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# BURNHAM DAIRY FARM

An Animal Recovery Mission Undercover Investigation



Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission

November 13th, 2017



## Contact Information

**Address:** P.O Box 403344, Miami Beach, Florida 33140

**Email:** [kudo@arminvestigations.org](mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org)

**Web:** [www.animalrecoverymission.org](http://www.animalrecoverymission.org)

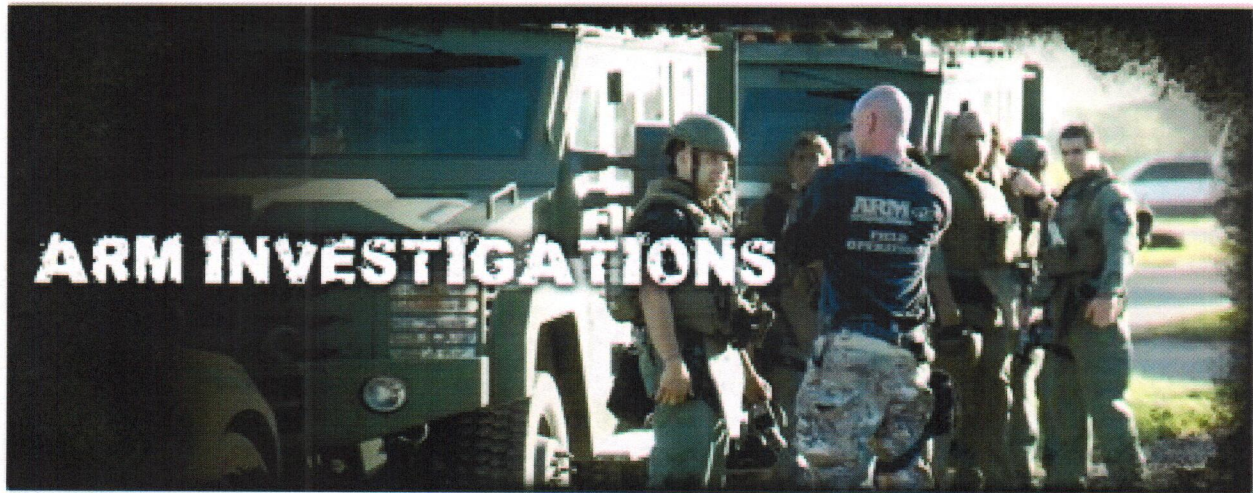
**Phone:** 305 494 2225

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# ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



Established in 2010, The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), is a non profit investigative organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM stands out as a vanguard and uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals. In addition, ARM strives to put an end to, and preventing pain, suffering and torture as a result of inhumane practices.

The mission of the organization is to implement direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of extreme animal cruelty. The organization's primary goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and to educate the public regarding animal cruelty, the practices that contribute to animal cruelty and the illegal animal slaughter. Achieving these goals contribute to an increased awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

Animal cruelty investigations taken on by ARM operatives include, but are not limited to; animal slaughter farms, animal sacrifice operations, illegal horse sales and slaughter, and animal fighting operations. In addition, ARM is focusing upon the pressing issues and concerns of animal welfare within the animal agriculture and factory farming sector.

Since 2010, ARM's undercover investigations have led to the closure of up to 138 illegal animal cruelty operations in the state of Florida alone. The following report provides detailed findings gathered during ARM's investigation of a dairy farm located in Ockeechobee Florida-known as Larson Dairy.

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## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION



Between August and October of 2017 an ARM Investigator was hired by Burnham Dairy as a dairy milker. Burnham Dairy is a small family owned farm. The investigator was under the direction of Richard Couto, President of Animal Recovery Mission. The ARM Investigator was issued and utilized surveillance equipment (no audio) to capture the violations noted within this report. The ARM Investigator is a combat veteran who conducted tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. It should be noted that Burnham Dairy was not specifically targeted. The Investigator was sent to multiple dairy farms in Okeechobee County. Burnham Dairy was the first farm to hire the investigator.

Due to the following actions detailed below, the Animal Recovery Mission is requesting that **Randy Burnham** (Burnham Dairy owner and location boss) be charged with a third degree felony. This is due to being a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty. In addition to this, charges are also being sought on employees for tormenting any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree.



The Florida Department of Agriculture (FDA) has conducted multiple inspections on Burnham Farms. There are documented violations of unsanitary structures and lack of rotation of the milk in the refrigerators. In March of 2016, the FDA issued an audit for a regulatory inspection, due to these same repeat violations. In April of 2017 inspectors noted the failure to keep the parlor and pit floor clean. Again, in July of 2017, FDA Inspectors were back on site and noted the failure to keep the milk-room clean along with the non removal of old milk out of the chiller. This highlights a major infringement of mandatory industry standards that are not being met or enforced.

Animal holding areas are overcrowded and unsanitary forcing cows to lay in their own urine and feces after extended periods of standing. At times, the ARM Investigator noted up to 4 inches of feces on the ground within the holding barn and over a foot of water during rain storms. Deceased dairy cows were also observed within the same enclosure laying lifeless in the standing water while nearby cows stand and rest. There is also a constant issue with overheating within these barns due to the overcrowding and lack of air circulation. The milking barn is also covered in feces. Feces are observed on the walls and milking equipment.

When the dairy cows are released from their holding area they must enter the milking barn through a narrow enclosure containing a concrete ramp. The ramp is covered in feces and water. On numerous occasions cows are observed slipping and falling to the ground as they attempt to climb the ramp. Employees, to include the ARM Investigator, have slipped on the feces and fallen onto their backs.

While dairy cows enter the milking barn they are repeatedly abused and tormented. As they make their way into the milking stations they are kicked and punched. Employees are filmed utilizing electric prods, long knotted lines, wet and knotted towels, belt like devices and metal clads. The ARM investigator witnessed supervisors of the farm teaching employees to beat the animals so they could get cows into position and retrieve milk faster. This is a common practice in the milking barn due to milking production demands.

Regardless of the condition the cows, they are forced into the milking production line. In the production line, cows become exhausted by being subjected to the mental and physical stress involved to execute the three time a day procedure of milking. Many cows became sick, weak, or injured and were incapable of walking unassisted. Within the dairy industry, these cows are referred to as DOWNER COWS. Due to them being slower, they are electrocuted, prodded, screamed at, kicked and dragged to a holding area where they are left for weeks. During this investigation, the ARM Investigator never witnessed a licensed veterinarian onsite to help any of the injured or sick cows. Animals suffered for days and even weeks rather than be euthanized.

