistent with the high

Ohio Dairy Farmer Escapes Cruelty Charges
Pet Store Sales Banned in Some US Cities
Now is the Time

see all posts



[Angel Flinn](#) Angel Flinn is a volunteer for Gentle World, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to...

get Angel's feed

ADS KEEP CARE2 FREE



End the Bloodsport of Bullfighting



Make Crush Videos Illegal



No Gas Chambers for Shelter Pets!

see more

Teen Creates

standards we set for our farm and its workers, and we find the specific mistreatment shown on the video to be reprehensible and unacceptable... We will not condone animal abuse on our farm."

On Tuesday of this week, it was announced that Gary Conklin, the owner of the farm, [will not be facing charges at all](#), after investigators and veterinarians studied the video and concluded that Conklin "acted appropriately".

As many animal advocates can attest to, there is nothing particularly unusual about the abuse at Conklin Dairy Farm. In fact, it is a routine example of what happens to animals all over the world, whenever they are being used for economic gain.

As long as animals remain the property of humans, and are legally allowed to be used as economic production units – living "machines" who produce eggs, milk, flesh, skin, fur and other bodily parts and secretions for human profit – they will be afforded no significant protection under the law, as the economic interests of the property owner will always trump even the most crucial interests of his or her property.

As explained by Professor of Law Gary Francione in his book [Rain without Thunder](#) (p. 132):

"'Unnecessary' suffering or 'cruel' treatment will come to be understood as that suffering which does not serve some legitimate purpose. And without any notion of absolute prohibitions on the use of animals, all uses of animals that generate social wealth will be regarded as legitimate."

On any large-scale dairy production facility, there are many routine, perfectly legal rights violations (such as forcible insemination and the cutting off of tails) which ought to horrify any individual who is concerned about animal interests. Dairy cows (and all other animals in production facilities) live a life – from beginning to end – that would easily qualify as abusive, with or without the added horror of encountering sadism from individual workers who have been trained to treat animals like machines.

Tougher regulations – even in the rare cases that they are actually implemented and enforced – only serve to perpetuate the idea that it is possible to use animals in such a way that would be morally acceptable. If we believe that animals have an interest in the continuation of their lives and in the avoidance of suffering, then it is absurd to campaign for regulation of an industry that has been built around the idea that animals are 'things' – objects that we can use however we so choose.

As with any other form of industrialized animal use, consumers have the choice either to participate in it or to refuse the products of exploitation and opt out of the demand-supply cycle altogether. [Humans have no need for animal products](#), and the increasing number of vegans on the planet is a testament to how easy it is to live a healthy, fulfilling life without participating in the systematic abuse and unnecessary killing that goes on in the animal industry every day.

Read more: [cows](#), [vegan](#), [dairy](#), [animal welfare](#), [animal rights](#), [conklin dairy farm](#)

[quick poll](#) (vote now!)

ADS KEEP CARE2 FREE ▶



Worldwide Animal Freedom Day

55 comments



100 Dogs Rescued from Mississippi Puppy Mill (VIDEO)

45 comments



Parole for Dogfighting Kingpin?

54 comments



Sacramento Passes Ordinance to Protect Performing Animals

41 comments



Take Action for Suffering Elephants in UK

291 comments

[see more ▶](#)



create a free online petition

Rally support for your cause by starting a free petition on Care2's Petitionsite. Send it to your friends and promote it on Care2.

[get started](#)

Find us on Facebook



Members Project from American Express

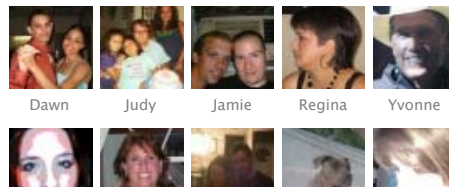
[Like](#)



Loading poll...



