

Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC.

Gary Conklin

ACE

February 23, 2012



Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC

*We Supply Better Cattle for the Business
of Dairying*



Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC

FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF ABUSE

May 25, 2010


- Received a Call from the Dayton Business Journal
- Received a call from Ohio Department of Agriculture



Immediate Actions

- Contacted Union County Sheriff's Department
- Contacted Attorney
- Notified Staff
- Threats begin, disconnect telephone service

Day Two: May 26, 2010 Investigation Begins

- 6:00 AM Met Sheriff's Deputies at the Farm
- Terminated employment of Billy Joe Gregg
- Hired Security for Farm, and Conklin's homes
- Hired Public Relations Firm
- Billy Joe Gregg charged
- All communications handled through CAA Media Consultants.
 - 917 Initial Media Requests for Interviews
 - May 27, 2010 87,000 Hits on 
 - 344 Million People have viewed this video*

***Statistics Courtesy of CMA Consulting, Columbus Office**

Tour of Our Facilities

- Union County Health Department
- Union County Humane Society
- Union County Sheriff's Department
- Ohio Department of Agriculture

Memorial Day Protest by Animal Rights Terrorists

Photo Courtesy of NBC 4 Columbus Ohio



Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC

Protest Details

- Family moved to undisclosed location
- Deputies Sheriff's stationed at residences and farm
- Law Enforcement from Union County and five surrounding counties.
- Gary station at command center with National and State Homeland security officials.

Threats expand

- Union County Prosecutor
 - Union county Humane Society Director
 - Union county Sheriff's Department
 - Attorney
-
- *Also included in threats were the many boards and committees in the community that Gary Conklin is a member on.*



Video Statistics

- 20 hours of video recorded, 1200 Minutes
- 3 minutes 44 seconds of video posted on YouTube.
- YouTube clip represents $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 Percent of total footage.
- 99.98 percent of video shows a clean, well run facility.

The Grand Jury

Testimony heard beginning June 28, 2010

Testimony is heard from:

- *Four Independent Veterinarians
- *Two Representative from the Union County Humane Society
- *Lead Investigator

The above individuals saw the entire 20+ hours of video.



Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC

Prosecutor's Statement

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

From: Office of the Union County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: July 6, 2010.

Grand Jury Considers Conklin Dairy Case

A Union County Grand Jury has cleared Gary Conklin, owner of Conklin Farms in Plain City and others, of allegations of animal abuse. **The grand jury found no probable cause to believe Mr. Conklin committed any crime. "They saw the unedited video of Mr. Conklin's actions, not the highly inflammatory version released on YouTube by Mercy for Animals,"** said David Phillips, Union County Prosecuting Attorney. **"In context, Mr. Conklin's actions were entirely appropriate."** In the YouTube video, a short segment of Gary Conklin kicking a cow was spliced between scenes of animals being abused by Billy Joe Gregg. **"The YouTube video created a perception that Mr. Conklin was involved in this abuse, which was simply not true,"** said the prosecutor.

Phillips explained that the cow depicted in the video needed to be gotten up to avoid further injury to the animal. **"These animals, sometimes called 'downer cows' must be brought to their feet. The sheriff's office had the video reviewed by four experts, each of whom agreed that Mr. Conklin's actions were entirely appropriate."** The prosecutor noted that the experts were veterinarians with extensive experience in large animal care. **Each agreed that delivering a sharp blow to the animal to get it to rise was not abuse. The veterinarians told law enforcement that cows who remain down are at risk of injury or death. "They told us that a cow's muscles may atrophy. Once that happens, the cow may never get up, and may suffer and die."**

Along with reviewing segments of the tapes, the grand jury heard testimony from Dr. Tony Forshey, DVM, the Chief of the Division of Animal Industry for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, as well as the director of the Union County Humane Society and several other witnesses.

Prosecutor's Statement

PRESS RELEASE

The grand jury also heard testimony from the undercover operative put on the Conklin Farm by Mercy for Animals, Jason Smith of Texas. **Smith had told law enforcement that he did not witness any abuse by Mr. Conklin, and that Mr. Conklin did not know of the abuse by Billy Joe Gregg.** “Neither Smith nor Mercy for Animals brought the abuse to Mr. Conklin’s attention,” said Phillips, “the first time he became aware of this abuse was when he saw the video on YouTube. When he became aware, Mr. Conklin immediately fired Gregg.” Phillips said the grand jury also considered charges against another employee of the farm, the undercover agent, and Mercy for Animals officials, but ultimately decided there was not enough evidence to proceed against them. Smith told deputies that he had kicked animals and poked them with a pitchfork. “He claimed he did so to maintain his cover, and said he didn’t use his full strength.” said Phillips.

