

Time's up says Humane Canada: Third party auditing and assurance systems needed now to stem the ongoing abuse of farmed animals in Canada

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Humane Canada is angered by the news that another farm is under investigation for suspected animal abuse and condemns governments and industry's lack of action to protect animals on commercial farms.

Video released last night features shocking footage of dairy cows being violently beaten, dragged and kicked on the Cedar Valley Farm in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia.

"This new report of suspected animal abuse on another BC dairy farm is just the next in a long line of evidence that farmed animals are suffering while industry and government refuse to act," said Barbara Cartwright, CEO of Humane Canada.

Since 2012 nearly 20 reports of suspected animal abuse from unrelated farms across the country have been brought to officials with video evidence depicting everything from deplorable conditions and shoddy practices to criminal violations resulting in convictions of animal cruelty.

For years Humane Societies and SPCAs have called for third party auditing systems and adequate oversight to better protect farmed animals from abuse. Instead, governments and industry are moving toward anti-whistleblower legislation (also known as ag-gag) in order to prevent footage being released - effectively stopping the public from seeing what is happening behind farm doors.

Since 2019, four provinces have passed ag-gag laws, including Manitoba, PEI, Ontario and Alberta, while the federal government debated a national ag-gag law in the previous Parliament.

"The science is overwhelmingly clear that farmed animals are capable of cognitive thought, emotion, pain and suffering. They lack the ability to consent to or control their treatment by humans, which makes them highly vulnerable to abuse," said Cartwright. "However, the welfare of animals on farms is not regulated in Canada and is left to an industry that does not unilaterally recognize the sentience of the animals in their care."

By way of recent example, in 2019, during the debates on Bill 156 (ag-gag) in the Ontario Legislature, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture called into question whether animals could think or feel.



THE FEDERATION OF SPCAs AND HUMANE SOCIETIES
FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS D'ASSISTANCE AUX ANIMAUX

It is well past time for the government and industry to be held accountable to protect farmed animals as a top priority.

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[Footage available here](#)

For more information contact or for media inquiries:

Kristina Koehn

613-224-8072 ext. 13

Kristina@humanecanada.ca

Humane Canada, the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, brings together organizations that work with and care for animals to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. Humane Canada is a member of the National Farmed Animal Care Council and helps set farmed animal welfare standards.

For more information, visit <https://www.humanecanada.ca/>.