

Statement of Donald and Cheri De Jong
Natural Prairie Dairy, a certified organic dairy
Channing, Texas August 30, 2019

We are a family operated certified organic dairy in the high plains of Texas. We are proud to be third generation dairy farmers from Holland, and have striven every day to care for our cows, our land and our organic farm family.

In July, a heavily edited video was directed, filmed and released by an individual who had gained access to our family farm. It shows an edited snippet in time, ***produced by a group that's stated goal is to abolish all American dairy farms.***

But the short video failed to show our entire organic farm. It did not show our innovative facilities...our dedicated team members...all our cows...our lush, beautiful grasslands that our organic cows feed upon.

And let us be perfectly clear: ***Any allegations of systematic animal abuse at our family organic farm are patently false, slanderous and libelous.***

To that end, two separate independent third parties and the USDA recently inspected our dairy and revealed ***zero evidence of systematic animal abuse.***

In fact, the audits indicated that “...***during the observation period animals and handlers were calm and quiet, and animals did not exhibit signs of agitation or discomfort...***” [page 4, July 25-26, 2019, FSNS certification audit] and “...***the company's animal handling policy indicated a zero tolerance policy for mistreatment...***” [page 5, July 25-26, 2019, FSNS certification audit].

In addition, the “...***dairy has very good protocols and training program for non-ambulatory cow movement and care***” [page 3, 8/8/19, Validus Animal Welfare Review] and ***scored a perfect score of 100%*** in the following areas: “management”; “animal observations”; “nutrition”; “parlor management”; and “handling and transport”. ***The organic dairy earned an overall score of 97%.*** [page 2, 8/8/19, Validus Animal Welfare Review].

Finally, a recent surprise USDA inspection revealed “...***no crowding of pens observed***” and concluded “...***herd health was good to excellent***”. In addition, the auditors specifically indicated that on pasture the ***cows grazed on Coastal Bermuda***

grass “..3-7 inches in height of good to excellent quality” [8/13/19, USDA NOP Dairy Surveillance Report].

In our pursuit of excellence, we have identified some areas identified for continuous improvement. As always, we will implement any and all procedures to ensure the continued health and success of our land, cows and organic farm family.

Sincerely,

Donald and Cheri De Jong

p.s. Please also view 85 minutes of *unedited* video of the organic farm filmed over the last year. We think it shows, as the independent audits confirm, how we truly care for our cows on a daily basis. Please click to view <https://vimeo.com/350123689>