In the company's efforts to obtain its goal of milk production, dairy cows are forcefully impregnated. Unskilled in the correct procedure to inseminate, farm employees would roughly shove their fists into the anus of the dairy cows, causing serious damage and pain. Void of following any sanitary protocols, the same insemination glove is used on multiple cows and in effect, transfer bodily fluids and diseases into multiple cows. Employees were often witnessed laughing and finding humor in 'raping' the cows.

As new calves are born they are pulled from their mothers and placed into cramped enclosures (roughly 4x6 ft. pens). These enclosures are left outside in the harsh environment and are often times left with no drinking water as the temperatures reach above 109 degrees. Calves are observed laying in mud and laying in their own feces. The enclosures are not properly shaded. Most contain ripped or missing tarps which allow the heat of the sun to continuously over power the calves. Many calves succumb to the heat and die. On numerous occasions, deceased calves were left in the same small enclosure as living calves. Due to the poor



drainage in the calf area, the enclosures are often time flooded. Calves are forced to lay in the water and eventually die of hyperthermia. The calves that continue to live, are forced fed utilizing 3 ft metal rod. Many calves at the Burnham Dairy have died due to the misuse of the feeding rod.

Once the calves reach a certain age/weight they are moved into larger pens. The pens are easily flooded. The calves are forced to lay in the mud and their feces. They also provide them with minimal to no shelter.

At no time during the investigation did the calves receive any medical attention from a veterinarian or farm employees. In fact, the farm's supervisors instruct their personnel to refrain from any life saving treatment and to simply 'let them die'.

Instead of being properly buried or removed from the property, as state guidelines stipulate, calves and adult cows who die are piled atop one another, onsite, to decay. Besides the major environmental threat that this is already causing, decaying bodily fluids are entering streams that run through the dumping site which then enter public waterways becoming a public health hazard as well. They are left in the open allowing access to land and flight predators. On any given day, the ARM Investigator observed over 30 vultures picking at the carcasses.

Burnham Farms is comprised of several structures which includes the large processing/animal holding area, a feeding barn and a milking barn. All structures are currently unstable, even collapsing while ARM Investigator on site. There are exposed electrical cables (near water and liquid matter) and open drainage systems which present severe safety hazards to both the animals and employees of the farm. Drains are constantly becoming clogged from animal waste and flood to nearly 1 ft in depth causing cows to fall, get stuck in the drains and injure themselves. In addition, operations being conducted by Burnham Farms, are not up to current building and zoning codes for the State of Florida.

Milk collected throughout the day is picked up by distribution trucks from Southeast Milk. Southeast Milk is a highly profitable co-op owned company that is made up of over 320 dairy farms, including Burnham Farms. Here, dairy products are processed and distributed to large supermarket conglomerates such as Publix.



# **LOCATION**



# Okeechobee County Property Appraiser

updated: 7/20/2017

## 2016 Certified Values

**Parcel:** 1-35-36-35-0010-00000-0360

[Parcel List Generator](#)

[Retrieve Tax Record](#)

[Property Card](#)

[2016 TRIM \(pdf\)](#)

[Interactive GIS Map](#)

[Print](#)

### Owner & Property Info

Search Result: 1 of 1

<b>Owner's Name</b>	BURNHAM DOUGLAS W & DENISE M		
<b>Site Address</b>	2411 NE 54TH TRL, OKEECHOBEE		
<b>Mailing Address</b>	2411 NE 54TH TRAIL OKEECHOBEE, FL 349728606		
<b>Description</b>	R-BAR ESTATES UNIT NO. 1 (PLAT BOOK 5 PAGES 31 & 32) LOT 36		
<b>NOTE: This description is not to be used as the Legal Description for this parcel in any legal transaction.</b>			
<b>Land Area</b>	2.540 ACRES	<b>S/T/R</b>	35-36-35
<b>Neighborhood</b>	124410.00	<b>Tax District</b>	30
<b>DOR Use Code</b>	SINGLE FAM (000100)	<b>Market Area</b>	124
The DOR Use Code shown here is a Dept. of Revenue code. Please contact the Okeechobee County Planning & Development office at 863-763-5548 for specific zoning information.			

### GIS Aerial



### Property & Assessment Values

2016 Certified Values

<b>Mkt Land Value</b>	cnt: (2)	\$32,090.00
<b>Ag Land Value</b>	cnt: (0)	\$0.00
<b>Building Value</b>	cnt: (2)	\$144,655.00
<b>XFOB Value</b>	cnt: (4)	\$17,568.00
<b>Total Appraised Value</b>		\$194,313.00

<b>Just Value</b>	\$194,313.00
<b>Class Value</b>	\$0.00
<b>Assessed Value</b>	\$155,963.00
<b>Exempt Value</b>	(code: HX H3) \$50,000.00
<b>Total Taxable Value</b>	\$105,963.00

### Sales History

[Show Similar Sales within 1/2 mile](#)

[Fill out Sales Questionnaire](#)

Sale Date	Book/Page	Inst. Type	Sale VImp	Sale Qual	Sale RCode (Code List)	Sale Price
7/1/1989	<a href="#">306/1197</a>	WD	V	Q		\$20,000.00
2/7/1979	<a href="#">226/851</a>	WD	V	Q		\$10,400.00

### Building Characteristics

Bldg Sketch	Bldg Item	Bldg Desc	Year Blt	Base S.F.	Total S.F.	Bldg Value
<a href="#">Show Sketch</a>	1	SINGLE FAM (000100)	1990	2072	2832	\$126,628.00
<a href="#">Show Sketch</a>	2	MSC/OUTBLD (009600)	1995	1260	1260	\$18,027.00

### Extra Features & Out Buildings - ( [Show Codes](#) )

Code	Desc	Year Blt	Value	Units	Dims	Condition (% Good)
FIRE 2	1STORY C D	1990	\$2,033.00	0000001.000	0 x 0 x 0	PD (075.00)
ODA	OPN DRT AL	2003	\$239.00	0000100.000	10 x 10 x 0	PD (075.00)
POOL1	CONCRETE	2005	\$11,340.00	0000450.000	30 x 15 x 0	PD (100.00)
CONC R	COOL CRETE	2005	\$3,956.00	0001206.000	0 x 0 x 0	PD (100.00)

### Land Breakdown

Lnd Code	Desc	Units	Adjustments	Eff Rate	Lnd Value
131RB1	FIRST ACRE (MKT)	0000001.000 AC	1.00/1.00/1.00/1.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
931RB1	REMAIN AC (MKT)	0000001.540 AC	1.00/1.00/1.00/1.00	\$8,500.00	\$13,090.00





[Department of State](#) / [Division of Corporations](#) / [Search Records](#) / [Detail By Document Number](#) /

## Detail by Entity Name

Florida Profit Corporation

BURNHAM FARMS INC.

