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Animal Outlook Offers Transition Support to Crescent Duck Farm Following Costly Mass Culling

Historic Farm's \$1 Million Taxpayer-Funded Bird Killing Highlights Need for Sustainable Agricultural Alternatives

May 1, 2025 - Long Island, NY – Animal Outlook is calling for the permanent closure of Crescent Duck Farm on Long Island following the facility's recent killing of approximately 100,000 birds at a cost of nearly \$1 million to taxpayers, according to documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The 117-year-old facility, located on Long Island's north fork, is the last remaining duck farm in a region once known for this industry. Before the avian flu outbreak that led to the mass depopulation, Crescent Duck Farm supplied approximately 4% of the nation's duck meat.

Animal Outlook's [FOIA request](#) revealed disturbing details about the methods used in the mass killing, including the use of carbon dioxide foam and Koechner Euthanizing Devices—handheld tools resembling long-handled scissors designed to break birds' necks.

"While we recognize Crescent Duck Farm's historical significance to Long Island, the documents we've obtained reveal not just the financial cost to taxpayers, but also the grim reality of how these birds met their end," said Ben Williamson, Executive Director of Animal Outlook. "The use of neck-breaking devices and CO₂ foam on such a massive scale raises significant welfare concerns about the suffering these animals likely endured during their final moments."

"The gross waste of nearly a million taxpayer dollars to suffocate and break the necks of 100,000 birds at Crescent Duck Farm is only the latest taxpayer bailout for Long Island's largest factory Farm, with New Yorkers coughing up hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to mitigate pollution to our waterways," said John Di Leonardo, anthrozoologist and Executive Director of Humane Long Island. "New Yorkers don't go to work with the intention of spending our hard-earned money on a multimillion-dollar enterprise that kills a million 6-week-old ducklings a year while they're still peeping, and animal lovers would be fuming if they knew how Crescent subjects animals to such cruel conditions that workers cut off the ends of the ducklings' beaks in infancy to lessen their ability to self-harm and cannibalize one another in the face of extreme confinement. Evolving Long Island's last duck farm away from animal

agriculture and toward a modern crop production would do wonders for our waterways, our wallets, and animal welfare."

The FOIA documents detailed the expenditure of approximately \$811,636 in public funds to carry out the depopulation, including indemnification payments of as little as \$0.98 for birds under 10 weeks of age.

"The concentration of 4% of the nation's duck production in a single facility demonstrates the vulnerability of our food system," Williamson added. "When one outbreak can disrupt such a significant portion of an industry and result in the killing of 100,000 birds at taxpayer expense, it's time to reconsider this model of production."

"Animal Outlook's Farm Transitions program provides practical support, guidance, and resources to farmers ready to move away from animal agriculture toward more humane and sustainable crop production," said Williamson. "We believe the historic Crescent Duck Farm property could become a showcase for agricultural evolution—honoring its past while embracing a more sustainable and compassionate future. These transitions not only spare animals from suffering but can also provide farmers with stable, sustainable livelihoods without the volatility and ethical concerns inherent in animal agriculture."

The organization is working with farmers in Arkansas, Alabama, and Western Massachusetts to transition away from animal agriculture. The program provides comprehensive support, including technical assistance, business planning, and market research to farmers looking to shift away from animal agriculture, and connects them to sources of financial aid. These transitions have not only eliminated animal suffering but have resulted in more economically stable and environmentally sustainable businesses for the participating farmers.

For more information about Animal Outlook's investigation and advocacy work, or to learn more about the Farm Transitions program, visit animaloutlook.org/farm-transitions.

For images of Crescent Duck Farm, visit <https://animaloutlook.org/investigations/crescent-duck-farm-photos/>.

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ABOUT ANIMAL OUTLOOK

[Animal Outlook](https://animaloutlook.org/) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) animal advocacy organization. It is strategically challenging animal agribusiness through undercover investigations, legal advocacy, corporate and food system reform, and disseminating information about the many harms of animal agriculture, empowering everyone to choose vegan. <https://animaloutlook.org/>

ABOUT HUMANE LONG ISLAND

[Humane Long Island](https://www.humanelongisland.org/) is Long Island's leading animal welfare charity. Located only 6 miles from Crescent Duck Farm, Humane Long Island rescues more than 1,000 animals annually, with about half that number being ducks. As seen in National Geographic, Humane Long Island's international Duck Defenders program is the leading resource for domestic waterfowl rescue and advocacy in North America, having saved the lives of thousands of waterfowl and advising agencies all across the continent about how to amicably resolve issues concerning ducks and geese in their communities. <https://www.humanelongisland.org/>