

FACTORY FARM OFFENDER

FOSTER FARMS

Foster Farms
P.O. Box 306
Livingston, CA 95334
Phone: 1-800-255-7227
Web Site: <http://www.fosterfarms.com/>

Foster Dairy Farms
1707 McHenry Avenue
Modesto, CA 95350
Phone: 1-866-225-4821
Web Site: <http://www.fosterfarmsdairy.com/>

CEO: Ron Foster, Age: N/A, Salary: N/A

COMPANIES (dba): Foster Farms, Foster Poultry Farms, Foster Dairy Farms, Zacky Farms, The Grange Company, Valchris Poultry, Fircrest Farms, Griffith Foods, Lynden Farms. In 1999 they also acquired ConAgra's Butterball Turkey.

FORTUNE 500 RANKING: N/A - Privately owned and family-run for four generations since its' founding in 1939.

ANNUAL REVENUE: Over \$1.0 Billion

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 10,000

HEADQUARTERS: Livingston, California

LOCATIONS: Foster owns and operates hatcheries, growing complexes, feed mills, processing plants and delivery systems in California in the towns of Fresno, Livingston, Merced, Modesto, Porterville, South El Monte, and Turlock. They also have operations in Demopolis, Alabama; Hope, Arkansas; Delta, Colorado; Creswell, Orego; and Kelso, Washington.

BRANDS/PRODUCTS: Foster Farms Dairy produces milk, yogurt, butter, sour cream, ice cream, and other dairy products. Foster Farms Poultry produces chicken, turkey, lunchmeat, and corn dogs.

POLLUTION VIOLATIONS:

- **Merced County, CA** - On January 14, 1998, Foster Poultry Farms pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento to violating the Clean Water Act by negligently discharging an estimated 11 million gallons of liquefied, decomposed chicken manure into the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge.

- **Modesto and Fresno, CA** - In 1997, during an inspection of Foster Dairy facilities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discovered that the company had never filed federally required reporting forms for ammonia, nitric acid and phosphoric acid used at the facilities. Companies working with hazardous chemicals have a responsibility to their employees and the surrounding neighborhood to report chemical releases. Since being notified of the violations, Foster Dairy Farms has complied with federal law by annually filing the appropriate forms.
- **Merced County, CA** - Between December 1994 and April 1995, in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Foster Farms discharged polluted water into the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, home to the vernal pool tadpole shrimp, an endangered species protected under the ESA. The polluted water containing ammonia, nitrogen and other chicken manure byproducts flowed into vernal pools at the refuge and killed the entire population of tadpole shrimp as well as other species of aquatic life at the refuge.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:

- **National** - The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) assessed Perdue production and processing operations and issued more than 40 violations and fines between 2001 and 2006 for failing to provide employees with a safe work environment.
- **Delhi, CA** – In March 2006, Kevin Southerland, a Foster Farms employee, died of injuries suffered when he was buried under five feet of animal feed in a silo. He was trying to remove corn stuck on the wall of the 150-foot-tall silo at the Foster Farms feed mill when the feed fell on him. He died several days later at a local hospital. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health is currently investigating the incident.
- **Livingston, CA** - In October 2005, nearly 1,000 Foster Farms employees went on strike in protest against unfair wages, poor working conditions, and for respect and dignity on the job. "We need respect," said employee Juana Santiago in the Modesto Bee newspaper. "We need better treatment from the foremen. There are people working 30 years getting \$9.33 an hour. That's ridiculous." In the same article, Rajinder Singh, said, "We want the company to be fair with us, that's all, and realize that we are human, not slaves."

FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) took the following enforcement actions against Foster Farms slaughter and processing plants in 2005 :

- **Fresno, CA** - Plant was issued a Notice of Intended Enforcement for Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP) violations on June 30, 2005.
- **Kelso, WA** - Plant was issued a Notice of Intended Enforcement for SSOP and HACCP violations on January 21, 2005.

PRODUCT RECALLS:

- **Livingston, CA** - In August 1999, Foster recalled approximately 33,710 pounds of turkey franks that were potentially contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a deadly pathogen. By the time the meat was recalled, it had been distributed throughout six states.

OTHER:

- **National** - Dr. David Wallinga, a physician who is the director of the food and health program for The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, based in Minnesota, examined the levels of arsenic in chicken found at supermarkets in the U.S. In the study, Dr. Wallinga found significant levels of arsenic in the chicken from Foster Farms and Perdue Farms. Both companies admitted to its use at their poultry production facilities. Arsenic is a common poultry feed supplement used to kill parasites and promote growth.

FARM SANCTUARY · P.O. Box 150 · Watkins Glen, NY 14891
Phone: 607-583-2225 · Fax: 607-583-2041 · info@farmsanctuary.org
WWW.FARMSANCTUARY.ORG