### Filing Information

<b>Document Number</b>	246545
<b>FEI/EIN Number</b>	59-0921430
<b>Date Filed</b>	05/01/1961
<b>State</b>	FL
<b>Status</b>	ACTIVE
<b>Last Event</b>	NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT
<b>Event Date Filed</b>	05/18/1998
<b>Event Effective Date</b>	NONE

### Principal Address

5430 NE 304TH STREET  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

Changed: 01/11/2005

### Mailing Address

2411 NE 54TH TRAIL  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

Changed: 01/22/2008

### Registered Agent Name & Address

BURNHAM, DENISE M  
2411 NE 54TH TRAIL  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

Name Changed: 02/08/2010

Address Changed: 01/22/2008

### Officer/Director Detail

#### **Name & Address**

Title D

BURNHAM, AUBREY L  
419 SE 8TH AVENUE





[Department of State](#) / [Division of Corporations](#) / [Search Records](#) / [Return to Detail Screen](#) /

[Return to Detail Screen](#)

## Events

### BURNHAM FARMS INC.

**Document Number** 246545  
**Date Filed** 05/01/1961  
**Effective Date** None  
**Status** Active

Event Type	Filed Date	Effective Date	Description
NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT	05/18/1998		OLD NAME WAS : BOYNTON BEACH DAIRIES, INC.
AMENDMENT	12/28/1992		
REINSTATEMENT	11/25/1992		
INVOLUNTARILY DISSOLVED	11/16/1987		

[Return to Detail Screen](#)



OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

## Title D

BURNHAM, WANDA L  
419 SE 8TH AVENUE  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

## Title PT

DOUGLAS, BURNHAM W  
2411 NE 54TH TRAIL  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

## Title VS

BURNHAM, RANDY L  
1982 NE 54TH TRAIL  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

