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**Infamous Pico Rivera Slaughterhouse Faces Bankruptcy Amidst
New Animal Cruelty Investigation; VIDEO**

Investigation reveals cows being butchered and tortured at Los Angeles' last remaining cow slaughterhouse supplying federal child nutrition programs

April 12, 2025 - Los Angeles, CA. – Today, Animal Outlook, a national animal protection charity, released hidden camera footage it obtained at Manning Beef, LLC, the last remaining cow slaughterhouse in Los Angeles, which has long been embroiled in controversy over animal welfare issues, candle-lit vigils, animal escapes, and celebrity-involved rescues.

The Pico Rivera slaughterhouse—which surrendered a cow and her calf to actor Joaquin Phoenix in 2020, the day after his Oscar acceptance speech denouncing cruelty in the dairy industry—initiated a voluntary Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding on August 22, 2024.

Animal Outlook discovered the company's bankruptcy proceedings during its latest undercover investigation. Its investigator worked at Manning Beef in Pico Rivera, CA, from October through December 2024, capturing footage which is the bloodiest and most graphic in the organization's 30-year history. This footage reveals:

- Multiple cows being butchered while showing signs of sensibility to pain
- A downed dairy cow repeatedly shocked with cattle prods after collapsing, then shot in the head three times with a captive bolt gun
- A worker stabbing a cow in the back of the head, then draining the cow's blood by stabbing them in the throat. This cow flailed while being butchered alive.
- A cow vomiting while their face was skinned and being restrained while moving away from the knife
- A cow left on the floor of the slaughterhouse for over half an hour
- Extreme operational errors and equipment malfunctions. One cow was dropped head first from the slaughter line onto the concrete floor
- Piles of unborn calf fetuses, extracted from pregnant cows sent to slaughter.

Manning Beef, which traces its roots back to the 1920s, has recently come under scrutiny, notably during a 2021 incident when 40 cows escaped, making national headlines. The facility also attempted to silence activists through litigation in 2017. In 2020, the USDA suspended Manning Beef from its inspections due to "an egregious act of inhumane handling of animals." In 2022, the company was again suspended for "a trend of repetitive noncompliance" with stunning requirements.

Manning Beef has supplied federal child nutrition programs, likely including the largest of these programs, The National School Lunch Program. In 2011, Manning Beef recalled approximately 80,000 pounds of beef products that may have been contaminated with *E. coli*.

Animal Outlook has submitted comprehensive video evidence and legal documentation to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, calling for a minimum of 25 criminal animal cruelty counts against Manning Beef, with the maximum fine of \$20,000 per count.

Acclaimed songwriter Diane Warren, known for hits like LeAnn Rimes' "How Do I Live Without You," who rescued two cows from Manning Beef following their 2021 escape, provided the following statement:

"The footage from Animal Outlook is so gut-wrenching I can't bring myself to watch it—though my heart breaks knowing what these poor animals must have endured. When I rescued two cows who tried to escape from that facility in 2021, I thought about the terrible fate waiting for them if I didn't step in. Now, knowing the full extent of cruelty happening behind those walls, I wish I could've saved every single one of them. These gentle creatures deserve way better than the nightmare they're trapped in."

"This cruelty is the most severe we've ever seen in our 30-year history." says Animal Outlook's Deputy Director of Investigations, Erin Wing. "As a former undercover investigator myself, I'm hardened to nearly all footage. But this is just different. The evidence we've gathered indicates that these violations are not isolated incidents but rather systematic abuses ingrained in Manning Beef's practices. From workers to supervisors to corporate leadership, this culture of cruelty demands full legal accountability."

In 2023, the Smithfield slaughterhouse, Farmer John, also in Los Angeles closed its doors after years of similar celebrity-attended protests and candle-lit vigils.

[Investigative footage](#) and [media B-Roll](#) available for download.

ABOUT ANIMAL OUTLOOK

[Animal Outlook](#) 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/>