

Activists Delivered 7,000 Paper Hearts to Farmer John Slaughterhouse for the 7,000 Pigs Killed Each Day



[LIVESTREAM - PHOTOS AND VIDEO](#)

FEBRUARY 15th, VERNON, CA — Earlier today activists with the animal rights network [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) lined the street in front of Farmer John slaughterhouse displaying strings with 7,000 paper hearts attached to honor the 7,000 pigs that are killed at the facility every day.

Farmer John, owned by Smithfield Foods, is the largest pig slaughterhouse on the West Coast. The activists said they are drawing attention to the heartless attitude of the Smithfield corporation towards these sentient beings and to the workers at the facility. 49% of employees at the facility have [contracted](#) COVID-19.

“It’s time to shut down factory farms and slaughterhouses and create a future that prioritizes compassion, public health and the environment,” said DxE organizer and schoolteacher Brittany Michelson.

In September 2020, DxE activists made it inside Farmer John where they attempted unsuccessfully to [rescue](#) a pig from slaughter. Days later, dozens of activists were arrested at the slaughterhouse for chaining themselves to the gate. Today’s action is part of DxE’s continued effort to expose Smithfield’s cruelty and advance the No More Factory Farms campaign. The [campaign](#), which 40+ organizations have signed onto, calls on California leaders to enact a moratorium prohibiting the construction or expansion of slaughterhouses and factory farms in the state.

Factory farms are ideal settings for pandemics and disease to mutate and spread rapidly, with animals crowded together by the many thousands, surrounded by feces and urine which makes them highly susceptible to viral and bacterial infections. Furthermore, scientists agree that the use of [antibiotics in livestock](#) -- accounting for over 60% of the total antibiotic use in this country -- contributes significantly to [the problem of drug resistance](#). This resistance, in turn, fuels the growth of antibiotic-resistant pathogens, a risk the World Health Organization says poses [one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today](#), which could kill *10 million people every year* by 2050.

DxE investigations of Smithfield factory farms in California, Utah and North Carolina have [exposed](#) rampant antibiotic drug use and antibiotic-resistant disease, and mother pigs living in gestation crates just larger than their bodies, surrounded by their own dead and dying babies.

DxE asserts that the Smithfield corporation is a prominent example of the devastating effects that animal agriculture has on animals, the environment, and public health.

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](#).

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