

DIRECT ACTION *DA* EVERYWHERE

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Land O' Lakes Dairy Exposé Reveals Freezing Calves, Widespread Violations of Company Policy and the Law

Workers seen dragging newborn calves by their ears

VIDEO

(Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)



A calf unable to turn around inside a hutch at a Land O' Lakes dairy farm

****UPDATE: Land O' Lakes issued a statement Thursday in response to the investigation, saying in part, "Participation in the [National Milk Producers Federation's National Dairy FARM Program](#) is a mandatory condition of Land O'Lakes, Inc. dairy membership and we are committed to maintaining compliance with all aspects of the program and the science that guides its development.*

APRIL 7 - Investigators with the animal rights group [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) have just released the results of a three-year investigation of 14 Land O' Lakes dairies in California and Wisconsin. DxE uncovered dozens of violations of the company's own animal welfare standards, including newborn calves dragged by their ears and dumped from a backhoe. A veterinarian who reviewed the footage [concurred](#) that it displays numerous animal welfare violations, and further, a former federal prosecutor who reviewed the facts offered this [legal opinion](#) on the footage stating that the treatment we documented constitutes criminal animal cruelty under state law.

DxE is submitting criminal complaints to relevant state and local authorities for all 14 sites on Thursday (April 7). They will also be submitting their findings to Land O' Lakes CEO Beth Ford, asking her to take immediate action to stop the illegal and cruel mistreatment of animals at her company's facilities.

Ford has been [lauded](#) for her progressive stances on human rights and farm animal welfare, and the company just revealed its [Dairy 2025 sustainability commitments](#) last month, which a spokesperson called "the next step in our company's longstanding focus on quality, transparency and accountability across our supply chain."

"This company is misleading consumers when it sells its dairy products," said Alexandra Paul, who led the investigation. "In fact, Land O' Lakes cares so little about enforcing its own welfare guidelines that 5 farms in the footage are owned by current and former Land O' Lakes board members."

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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