

DIRECT ACTION *DA* EVERYWHERE

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Case Dismissed Against Iowa Man Who Exposed Cruel Mass Pig Killing at Major Pork Supplier

*Grundy County Attorney Cites Iowa Select Farms' refusal to testify as cause for
dismissal*



Iowa Select Farms Workers with bolt guns check for any surviving pigs following a “ventilation shutdown” mass killing of pigs in at a rural Aplington, Iowa facility on May 19, 2020. (Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)

*****Please note that it is inaccurate to refer to “ventilation shutdown” as “humane,” “euthanasia” or similar terms connoting a death relatively free of pain and suffering. Not only would a reasonable assessment of the [audio](#) of this practice deem it the opposite of “humane,” but the very [AVMA depopulation guidelines](#) cited by Iowa Select Farms in defending the practice do not claim that VSD is either “humane” or “euthanasia.” Rather, the guidelines acknowledge that, “Depopulation may employ euthanasia techniques, but not all depopulation methods meet the [AVMA] criteria for euthanasia.” VSD is categorized only as “Permitted in constrained circumstances,” for swine -- an acknowledgement that this method involves considerably more suffering than the eight “Preferred” methods listed. The guidelines go on to offer only a very tepid justification for VSD, saying only that the method is *perhaps* preferable to death “over a longer period of time from distressing and devastating disease.”**

JANUARY 29, GRUNDY COUNTY, IA - A Grundy county prosecutor has dismissed the case against [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) investigator Matt Johnson, a Cresco, Iowa native who [exposed](#) Iowa Select Farms’ (ISF) mass killing of pigs via “ventilation shutdown” (VSD) -- a mass killing technique which DxE says amounts to roasting pigs alive. Photo, video and audio of VSD are available [here](#), in which pigs can be heard shrieking in extreme distress for well over an hour.

The dismissal order cites the refusal of witnesses subpoenaed by the defense to testify as the basis for the dismissal.

DxE says the Grundy County prosecution is just the latest example of ISF’s pattern of using its power -- politically, legally, and even targeting its own employees -- to suppress those who disagree with its practices.

- At ISF’s request, the FBI questioned a whistleblower who assisted DxE, asking him about becoming an informant against DxE.

- ISF has fired four employees, including a top ranking executive, in retaliation for disagreeing (even internally) with the use of VSD.

- Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, who has received hundreds of thousands of dollars from ISF owners Jeff and Deb Hansen, is shown to be closely tied to ISF in documents received via FOIA requests. Reynolds has [signed into law](#) two “ag-gag” statutes, which criminalize undercover videography in animal agriculture facilities.

“This company knows that the public -- including its own employees, whom I’ve spoken to personally -- are horrified to learn what ISF is willing to do in the name of profit,” said Johnson, who still faces a [felony prosecution](#) related to investigating ISF facilities and practices. “Rather than being open and transparent, and improving their practices, this company is deliberately cultivating a climate of fear and intimidation. They’re desperate to conceal their abhorrent and criminal misconduct.”

Johnson continued, “I’m proud to be born and raised in this state. Unfortunately, Iowa’s rampant animal abuse and corrupt politics fly in the face of the common-decency values its good people instilled in me as a child.”

Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other agricultural facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE’s investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [ABC Nightline](#), and a [mass pig killing Glenn Greenwald exposé](#). DxE activists led the 2019 grassroots effort to [ban fur products in California](#).

Activists have been [subjected to FBI raids](#) and [felony prosecutions](#) for these investigations and rescues. Visit Direct Action Everywhere on [Facebook](#), at [directactioneverywhere.com](#), and on Twitter [@DxEverywhere](#).

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I'd love to assist any time with additional information, photos/video, etc.

Matt

IGNORE BELOW:

By way of intro, [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) is a global grassroots animal rights network, with investigatory work covered in [The New York Times](#), [The Intercept](#), [WIRED Magazine](#) and more.

****My Grundy County charges were just dropped!**** (The misdemeanor trespass charges which were scheduled for trial Monday.)

We're doing a call at 3:00 to plan next steps on this, open to anybody who is interested!