



# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003  
awionline.org phone: (202) 337-2332 fax: (202) 446-2131

November 29, 2018

Dr. Dawn Sprouls  
District Manager  
USDA-FSIS, District 25  
210 Walnut Street, Room 985  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Via electronic mail to dawn.sprouls@fsis.usda.gov

Re: Simply Essentials Poultry (P34668)

Dear Dr. Sprouls:

As you are probably aware, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) routinely requests and reviews humane handling records for all federal poultry and livestock plants. I am writing to express our concerns regarding the humane handling history of one particular plant in your district: Simply Essentials Poultry in Charles City, Iowa.

According to the records provided to AWI by the FSIS FOIA office, in 2017, your inspectors issued to Simply Essentials Poultry a total of 30 Noncompliance Records and Memorandums of Interview for practice not consistent with poultry "good commercial practices" (GCP). Most of these records describe humane handling problems related to transport and holding conditions.

To help put Simply Essential's bird handling record in perspective, I am attaching AWI's list of federal poultry plants with the most GCP records. You will see that Simply Essentials had the fourth highest number of records. However, while the list covers a three-year period (2015-2017), all of this plant's records were issued in just one year (2017), meaning that last year Simply Essentials Poultry received more GCP records than any other federal poultry plant in the country.

AWI has not yet reviewed GCP records for 2018, and it is possible that conditions at the plant have improved. We respectfully request that your office investigate the humane handling situation at the Simply Essentials Poultry plant, and if you deem it appropriate, send the District Veterinary Medical Specialist to conduct a review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Jones".

Dena Jones  
Farm Animal Program Director

Attachment



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## Poultry Slaughter Plants with the Most GCP Records, 2015-2017\*

Company Name	Plant Number	Plant Location	# of Records
Simmons Prepared Foods	P550	Decatur, AR	44
Case Farms Processing	P419	Morganton, NC	38
Pilgrim's Pride**	P7091	Mt. Pleasant, TX	34
Simply Essentials Poultry	P34668	Charles City, IA	30
Case Farms of Ohio	P15724	Winesburg, OH	29
Sanderson Farms	P51179	Palestine, TX	29
Jennie-O Turkey** (Hormel Foods)	P544	Melrose, MN	22
Wayne Farms	P519	Laurel, MS	22
Mar-Jac Poultry	P517	Hattiesburg, MS	21
Tecumseh Poultry (Tyson Foods)	P20251	Tecumseh, NE	21
Allen Harim Foods	P935	Harbeson, DE	20
Norbest Turkey (Pitman Farms)	M751	Moroni, UT	20
Tyson Foods**	P5842	Springdale, AR	19
Pilgrim's Pride**	P843	Marshville, NC	19
Pilgrim's Pride**	P1353	Chattanooga, TN	18
Mar-Jac Poultry	P1307	Jasper, AL	16
Sanderson Farms	P34308	Waco, TX	16
Southern Hens	P17766	Moselle, MS	16
House of Raeford**	P687	West Columbia, SC	15
Tyson Foods**	P325	Center, TX	15
Pilgrim's Pride**	P1284	Canton, GA	14
Gold'n Plump (Pilgrim's Pride)**	M322A	Cold Spring, MN	13
Mountaire Farms	P3	Millsboro, DE	13
OK Foods**	P165H	Heavener, OK	13
Turkey Valley Farms	P7669	Marshall, MN	13

\*According to documents received by the Animal Welfare Institute in response to multiple Freedom of Information Act requests.

\*\* Company—but not necessarily this particular plant—supplies chicken and/or turkey products to federal nutrition assistance programs (e.g., school lunch).