

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

# **UNDERCOVER AT A TYSON SUPPLIER**

## **A HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES INVESTIGATION**

In April 2012, an undercover investigator for The Humane Society of the United States worked at Wyoming Premium Farms' (WPF) sow and piglet factory in Wheatland, Wyo., which sells animals to Tyson Foods, the world's second-largest meat processor.

On the first day of employment, the investigator was told, "You'll see some crazy sh\*t workin' here." That sentiment turned out to be an extreme understatement, with employees feeding baby piglets' testicles to mother pigs for "fun" and much worse.

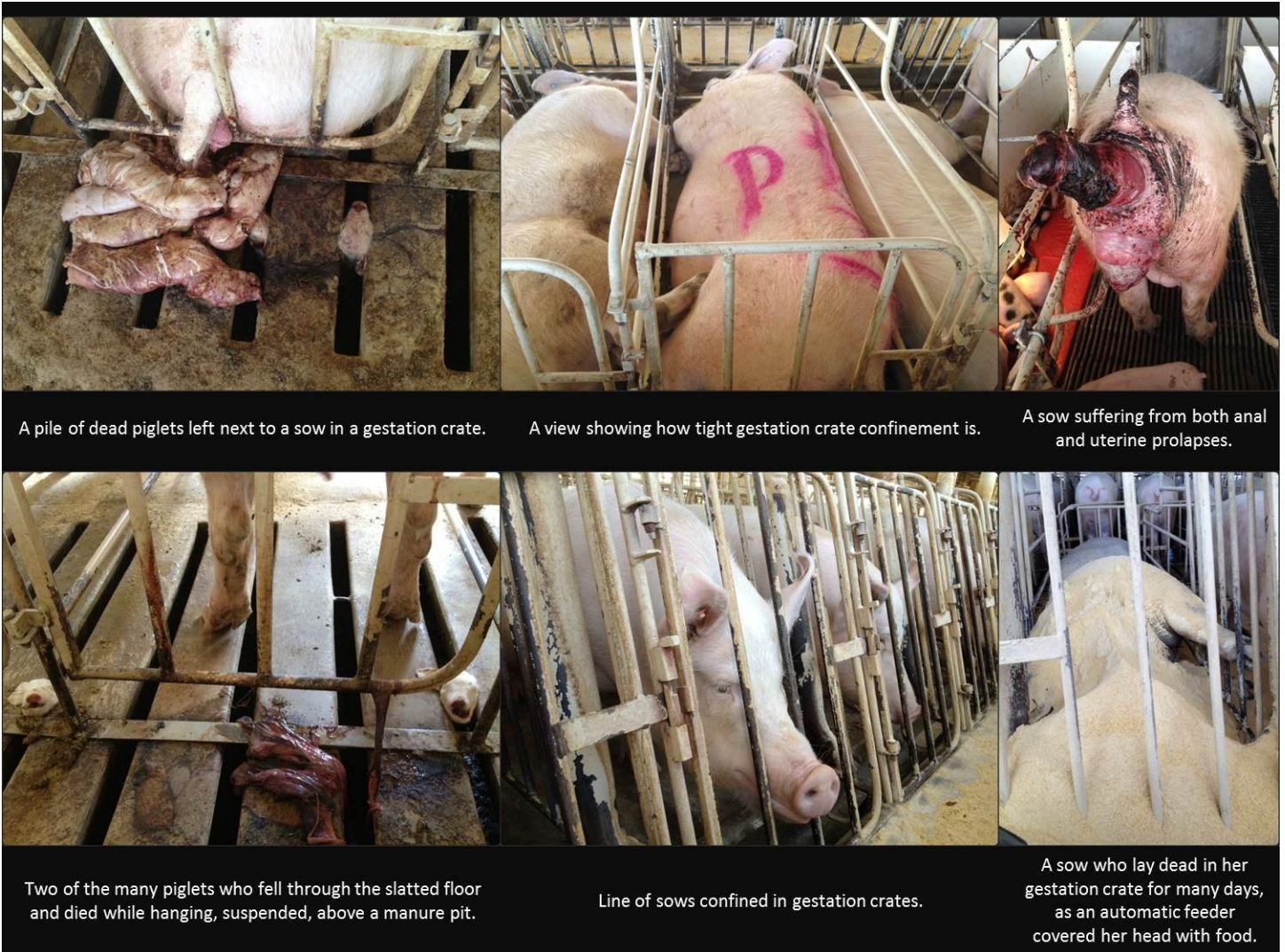
### **Sadistic Abuses Documented:**

In addition to the suffering endured by female pigs forced to spend almost all of their lives in tiny gestation crates, unable to even turn around, the investigator also documented the following egregious abuses:

