![FARM FORWARD logo]

National Organic Program
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2642-South, Stop 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250-0268

Dear NOP,

Last week Farm Forward released a report on our investigation that found widespread animal abuse and neglect of cows managed by Alexandre Family Farm. Our investigation was covered in an extensive article in *The Atlantic*.

We believe that Alexandre's management practices routinely violated standards of the NOP, and hereby request that you investigate Alexandre for violations. You will find many more details in the report. You may be particularly interested in pages 10-24 and 26-30.

Our investigation documented the severe suffering of numerous cows over the past five years, based in part on video evidence that points to routine management practices that lead to systemic, egregious suffering.

Yet on page 29, you will see a Conversation Record of two phone conversations between a whistleblower and the NOP's Lead Compliance Officer in October, 2022, to which the whistleblower says they received a response 11 months later: an investigation had been conducted and no violations found. Similarly, *The Atlantic* writes, "The USDA passed the whistleblower's complaint to the CDFA, which sent a state special investigator to the Alexandre farm sites in May 2023. A USDA document obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request shows that the investigation found no wrongdoing."

It is disconcerting that the CDFA reported nothing amiss, even though our investigation demonstrates that Alexandre cows suffered obviously and egregiously, again and again, over at least the past five years. So, in addition to our request that NOP investigate Alexandre for violating NOP standards, we also request that the NOP investigate: When one or more whistleblowers sounded the alarm, did the CDFA investigate Alexandre well enough? The answer appears to be no.

I can share more on the phone if that's helpful. Thank you for your serious attention to this matter.

Best,

[signature]

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Executive Director

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1