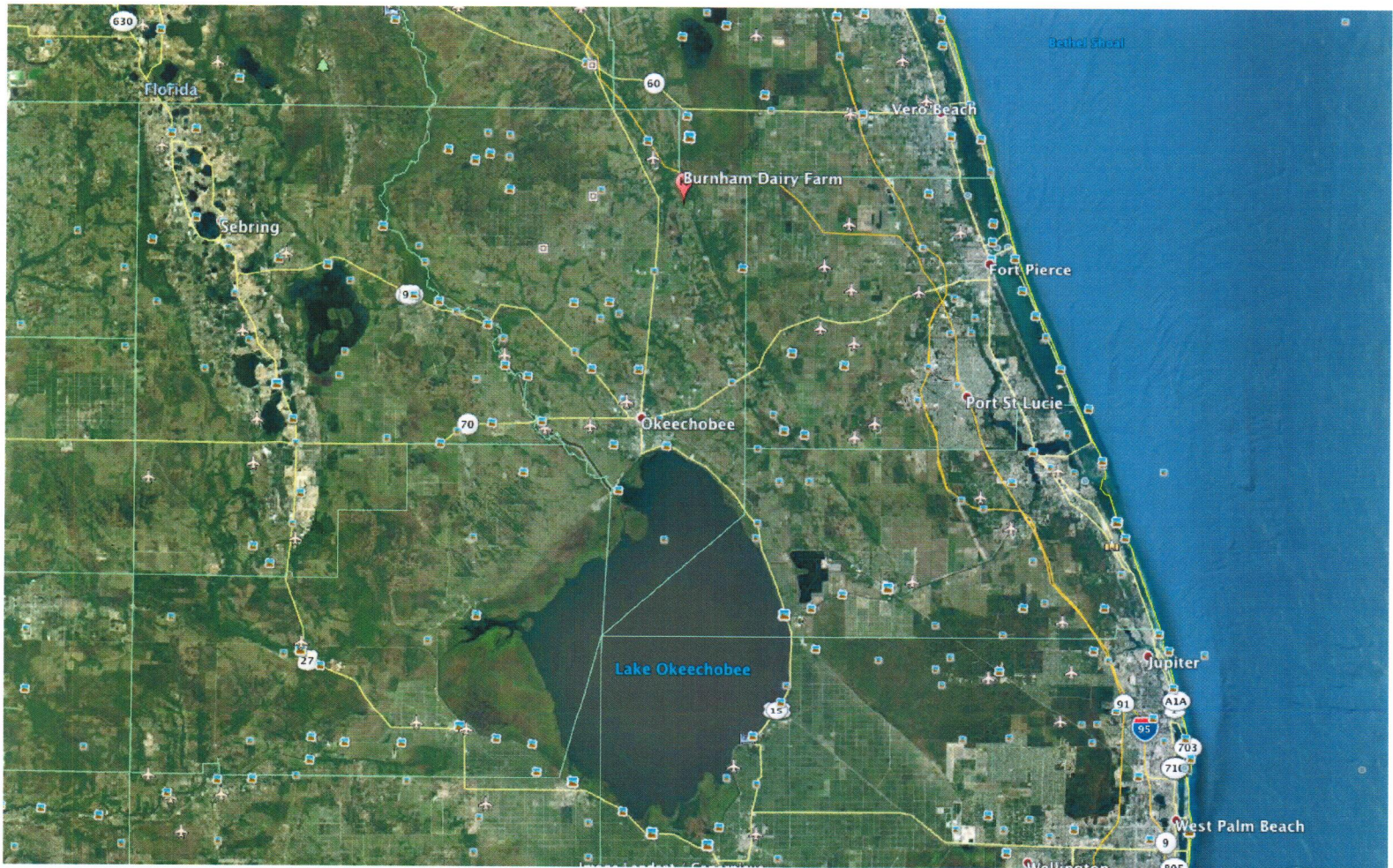
**Annual Reports**

Report Year	Filed Date
2015	03/05/2015
2016	04/19/2016
2017	03/08/2017

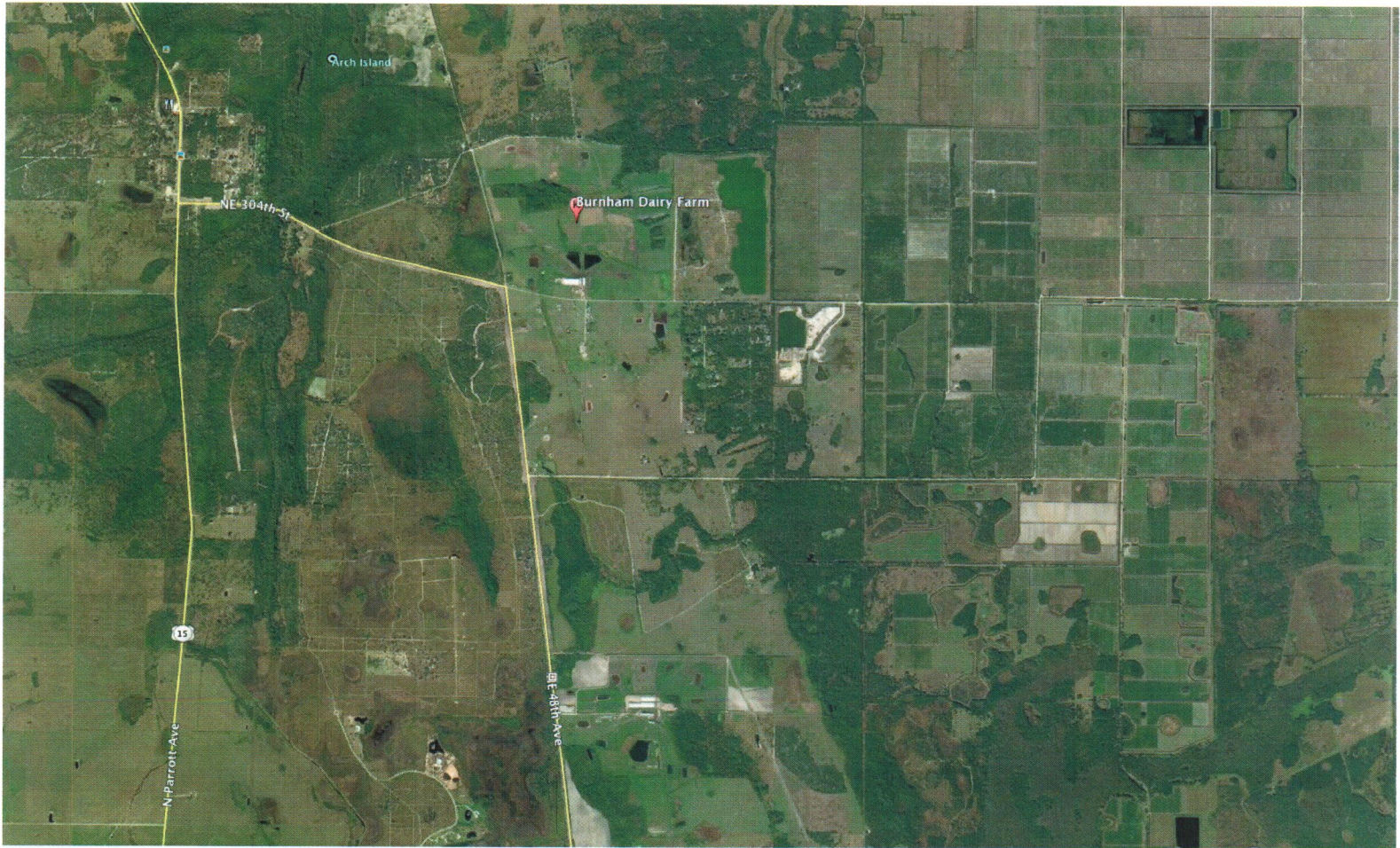
**Document Images**

<a href="#">03/08/2017 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/19/2016 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">03/05/2015 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">02/26/2014 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">02/13/2013 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">03/22/2012 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">02/17/2011 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">02/08/2010 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/30/2009 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/22/2008 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/16/2007 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/16/2006 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/11/2005 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">01/16/2004 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">03/27/2003 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/09/2002 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">05/03/2001 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/24/2000 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/21/1999 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">05/18/1998 – Name Change</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/20/1998 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>
<a href="#">04/22/1997 – ANNUAL REPORT</a>	<a href="#">View image in PDF format</a>



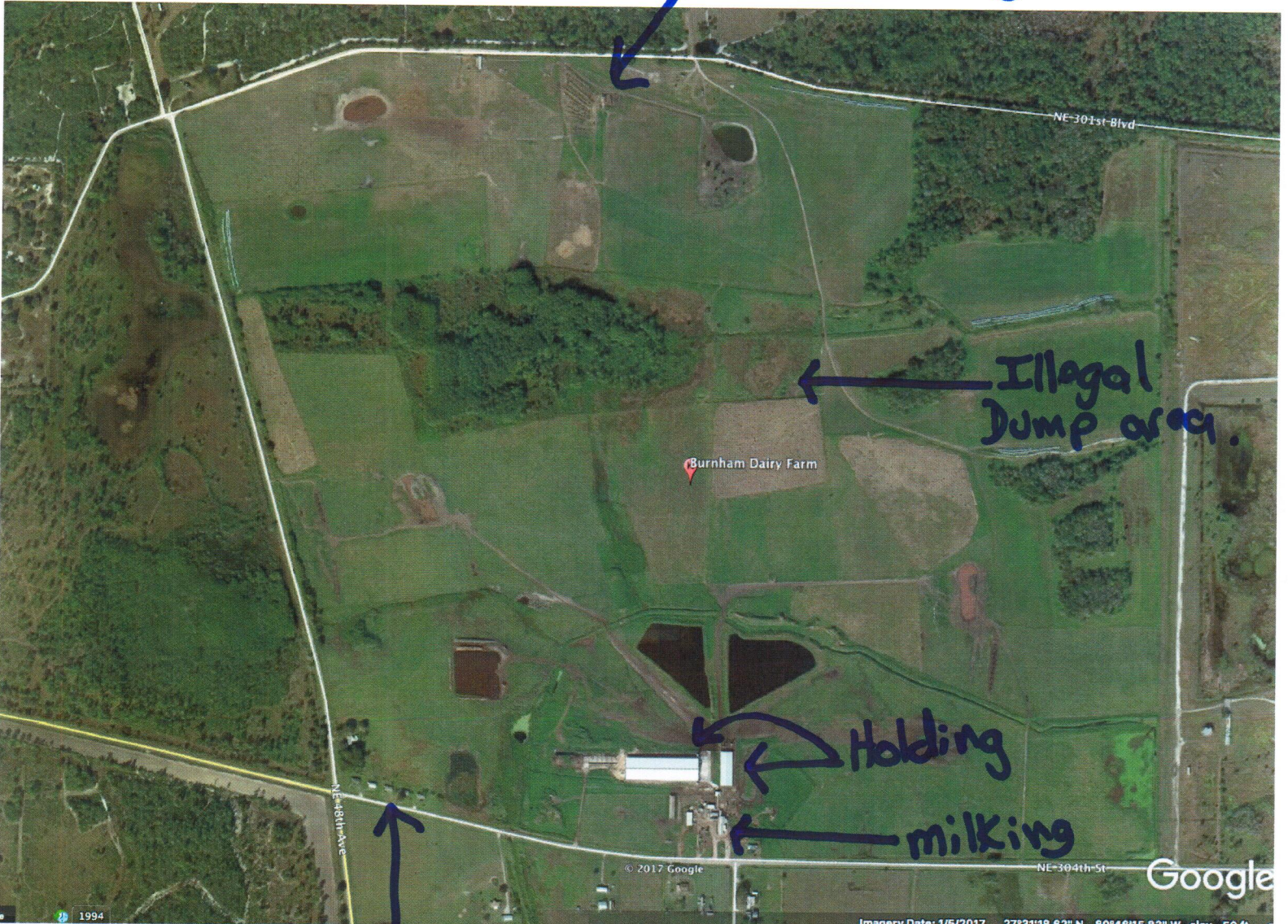








male & female  
calf holding



Illegal  
Dump area.

Holding

milking

Worker Housing

Google

Imagery Date: 1/6/2017 27°31'18.62" N 80°46'15.83" W elev 50 ft



# **REPORT RECIPIENTS**



**U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

Florida District Office  
555 Winderly Place, Suite #200  
Maitland, FL. 32751

**Florida Department of Health**

Bureau of Environmental Health  
4042 Bald Cypress Way  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

Southeast District  
3301 Gun Club Rd  
MSC 7210-1  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

**Florida Department of Agriculture**

Bureau of Dairy Industry  
3125 Conner Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399

**Environmental Protection Agency**

Office of Inspector General  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2410T)  
Washington, DC 20460

**Okeechobee Code Enforcement**

Beth Albert, Supervisor  
1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
email: [balbert@co.okeechobee.fl.us](mailto:balbert@co.okeechobee.fl.us)

**Okeechobee County**

Environmental Health Department  
1728 NW 9th Avenue  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972

**Okeechobee Building Department**

Mike Desorcy, Building Official  
1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
email: [mdesorcy@safebuilt.com](mailto:mdesorcy@safebuilt.com)

# **CRIMES - VIOLATIONS**





(/)

LOG IN (HTTPS://PRO.FDAZILLA.COM)

STORE (/STORE/483S/)

3003804383-20160325

FDA Inspections (/inspections/database/)
/ Burnham Farms (/inspections/database/search?q=burnham+farms)
/ Okeechobee (/inspections/database/okeechobee) / Mar 2016

Burnham Farms Mar 2016 Inspection

5431 Ne 304th St
Okeechobee, FL, 34972-0320

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) audited the Burnham Farms facility in Okeechobee, FL, United States on in Mar 2016. This inspection ended on // and lasted 1 day. FDA has indicated that no FDA Form 483 was issued.

There has been 1 previous inspection at this site going as far back as Mar 2012.

PREVIOUS SITE INSPECTION(S) WITH 483

FDAZILLA

SERVICES

BLOG POSTS

CONTACT

About FDA Enforcement Analytics
(https://fdazilla.com/about/) (https://fdazilla.com/ea)

The True Cost of a 483 or WL
(http://blog.fdazilla.com/2016/08/what-does-getting-an-483-or-warning-letter-really-cost-you/)

+1 844 332-3320
sales@fdazilla.com
(mailto:sales@fdazilla.com?subject=Request+for+info)

Services 483 Downloads
(https://fdazilla.com/services/) (https://fdazilla.com/483s)

5 Features to Look for in an EIR
(http://blog.fdazilla.com/2016/08/five-features-to-look-for-in-an-eir/)

1905
Marketview

Plans & Pricing
(https://fdazilla.com/plans) (https://fdazilla.com/ri)

Top 14 Posts of all Time
(http://blog.fdazilla.com/2016/07/top-14-posts-of-all-time/)

Suite 205
Yorkville, IL

Get 483s
(https://fdazilla.com/store/483s/) (https://fdazilla.com/inspectorprofiles)
FDA Inspection Monitoring
(https://fdazilla.com/im)

FDA Infographic: 15 Years of Inspections
(http://blog.fdazilla.com/2015/10/the-fda-has-had-a-busy-15-years/)

Manufacturing Risk Intelligence
(https://fdazilla.com/mri)

FDA Data Integrity
(http://blog.fdazilla.com/2016/07/to-understand-data-integrity-just-read-these-6-fda-483s/)

FDA Employee Directory
(https://fdazilla.com/fda-employee/directory/)

FDA 483s: Avoid and Respond
(http://fda483s.com)

Privacy (https://fdazilla.com/privacy)

Terms (/terms)

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(https://www.facebook.com/FDAzilla/)

(https://twitter.com/fdazilla)

(https://www.linkedin.com/company/fdazilla)

**Farm Inspection Summary**  
**Between 10/26/2015 And 10/26/2017**

**Burnham Farms, Inc.**

**Permit No.:** 12-0465-FARM

**Inspector:** Stokes (10)

**Coop-BTU:** 12-610

Inspection	Date	Type	Score	Debit Nos.	Comments
CMS-2015-144	10/29/2015	RT	89	6a,12c,15a,18c,19g	
CMS-2016-016	01/26/2016	RT	96	7c	
CMS-2016-046	04/21/2016	RT	82	3a,6a,14e,18a,18c,19g	
ZC-2016-022	05/11/2016	IMS	92	3a,18a	NOTE - RX label on RTU EZ is not correct, handwritten information is correct but meat withdrawal was not changed to reflect 4 vs 3 days. Cooling Charts Last Inspection 4.21.16 18c, 18a, 19g, 6a, 14e, 3a 82%
CMS-2016-082	07/27/2016	RT	76	3a*,6a*,7c,8a,9a,18a*,19c	
CMS-2016-110	08/24/2016	FU	100		All repeat violations have been corrected
CMS-2016-131	10/25/2016	RT	98	19c	Note: Milkroom doors are self closing until they reach a certain point, took into repairing
CMS-2017-008	01/19/2017	RT	89	7d,15a,18a	
CMS-2017-056	04/12/2017	RT	94	12a,19c,19g	Note: Parlor cleanliness, pit floor and highlines.
CMS-2017-098	07/27/2017	RT	93	15a,18a	Note: Watch milkroom cleanliness, remove old milk from chiller.