- Mother pigs punched and repeatedly kicked as they were forced back to the breeding area to be re-impregnated then crammed back into gestation crates.
- A very heavy worker sat on and bounced on the back of a pig who was unable to walk due to a broken leg, leading her to scream in agony.
- A piglet was smashed into the concrete floor six times before he was finally killed.
- Newborn piglets fell into shallow pits filled with urine and manure, sustaining ammonia burns on their bodies despite the investigator's suggestion to the supervisor on how to prevent such injuries and deaths – a suggestion which was not implemented.
- Piglets were dropped head first into concrete and steel crates after having suffered tail amputation and castration without any pain relief.
- Sick piglets were swung and whipped around in circles by their hind legs.
- Piglets were kicked like soccer balls, thrown like bowling balls and also straight up in the air.
- Piglets were placed on pipes at least eight feet off the ground for the amusement of workers.
- Full-term piglets born in gestation crates fell through the wide slats in the crate floor and were hanged in the slats.
- One mother pig, ill or disabled to such an extent that she was unable to move, died without veterinary care – possibly of dehydration or starvation, despite the HSUS investigator informing workers of her condition.
- Mother pigs were viciously struck in the face with large paddles.
- A mother pig broke her leg trying to return to her piglets on weaning day.
- Pigs with broken legs were left for days in aisles without food, water or veterinary treatment.
- The investigator learned of and saw a sow with piglets who died after being left without water for several days because someone had inadvertently turned off her water source.
- Pregnant pigs with severe rectal and uterine prolapses were not provided proper treatment.
- Some pigs had huge, untreated abscesses and sores caused by the gestation and farrowing crates.
- Pigs died in their gestation crates often without even being noticed. One had been dead for several days and, left inside her crate, was half-buried in feed that had been automatically dumped onto her head during that time.
- Facilities were filthy, including: mummified piglet corpses; piglets born into farrowing crates that had not been cleaned out; and aisles littered with cut off tails and testicles, feces, broken light bulbs, plastic and metal trash and moldy food. The HSUS investigator was told to sweep all of this waste matter, including plastic, metal and other trash, into piles and feed it to the pigs in the gestation barns.

- Piglets, many of whom were diseased, were denied treatment and allowed to die slow deaths.
- Workers threw piglet testicles at each other and fed them to sows for “fun.”

These findings highlight the urgent need for reform in the pork industry, especially by Tyson Foods, which has failed to take steps towards reforming cruel practices—like gestation crate confinement of breeding pigs—that others in the industry are phasing out.



A pile of dead piglets left next to a sow in a gestation crate.

A view showing how tight gestation crate confinement is.

A sow suffering from both anal and uterine prolapses.

Two of the many piglets who fell through the slatted floor and died while hanging, suspended, above a manure pit.

Line of sows confined in gestation crates.

A sow who lay dead in her gestation crate for many days, as an automatic feeder covered her head with food.

**About the Companies Involved:**

WPF is owned by Itoham Corporation, a Japanese company with U.S. operations. WPF’s Wheatland location has 11,000 to 13,800 sows and piglets at any one time, on average. There are three other Wyoming Premium Farms locations in Wyoming, all owned by Itoham America, whose annual sales top \$18 million.

**About The Humane Society of the United States:**

The Humane Society of the United States is the world’s largest animal protection organization, with more than 11 million supporters. The HSUS is rated a 4-star charity (the highest possible) by [Charity Navigator](#), approved by the [Better Business Bureau](#) for all 20 standards for charity accountability, voted by GuideStar’s [Philanthropedia](#) experts as the #1 high-impact animal protection group, and named by [Worth Magazine](#) as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities.