



Undercover Investigations at High-Speed Chicken Slaughterhouses

1. Amick Farms, Hurlock, Maryland, P7927

Footage: <https://vimeo.com/293241439> (password: inv432LE) and <https://youtu.be/IayFKuxqODo>.

A 2018 undercover investigation by Animal Outlook into this slaughterhouse—which was operating under a line-speed waiver at the time and had that waiver renewed in 2019—documented more than 100 incidents of animal cruelty, many of them directly attributable to the fast line speeds, including:

- workers throwing, shoving, and striking chickens;
- frequent breakdowns not observed at slaughterhouses operating at slower speeds that caused chickens to drown in the stun bath; and
- conscious chickens entering the scald bath (an issue that the FSIS itself cited Amick for in 2020).

A 2019 investigation into this same waived slaughterhouse by Mercy For Animals documented similar incidents, including:

- shackled live birds left hanging upside down for more than an hour and a half during a power outage;
- workers slapping live chickens;
- workers ripping live chickens' bodies from their shackled legs; and
- chickens piled on top of each other as a result of the fast moving conveyor belts, inducing stress and preventing workers from inspecting each bird individually before hanging them.

2. Pilgrim's Pride, Mount Pleasant, Texas, P584

Footage: <https://youtu.be/oNAo2cvvefQ> (beginning at 00:57).

A 2017 undercover investigation by the Humane Society of the United States at this slaughterhouse—which was operating under a line-speed waiver at the time and had that waiver renewed in 2019—documented chickens being punched while shackled in place, violently shackled and re-shackled repeatedly, and thrown indiscriminately.

3. Tyson Foods. Carthage, MS (P758)

Footage: <https://youtu.be/vXhz04P8up0> (starting at 1:58)

A 2015 undercover investigation by Mercy For Animals at this slaughterhouse—which was operating under a line-speed waiver at the time and had that waiver renewed 2019—documented workers throwing, shoving, and punching chickens, and even pulling the heads off of shackled birds.

4. Wayne Farms, Dobson, North Carolina, P445

Footage:

https://mercyforanimalsmedia.com/video/WayneFarmsBroll/Wayne_Farms_BROLL_v05.mp4.

This slaughterhouse received a line speed waiver in 2020 despite a prior undercover investigation by Mercy For Animals documenting workers frequently suffocating, mangling, and punching chickens, and shackling sick and injured birds for slaughter.

5. Mountaire Farms, Lumber Bridge, North Carolina, P7470

Footage: <https://vimeo.com/126637466> (password: AOinv2015).

This slaughterhouse was granted a line speed waiver in 2020, despite a prior undercover investigation by Animal Outlook that documented workers:

- throwing chickens;
- punching, shoving, and pushing chickens while the animals were shackled upside down;
- forcefully slamming birds into leg shackles; and
- throwing sick or injured birds into piles of dead and dying birds.