

# NEWS RELEASE

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Thomas F. Heater, Sheriff

## **For Immediate Release**

**Date: 10/22/2008**  
**Contact: Sheriff Tom Heater**

On **October 21, 2008**, the Greene County Sheriff and Greene County Attorney's Office completed their investigation into a complaint of animal cruelty reported on September 15, 2008 by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) which took place at a hog confinement facility located at F Avenue and 330<sup>th</sup> Street in southwestern Greene County. The owners of the facility are Mow Mar out of Minnesota and the site is managed by Suidae Health and Production.

PETA supplied the sheriff's office with taped incidents of abuse which reportedly took place at the facility last summer and which was documented by undercover employees who were working for PETA. A number of present and past employees have been interviewed regarding this matter.

Charged in this matter are as follows:

Jordan M. Anderson, 26, of Audubon who was a former on-site manager: Aiding & Abetting Livestock Abuse-two counts-Aggravated Misdemeanor and Livestock Neglect-one count-Simple Misdemeanor

Greg W. Hackler, 18, of Jefferson who was a former employee: Livestock Abuse-two counts-Aggravated Misdemeanor

Shawn M. Lyons, 35, of Bayard who is still employed: Livestock Neglect-one count-Simple Misdemeanor

Shelly A. Mauch, 34, of Scranton who is still employed: Livestock Neglect-one count-Simple Misdemeanor

Richard M. Ralston, 27, of Bayard who was a former employee: Livestock Abuse-five counts-Aggravated Misdemeanor

Alan B. Rettig, 60, of Scranton who was a former employee: Livestock Abuse-five counts-Aggravated Misdemeanor

Warrants have been issued for the aforementioned defendants and once arrested will have their initial appearance before the Greene County Magistrate.

Under Iowa law, an Aggravated Misdemeanor carries a maximum penalty of up to two years in prison and a minimum \$625.00 fine or a maximum fine of \$6250.00 A Simple Misdemeanor carries up to a maximum of 30 days in the county jail and a minimum \$65.00 fine or a maximum fine of \$625.00.

*In all cases when a defendant has been charged, this is merely an accusation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.*