101,048 people like Members Project from American Express



Dawn Judy Jamie Regina Yvonne

Facebook social plugin

310 comments

[add your comment](#)



Dolly Austin says
Jul 20, 2010 11:22 AM

PEOPLE ALWAYSSSSSSSSS GET AWAY WITH THIS..ITS UP TO OUR LAW MAKERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE..WE CAN SPEAK ALL DAY TO THEM ABOUT IT..BUT IF THEY DON'T MAKE THE DIFFERENCE TO HAVE HARSHER PENELTIES FOR THESE ABUSERS..ITS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN..THOSE OF YOU IN YOUR LOCAL AREAS SIGN PETITIONS THAT COME ON HERE AND OTHER SITES TO HAVE MESSAGES SENT TO YOUR STATE OFFICIALS..BELIEVE IT OR NOT THE PETITION SIGNING DOES COUNT!

[send green star](#)



Glynis M. says
Jul 16, 2010 8:00 PM

There's a big difference between owning an inanimate object and enslaving a living being. In civilized societies, a person would be shocked at the thought of someone owning a human being but wouldn't bat an eye at any other species being used and abused in the name of greed. I sure hope that there is intelligent life in outer space because there is none down here.

[send green star](#)



Lynn C. says
Jul 15, 2010 11:58 PM

I said yes because it's not the milk that's the problem. It's the cruelty perpetuated by the sickness in the human beings that run factory farms. If you don't want to drink milk...Fine! Don't make it a cause or a sin or a religious issue! It's the cruelty and factory mentality that should be your issue!!

[send green star](#)



N.C.W. A. says
Jul 15, 2010 4:24 PM

TOUGHER LEGISLATION FOR ALL ANIMAL PROTECTION!

[send green star](#)



Michael P. says

Jul 13, 2010 8:07 PM

Anyone who does this to defenseless creatures needs to have their head chopped off. The way society tolerates these people's existence is really beyond me.

send green star



Karoly M. says

Jul 13, 2010 4:45 PM

Bastards why don't you torture between you assholes that you are able to talk and express yourselves, instead of taking advantage of poor animals that cannot express with words and tell you how much theyre suffering?? hope you pay for it evil guys

send green star



Tricia H. says

Jul 13, 2010 12:32 PM

You picked your profession, if you cannot take care of animals pick another profession. T

send green star



Amina T. says

Jul 13, 2010 7:35 AM

noted

send green star



Renata Bartoli says

Jul 13, 2010 3:18 AM

Lynda please, it's pathetic! I adressed my message to both of you and something might have been relevant for only one of the two. Just give it a break! Why don't you get a hobby to keep you busy! I cannot spend more time on this. I have work to do.

send green star



Cindy B. says

Jul 12, 2010 6:50 PM

Eww, this discussion thread is pretty distressing and hard to follow; I feel like I'm a fly on the wall listening to an argument between 2 strangers. AH WELL.... My only comment was this: The world is full of people with borderline (or full blown!) mental health problems. The current economic recession only intensifies the damage caused by the growing difficulty, complexity and abstract nature of living on this planet and especially in "technologically advanced" societies like this one. People used to benefit from at least casual interactions with strangers which used to be part and parcel of one's daily routine; now most of that's been taken over by technology -- resulting in growing interpersonal alienation. Just witness any large urban gathering - NO ONE talks to people they

don't know!! All this augments the anxiety and depression that's becoming endemic in modern culture. Most people who might desire to jump on some stranger and just beat 'em to a bloody pulp might still refrain from doing that but find solace in being able to twist a cow's tail till the bones break, maybe stick a pitchfork in the cow's head or whack the cow with a nice big stick. And what luck!! You can basically get away with it, maybe get a slap on the wrist...so why not! Animal abuse is human pathology, plain and simple. And guess what, my friends? It's going to get worse and worse as time goes on. You can mark my words on that. SIGH.... :(

send green star

[view all 310 comments »](#)

Login to leave a comment

Or, log in with your Facebook account:

Please add your comment:

1500 characters remaining

[link to this post](#)

Image: [graur razvan ionut / FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed above are solely those of the author and may not reflect those of Care2, Inc., its employees or advertisers.

1744261