**Average:**

90.9



**Farm Inspection Summary**  
**Between 10/13/2016 And 10/13/2017**

**Burnham Farms, Inc.**

**Permit No.:** 12-0465-FARM

**Inspector:** Stokes (10)

**Coop-BTU:** 12-610

Inspection	Date	Type	Score	Debit Nos.	Comments
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CMS-2017-056	04/12/2017	RT	94	12a,19c,19g	Note: Parlor cleanliness, pit floor and highlines.
CMS-2017-098	07/27/2017	RT	93	15a,18a	Note: Watch milkroom cleanliness, remove old milk from chiller.

*Average:*

93.5

# REFERENCES





EN ESPAÑOL

MENU



Meet Our  
**FARMERS**

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## COW CARE



Treating animals with respect and compassion is part of every dairy farmer's heritage. Simply put, no dairy farmer can succeed without healthy and content cows. Farmers recognize that good animal welfare practices lead to the production of high-quality, safe and wholesome milk, and they're constantly seeking ways to improve the comfort of their animals.

Dairy cows are indeed the stars of the farm, and they are treated as such. Maintaining a healthy and comfortable herd of cows is job number one. Dairy cows receive regular visits from veterinarians, and farmers work to assure their cows' comfort. Many dairy farms feature bedding made of white sand that makes for a clean and cool area where the cows can rest. Large barns provide shade from the Florida sun, and the combination of fans and



sprinkler systems produce a cool mist. Farmers also make sure cows have their hooves trimmed, something they call a “cow pedicure.” Cows have all-day access to fresh water, and an animal dietitian creates diets to assure a cow gets exactly what it needs to function at its best and produce wholesome milk.

## Healthy Diets

Dairy farmers rely on experts in nutrition for advice on feeding their cows. Dairy nutritionists recommend scientifically formulated and balanced diets that consist of hay, grains, protein sources and other vitamins and minerals. Sometimes the nutritionist incorporates recycled ingredients such as citrus pulp, brewers’ mash and whole cottonseed, which add valuable nutrients to the feed. Much of the feed is a byproduct of another industry. For example, Florida leads the nation in orange juice production, and all of that citrus pulp makes for tasty and nutritious feed for the cows, instead of ending up in a landfill. Another important part of a cow’s diet is water. Cows get thirsty and can drink anywhere from 25 to 50 gallons of water a day. As a result, farmers make sure their cows have access to clean water at all times.

## Comfortable Housing

Many of Florida's farms utilize free-stall barns, meaning the cows are free to move about to eat, drink or rest whenever and wherever they like. These barns also provide shade and protection from the elements. Inside these barns, farmers provide comfortable bedding for the cows in the form of sand, wood chips, recycled shredded rubber or water mattresses. Most Florida farms also use a system of spray misters and large fans to keep the cows cool.

## Medical Care

During milking, dairy farmers and their employees are constantly checking and monitoring their animals. Nutritious diets, comfortable living conditions and solid medical care are all part of taking good care of their animals. That includes regular veterinarian check-ups for the entire farm to keep an eye on the wellness of the herd. Vaccinations and prompt treatment of illnesses are among the many practices used by dairy farmers to ensure healthy herds. Cows are no different than people in that they sometimes become ill and require medical care. Farmers work with large-animal veterinarians, who can diagnose and treat an illness with the proper medication. Any cows that receive medicine to aid in a speedy recovery are removed from the healthy herd and won’t rejoin it until their milk tests free of antibiotics. Milk that tests positive for antibiotics is not permitted in the food supply and is immediately discarded.



# BURNHAM FARMS INC.



*"I wish the public better understood how much effort Florida's dairies have put into being good caretakers of the environment."*

Science orbits the career of Ok Randy Burnham. A former science graduate from the University of agricultural engineering. He has of directors since 2001 and also Scientific Advisory Panel, which issues concerning the dairy industry.

"The Scientific Advisory Panel farmers," says Randy. "The media and consumers with expertise animal care to environmental concerns."

A native of Texas, his family moved young. His father and grandfather Boynton Beach before moving Randy was in the first grade.

Today he owns and operates E brother Douglas, father Aubrey Williams Burnham, is an adjunct College, where she teaches En Lynn and Kelsey Kay.

Their 1,200-cow dairy sits on 5 County. "We consider ourselves as much grazing and forage work says.

With his science background, Randy protecting the environment.

"I wish the public better understood dairies have put into being good says. "It is time-consuming and public can feel good about the impact."



## ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS



There's an old saying about farmers being the first environmentalists. Caring for the land, water and air remains a daily commitment by dairy farmers. Most dairy farmers make their home at the farm, giving them even more incentive to be a good neighbor and protect natural resources.

### Fresh Air For Everyone

Clean air is important to everyone and farmers protect air quality by keeping barns clean and using special manure storage facilities to help control odors.



Research and development has inspired new practices and innovative technologies to improve manure and odor management. For example, dairy nutritionists can formulate diets for cows that reduce the odor of manure. Other technologies such as air-filtration systems in barns, odor-reducing additives for manure-storage facilities and even methane digesters, which use manure to produce electricity, are being incorporated in some dairy operations.

## Power Up!

Alternative energy is all the buzz these days, and dairy farmers are caught up in it too. Methane digesters are a great new way to collect methane gas released from manure and convert it to energy. This “biogas” is a renewable fuel that can be used to generate electricity for both the dairy farm and the local community.

## Plentiful Clean Water

Because dairy cows need to drink plenty of clean water to stay healthy and produce quality milk, farmers take water protection and conservation practices seriously.

The proper recycling of cow manure plays a central role in protecting nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Farmers store manure and spread it on their crop fields according to a Nutrient Management Plan that takes into account the types of soil found on the farm, the terrain of the fields and the amount of nutrients needed by the crops.

Another high priority for farmers is storing the solid and liquid manure until weather conditions are right for fertilizing the land. Many farmers use progressive lagoons to store and naturally treat the manure. In a lagoon, solids settle to the bottom, and bacteria and microorganisms break down the manure that results in a nutrient-rich wastewater with fewer odors.



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## The 2017 Florida Statutes

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[Title XLVI](#)  
CRIMES

[Chapter 823](#)  
PUBLIC NUISANCES

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### 823.14 Florida Right to Farm Act.—

(1) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Florida Right to Farm Act.”

(2) **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**—The Legislature finds that agricultural production is a major contributor to the economy of the state; that agricultural lands constitute unique and irreplaceable resources of statewide importance; that the continuation of agricultural activities preserves the landscape and environmental resources of the state, contributes to the increase of tourism, and furthers the economic self-sufficiency of the people of the state; and that the encouragement, development, improvement, and preservation of agriculture will result in a general benefit to the health and welfare of the people of the state. The Legislature further finds that agricultural activities conducted on farm land in urbanizing areas are potentially subject to lawsuits based on the theory of nuisance and that these suits encourage and even force the premature removal of the farm land from agricultural use. It is the purpose of this act to protect reasonable agricultural activities conducted on farm land from nuisance suits.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—As used in this section:

(a) “Farm” means the land, buildings, support facilities, machinery, and other appurtenances used in the production of farm or aquaculture products.

(b) “Farm operation” means all conditions or activities by the owner, lessee, agent, independent contractor, and supplier which occur on a farm in connection with the production of farm, honeybee, or apiculture products and includes, but is not limited to, the marketing of produce at roadside stands or farm markets; the operation of machinery and irrigation pumps; the generation of noise, odors, dust, and fumes; ground or aerial seeding and spraying; the placement and operation of an apiary; the application of chemical fertilizers, conditioners, insecticides, pesticides, and herbicides; and the employment and use of labor.

(c) “Farm product” means any plant, as defined in s. [581.011](#), or animal or insect useful to humans and includes, but is not limited to, any product derived therefrom.

(d) “Established date of operation” means the date the farm operation commenced. If the farm operation is subsequently expanded within the original boundaries of the farm land, the established date of operation of the expansion shall also be considered as the date the original farm operation commenced. If the land boundaries of the farm are subsequently expanded, the established date of operation for each expansion is deemed to be a separate and independent established date of operation. The expanded operation shall not divest the farm operation of a previous established date of operation.

(4) **FARM OPERATION NOT TO BE OR BECOME A NUISANCE.**—

(a) No farm operation which has been in operation for 1 year or more since its established date of operation and which was not a nuisance at the time of its established date of operation shall be a public or private nuisance if the farm operation conforms to generally accepted agricultural and management practices, except that the following conditions shall constitute evidence of a nuisance:

1. The presence of untreated or improperly treated human waste, garbage, offal, dead animals, dangerous waste materials, or gases which are harmful to human or animal life.

2. The presence of improperly built or improperly maintained septic tanks, water closets, or privies.



Select Year: 2017 ▼ 

## The 2017 Florida Statutes

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2. The presence of improperly built or improperly maintained septic tanks, water closets, or privies.



Hurricane Irma: See the latest updates and information.

## Dairy Industry Inspections

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The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is charged with the regulation of all dairy facilities and related operations in Florida. Our team provides oversight of all Grade "A" dairy farms, Grade "A" processing plants, single service facilities, tanker washes, bulk milk haulers, manufactured milk processing plants, dairy distribution facilities and wholesale frozen dessert and/or ice cream mix facilities.

The Grade "A" dairy program is a cooperative program with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDACS and the FDA work together to ensure the safety of all dairy products produced in Florida. To ensure the program is being administered in accordance with FDA and the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments, FDA Regional Milk Specialists conduct routine inspections and program evaluations to evaluate the effective implementation of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, as adopted in Florida Administrative Code.

### Contact Us

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Bureau of Dairy Industry  
3125 Conner Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 245-5410  
[Zachary.Conlin@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Zachary.Conlin@FreshFromFlorida.com)



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**It's a New Day in Public Health.**

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

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## Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessment Program

**Florida Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessments**  
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**About the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**  
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**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**  
(<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>)

Since 1987, the Florida Department of Health (the Department) has received a grant from the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This grant funds a program to assess the public health risk from such sites. The program produces health assessment reports based on environmental data. Learn more about the health assessment process and see past reports. ([health-assessments.html](http://environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/health-assessments.html))

Hazardous Waste Site Health Risk Assessment Program

☎ **877-798-2772 (tel:877-798-2772)**

📍 **Mailing Address**  
Mailing Address  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1720

For technical assistance with problems or questions regarding this web page, please email: [phtoxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:phtoxicology@FLHealth.gov) (<mailto:phtoxicology@flhealth.gov>)

### HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES IN FLORIDA

**What is a hazardous waste site?**

A hazardous waste site may be a former landfill. It could be the site of a former industry or where crops were once grown. It could be any place where chemicals have gotten into the soil, water or air. Contact with the chemicals found at such sites may harm health.

**How many sites in Florida are on the National Priorities List (NPL)?**

As of October 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov/>) (EPA) has 65 hazardous waste sites in Florida either on the final or proposed National Priorities List (NPL) (<http://www2.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl>). This also includes NPL caliber sites or Superfund Alternative sites, which also merit federal interest. EPA has more details on the NPL site listing process. This includes a database that EPA keeps on sites. They call it the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (<http://www2.epa.gov/enviro/cerclis-overview>) (CERCLIS). Some people also call it Superfund.

**What data does FDOH review to assess a site?**





## Agriculture: Laws and Regulations that Apply to Your Agricultural Operation by Farm Activity

### Related Information

- [Laws and Regulations by Statute](#)
- [Upcoming and Recent Compliance Dates](#)
- [Programs, Practices, and Topics of Interest](#)
  
- [Join the Ag Center's News Service](#)

This is a general description of EPA’s requirements, and should only be used as a guide. Since rules and regulations may change, use this information as a starting place to determine which regulations apply to your agricultural operation.

About these lists:

- Programs applicable to the general public, common to multiple sectors, manufacturers of food products, and retailers may not be included.
- Some requirements only apply after a threshold is reached [e.g., size, geographical location].
- Many States have similar requirements to EPA’s but may be more stringent or broader in scope.

Check with your State and/or EPA Regional Office for more information.

