

PETA's Seven-Point Animal Welfare Plan for Aviagen Turkeys, Inc.

As a result of PETA's 2008 investigation at a group of West Virginia turkey factory farms, PETA is asking that Aviagen Turkeys, Inc., take the following steps:

1. Install cameras in all areas where animals are housed or moved (including barns, hallways, and loading areas), and notify all employees that cameras have been installed.
2. Invite Dr. Ian Duncan or another credible bird welfare expert to conduct regular training in the handling of birds at least once per year.
3. Screen all potential employees for criminal backgrounds to help ensure that no one with a history of violence or drug or alcohol abuse is hired, and regularly drug test all employees.
4. Use the Ciemme TA 1000 loading system (or another comparable system) at all facilities where animals are loaded onto transport trucks.
5. Prohibit of the use of genetic modification or manipulation and the cloning of birds.
6. Ensure that breeder birds are allowed to mate naturally.
7. Breed birds for leg health and a low tendency toward breast blisters, foot ulcers, and aggressive behavior, rather than for increased weight.

In addition to proposing this seven-point plan, PETA is asking that Aviagen Turkeys, Inc., (the company that PETA investigated) pledge to terminate employees caught abusing or neglecting animals in the future (the company claims to have terminated some such workers) and that Aviagen cooperate with state and local law enforcement to criminally prosecute all such employees.