

DIRECT ACTION *DxE* EVERYWHERE

Contact: Matt Johnson, matt@directactioneverywhere.com, 319.464.5985

24 Hour Slaughterhouse Vigil Follows Release of Shocking Mini-Documentary

Rotting pig carcasses are seen being fed on by wild animals after workers cut infected flesh out of carcasses before selling them for human consumption

[PHOTOS AND VIDEO](#)



WHERE: Yosemite Foods, 4221 E Mariposa Rd, Stockton, CA 95215

WHEN: 11 AM Thursday, July 16 - 11 AM Friday, July 16

Activists will “bear witness” as pigs arrive, play music, and conduct trainings Thursday morning through Friday morning at a [24 Hour Vigil for Pigs](#). Equipped with water sprayers, head lamps and signs, activists will seek to comfort the animals and provide them water to the pigs.

The somber demonstration follows a [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) investigation, in collaboration with a California slaughterhouse employee whistleblower, chronicled in yesterday’s release of “Unseen.” It’s a

mini-documentary which chronicles pigs' harrowing 700-mile journey across the American southwest, with misconduct that's both cruel to pigs and a threat to public health.

Hidden cameras planted at Yosemite Meats in Stockton, California, show diseased flesh cut away from carcasses which are then **approved by USDA inspectors for human consumption**. Other footage showed pigs **regaining consciousness after having their throats slit** while upside down on the slaughter line.

Raven Deerbrook, who led DxE's investigation in addition to directing the film, followed transport trucks emerging from Smithfield's Circle Four Farms in Milford, Utah -- the largest pig farm in the county. It was previously [investigated](#) by DxE in 2017.

Deerbrook's investigation revealed hundreds of pigs crowded into a single trailer, denied food and water during the twelve-plus hour journey, with temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees.

Unseen shows rotten pig flesh at Yosemite Meats dumped on the ground in open air, where it is fed on by wild animals -- a proven hazard for the spread of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19.

It's not the first time Yosemite's practices have drawn [public scorn](#).

Despite ghastly infractions of the USDA's guidelines, the USDA and Smithfield have taken no remedial action. Activists say the demands the industry sets on kill lines are despicable to humans, resulting in many amputations and deaths each year, even as slaughterhouses breed the largest COVID-19 outbreaks in the US. These protocols, they say, also ensure that pigs suffer significantly before death.

DxE previously [exposed](#) gruesome "ventilation shutdown" mass killing of thousands of pigs with shocking footage recorded in May. They say the new abuses exposed in *Unseen* further demonstrate the depths of the industry's cost-saving cruelty.

DxE says the public is opposed to industry abuses, but are denied truthful information by the animal agriculture's corrupting influence over our political system. And they say Smithfield is a prime example. The company contributes large sums to political candidates, who in turn [target the investigators](#), rather than taking action to stop the misconduct they reveal.

As part of its #CancelAnimalAg campaign, DxE is calling on California Governor Gavin Newsom to issue a moratorium prohibiting the construction of new factory farms and slaughterhouses in the state, with a plan to phase them out entirely over the next five years. Rather than doubling-down with subsidies to support the construction of facilities, like the \$2,000,000 [incentive](#) California contributed to the construction of Yosemite Meats, activists are calling for an end to the devastation once and for all.

"Expose the truth to protect our future, to prevent pandemics while we still can," Deerbrook implores in the film's narration. "Turn towards suffering with the strength of mercy, because our fates are connected, if we don't stop this industry."

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 [viral 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](#).

###