- [Aquaculture](#)
- [Livestock and Poultry including beef, dairy, swine, poultry](#)
- [Crop production including nurseries, greenhouses, forestry](#)
- [Provision of Drinking Water](#)
- [Farm Facilities, Fuel and Equipment](#)
- [Buildings/Construction/Renovation](#)
- [Chemical Handling](#)
- [Air Emissions/Releases](#)
- [Wastes](#)

Livestock, Poultry and Aquaculture (including beef, dairy, swine, poultry, aquaculture)

Topic	Type of Farm or Ranch Activity	Link to Program Area Information	Requirements of Farm
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# Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Southeast District - Okeechobee Field Office

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## Florida Department of Environmental Protection Okeechobee Field Office

c/o SFWMD  
3800 NW 16th Boulevard  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

The Okeechobee Field Office (OFO) provides a wide variety of services to the regulated and unregulated public, local government and various state and federal agencies. Some of these activities include:

- » Routine Compliance/Enforcement activities on the Lake Okeechobee Basin Dairy Farms, which vary in size from 600 to 2200 milk cows per barn. These facilities have been under extreme scrutiny for decades in effort to reduce nutrient pollution to Lake Okeechobee. Facilities are now permitted as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- » Compliance/Enforcement activities on environmental restoration projects, including Kissimmee River restoration, Northern Everglades stormwater treatment areas, former dairy remediation programs, South Florida Water Management Dairy Best Available Technologies (BAT) projects and numerous other restoration efforts in the Lake Okeechobee and Northern Everglades areas.
- » Receive and respond to environmental complaints within Okeechobee and Western Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Complete detailed reports on complaints and take enforcement action when needed. These complaints can include Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, Drinking Water, Wastewater, Air, State Lands and Wetland Impacts.
- » Act as an information clearing house for the Department and its various programs
- » Participate in Interagency Workshops and Public Meetings
- » Evaluate various pilot projects related to stormwater and wastewater management within the nutrient sensitive Lake Okeechobee Basins
- » Provide non-binding wetland delineations of residential properties to determine if permitting will be necessary
- » Provide outreach to the community in terms of environmental programs and policies

The SED Okeechobee Field Office (OFO) has two full time employees:

- » [Greg Kennedy](#), Office: (863) 462-5888 / Cell: (863) 634-5557
- » [John Renfranz](#), Office: (863) 462-5891 / Cell: (863) 532-1083

## Quick Links

- [City of Port St. Lucie](#)
- [City of Stuart](#)
- [City of Okeechobee](#)
- [St. Lucie County](#)
- [Martin County](#)
- [SFWMD](#)
- [EPA](#)
- [FFWCC](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- [NOAA](#)
- [Florida Dept. of Health](#)
- [Florida State Warning Point](#)

Last updated: February 20, 2015  
Southeast District ~ 3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 7210-1, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 (561) 681-6600 (phone) / (561) 681-6755 (fax)





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# The CARES Program Mission

To promote environmentally sound farming practices while educating the public on agriculture's role in protecting Florida's natural resources.

## News Items

Q

Clay County's Carolyn Weeks of Weeks Farms Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Clay County's Jim Farley of Farley Cattle Co. Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Okaloosa's David Youngblood Recognized for Environmental Stewardship



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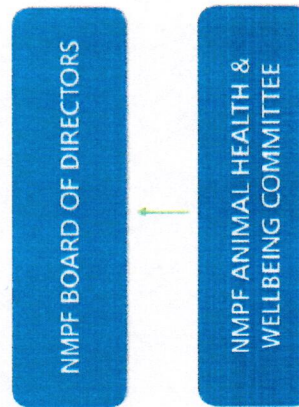
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## FARM Animal Care

Created by the **National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF)**, with support from **Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI)**, FARM Animal Care raises the bar for the entire dairy industry by creating a culture of continuous improvement. The FARM Animal Program establishes dairy animal welfare management guidelines, which are verified by both trained second and third party evaluators. This system provides the data and proof points to assure dairy customers and consumers that dairy farmers do the right thing for their dairy cows because it's the right thing to do. The second party evaluation is completed on every participating dairy at a minimum of once every three years. This evaluation provides dairy farms with an external review of their animal care practices based on FARM Program guidelines, highlighting the best management practices followed on the dairy and providing a method of continuous improvement where additional opportunities are presented.

Currently, **98% of the U.S. domestic milk supply participates in the National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program**. This number is generated based on the production of FARM Animal Care Participants versus **United States Department of Agriculture Reports** on annual nationwide milk production.

### Governance Structure





FARM PROGRAM ANIMAL CARE  
TECHNICAL WRITING GROUP

## FARM Animal Care Technical Writing Group

The FARM Animal Care Technical Writing Group is made up of dairy farmers, veterinarians, animal scientists and other industry representatives. The group helps ensure that the FARM Animal Care Program fosters a culture of continuous improvement and that the best management practices, which are the cornerstone of the program, evolve with the latest research on animal welfare and humane handling.

Karen Jordan, DVM - Farmer, Chainwoman

Nigel Cook, DVM, PhD - University of Wisconsin

David Darr - Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.

Chase DeCoite - National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Richard Doak, DVM - Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative

Marcia Endres, Ph.D. - University of Minnesota

Paul Humphrey - Foremost Farms USA



## FARM Animal Care Standards

The National Dairy FARM Animal Care standards are reviewed every three years. These standards make up the Animal Care Manual and are what influence the on-farm Animal Care evaluation.

### Minimum Animal Care Requirements for Participation

#### *A valid Veterinary-Client Patient Relationship*

The farm owner/manager and the Veterinarian of Record (VOR) needs to have a completed and signed Veterinarian-Client Patient Relationship form on an annual basis.

#### *A signed Dairy Cattle Care Ethics form & Training documentation for all employees with animal care responsibilities*

All employees with animal care responsibilities need to have completed basic stockmanship training and signed a Dairy Cattle Care Ethics Agreement on an annual basis. Additionally, employees must be trained on their area of animal care responsibilities and have the training documented (example: a calf feeder needs to be trained in proper calf feeding, handling and other care expectations). Read more about [employee training and training resources](#).

#### *Ceased routine Tail Docking*

The practice of routine tail docking must have been phased out by January 1, 2017. The National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program opposes the routine tail docking of dairy animals.

#### Animal Care Manuals



Version 2 (2013-2016)



Version 3 (2017-2019)

### What Happens If These Standards Are Not Met?

If any of these areas are considered unsatisfactorily met on the farm when evaluated, a Mandatory Corrective Action Plan is triggered and will need to be resolved and verified by a follow-up evaluation within 12 months. If that area is not resolved within that timeframe, the farm will risk probation and eventual suspension from the FARM Animal Care Program.





**WORKERS**

























# **PHOTOGRAPHS**





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