Phillips wonders why law enforcement wasn’t told about the abuse earlier. **“The investigator told me that MFA was aware of the abuse, since he reported to them on a daily basis. MFA allowed the abuse to continue, unreported, and the animals to suffer at the hands of Billy Joe Gregg. They allowed it to continue for three weeks so they could film it.” Phillips said it was wrong not to call law enforcement immediately.** “As soon as the investigator and MFA became aware of Mr. Gregg’s actions, someone should have notified law enforcement or the humane society. Had they done so, much of the abuse at the hands of Billy Joe Gregg shown on the video never would have happened, and the animals would have been spared.”

The prosecutor praised the Union County Sheriff’s Office for their thorough investigation of the farm. “The deputy who investigated this case went far beyond the allegations made by Mercy for Animals. Deputy Mike Justice, who recently returned from an assignment with the federal D.E.A. task force, interviewed dozens of witnesses and experts, reviewed the tapes and hundreds of pages of documents,” he said. The sheriff’s office was assisted by the Union County Humane Society, the Union County Health Department, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture in the investigation.

Phillips said that law enforcement continues to receive reports of threats against the Conklin family and farm. He said such threats are being taken seriously, and will be prosecuted. A referral may also be made to the United States Attorney’s Office. “Threats of harm against the Conklins may be a felony under the federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act,” said Phillips. “Blogs and internet sites continue to advocate harassing Mr. Conklin and his family. Some have called for violence, including murder. This federal law is designed to meet just this situation.” Billy Joe Gregg faces twelve counts of animal cruelty in the Marysville Municipal Court, each a misdemeanor of the second degree. Ohio law sets the maximum sentence on these charges to eighteen months in jail. Gregg also faces a fourth degree felony weapons charge in the Union County Court of Common Pleas. The felony carries a maximum of eighteen months in prison.

Key Findings of the Grand Jury

Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC.

CLEARED

Remaining Employees

CLEARED

Undercover Videographer admits to participating in abuse.

Undercover Videographer testifies that Gary Conklin did not know of abuse at the hands of Billy Joe Gregg.

How the Activist Gained Employment

Misrepresentation 101
Activists influence on other
employee

The Media

Agricultural Media



General Media



The Goal

Animal
Activists

Agricultural
Producers and
Processors

Consumers

Animal Activist Groups Fundraising Tactics



Next Steps

- Phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Employee Manual
 - includes Animal Handling
- Posters
 - No Trespassing
 - No Recording



Proper Handling

Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC Animal Handling Policies



The health and proper care of the animals at Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC provides the foundation for our entire company. Animals are to be treated in a way reflective of our company's commitment to sound animal care. The following policies and procedures have been established in regards to animal care and handling at Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC.

1. In the area of calf care.
2. When handling/moving/loading/unloading an animal(s.)
3. Cows in the parlor
4. Dealing with special needs or sick cows

If there are ever any situations that cannot be resolved on your own or if you have concerns about how to properly handle a problem, call the head herdsman or the president of the company for advice or assistance. At times, the help of a veterinarian may also be required. Violations of any of the aforementioned policies would constitute animal abusive behavior.

Although humane animal care is a priority for the company, the safety of our employees is as well. Employees are highly encouraged to use handling techniques that are both humane and safe. When handling animals, be wary of the cow's flight zone.

Posters Throughout Facility Buildings



NOTICE:

Policy Regarding Photographed or Recorded Materials

The use of all video/audio recording devices, cameras, and/or camera phones by any individual, employee or non-employee, on company grounds is prohibited.

If such video/audio recording devices, cameras, and/or camera phones, having been brought illegally onto company grounds, are used to photograph or record Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC. property, those photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings shall be considered property of Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC. As a result, Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC. shall have full property rights to these photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings.

The unauthorized release of these photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings, having established that they are property of Conklin Dairy Cattle Sales, LLC., is strictly prohibited. Any individual, employee or non-employee, who is responsible for the unauthorized release of company property will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and thus responsible for any and all damages to the company and/or company property.

Effect on Communities

- **Dairy Industry**

- **Local**

The Future

- We continue in our goal of “Supplying of Better Cattle for the Business of Dairying”

