

# FACTORY FARM OFFENDER

## SEABOARD CORP.

Seaboard Corp.  
9000 W 67th Street  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66202  
Phone: 913-676-8800  
Web Site: <http://www.seaboardcorp.com>

**CEO:** Harry Bresky, Age: 80, Salary: \$ 2.5 million

**COMPANIES (dba):** Seaboard Corp. is a majority owned subsidiary of Seaboard Flour LLC. Subsidiaries include Mount Dora Farms, Shawnee Funding, Cape Fear Railways, Port of Miami Cold Storage, and many other companies in North and South America, and Africa.

**FORTUNE 500 RANKING:** 614

**ANNUAL REVENUE:** 2.69 billion

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** 10,357

**HEADQUARTERS:** Shawnee Mission, Kansas

**LOCATIONS:** Hugoton, Leoti, Liberal and Rolla, Kansas; Guymon, Hennessey and Optima, Oklahoma; Julesburg, Colorado; and Miami, Florida. Also manages operations in South America and Africa.

**BRANDS/PRODUCTS:** Seaboard Farms is one of the nation's largest pork producers and packers. Their main products are fresh and frozen pork, sold to foodservice outlets, grocery stores and other retail customers in the U.S. and abroad. Seaboard is also involved in the production of sugar and citrus products in Argentina.

### **POLLUTION VIOLATIONS:**

- **National** - Seaboard Farms is suspected of polluting wetlands in the vicinity of several of their factories, as well as releasing hazardous substances into the air. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been investigating these allegations, but not much has come of it to date. The allegations include multiple violations of the Clean Water Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Clean Air Act. In April 2002, the EPA requested Seaboard Farms to monitor emissions at certain hog confinement facilities pursuant to the Clean Air Act. Seaboard Farms believes that they should not be required to participate in air monitoring, and does not wish to comply with the EPA's request.
- **Beaver County, OK** - Seaboard's Dorman facility has had more than a dozen spills from broken sewage pipelines. On one occasion, more than 100,000 gallons of sewage waste flowed into a nearby stream in a single day. The Sierra Club sued the facility in June 2000, alleging multiple violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

- **Kansas** - Inspectors with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment found dead pigs, tires, artificial insemination tubes, syringes, and other hazardous medical waste floating in Seaboard's hog waste lagoons. Although the waste normally found in hog lagoons is by no means safe, the items found by the state department go above and beyond the accepted norm. There are documented records of this from 1997 to 1999, however, this does not mean that Seaboard has ceased these negligent and irresponsible practices.
- **Stevens County, KS** - According to the local Sheriff's Department, in 1997 Seaboard allegedly left a sizeable spill of blood and dead animal debris on a Kansas highway. It is suspected that the spill came from a Seaboard carcass hauler. The spill was left on the highway and there was no clean-up attempt made, creating a significant road hazard for passing motorists.
- **Texas County, OK** - Seaboard Farms produces an estimated 15 million pounds of manure per day in Texas County. Due to run-off, this vast quantity of manure is severely polluting the local water supply.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:**

- **Hennessey, OK** - In December 2001, there was an accident where an employee was accidentally injected with a syringe needle. The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) investigated and made the following statement: "The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm ... employees were exposed to the risk of infection and/or immune reaction through needlesticks when administering medical treatment to hogs."

#### **HUMANE SLAUGHTER VIOLATIONS & DOCUMENTED ANIMAL ABUSE:**

- **Texas County, OK** - Seaboard workers have faced a number of allegations of animal abuse. The Texas County District Attorney charged one employee with four felony counts of animal cruelty after the worker was videotaped allegedly beating and smashing pigs to death. The Texas County District Attorney noted that additional charges against other workers were being considered after receiving written complaints and viewing videotape that allegedly depicted pigs being stomped, beaten with metal rods, bludgeoned to death with a hammer, and picked up by their hind legs and slammed against the floor. The charges also included abandoning sick animals to die slowly without proper medical care.

#### **OTHER:**

- **Texas County, OK** - In the 1990s, Seaboard Farms moved into the area and the number of hogs rose drastically from 11,000 to more than one million. With the new hog processing complex came the promise of local economic revitalization. But just the opposite happened. Seaboard demanded and received \$60 million in local and state government assistance, promising to create hundreds of new jobs and future tax dollars. However, the jobs they created were low paying, less than \$8 per hour, and Seaboard was enjoying a special tax cut and only paying \$9,700 per year, rather than bringing much-needed tax dollars to the community.