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Contact: Ben Williamson

(310) 874 0009

[bwilliamson@animaloutlook.org](mailto:bwilliamson@animaloutlook.org)

**Animal Outlook Exposes Seemingly Illegal Foie Gras Sales at JBS Subsidiary in Southern California**

*Wild Fork Foods' Sales May Violate California's Ban on Products from Cruel Force-Feeding Practices*

**August 1, 2025 - Los Angeles, CA** – Animal Outlook, a national nonprofit dedicated to exposing cruelty in animal agriculture, has uncovered apparent violations of California law by Wild Fork Foods, a subsidiary of the global meat giant JBS. Despite California's ban on the sale of foie gras, Animal Outlook's investigation has confirmed that foie gras is being sold at all 11 Wild Fork Foods locations across Southern California, from Valencia to Encinitas.

Foie gras, which is produced by force-feeding birds to enlarge their livers to a diseased state, is explicitly prohibited under California Health and Safety Code Section 25982. The law bans the sale of products derived from force-feeding birds for the purpose of liver enlargement.

The product, sourced from La Belle Farm Inc. in upstate New York, is advertised on Wild Fork Foods' website as being "humanely raised." However, foie gras production inherently involves cruel practices, including the insertion of pipes into birds' throats to force-feed them.

"This is an apparent violation of California law and a blatant disregard for animal welfare," said Animal Outlook Executive Director Ben Williamson. "Foie gras production is inherently cruel, and its sale in California is illegal. Wild Fork Foods, as a subsidiary of JBS, should be held accountable for these violations."

Animal Outlook will be submitting formal complaints to district and city attorneys and animal control offices across Southern California, urging enforcement of the state's foie gras ban.

**Systematic Investigation Uncovers Widespread Sales**

Animal Outlook's investigation team documented the sale of foie gras at all 11 Wild Fork Foods locations through video evidence, receipts, and direct conversations with store personnel. The investigation was initially sparked by recent Yelp reviews mentioning foie gras purchases at various Wild Fork Foods stores.

"We found multiple Yelp reviews from customers expressing surprise at being able to purchase foie gras in California," said Williamson. "One review from January stated, 'sure was nice to buy

some foie gras - did not think u could purchase it in california,' while another from July 11 mentioned, 'I bought a lobe of foie gras and couldn't believe it was \$10.'"

### JBS Connection Raises Additional Concerns

Wild Fork Foods operates as a subsidiary of JBS S.A., the world's largest meat processor, which has a controversial track record. JBS has faced numerous accusations, including contributing to Amazon deforestation, political corruption scandals, and questionable business practices. SEC filings and Wild Fork Foods' own website confirm this corporate relationship.

"This apparent legal violation fits into a larger pattern of regulatory disregard that has characterized JBS's operations globally," noted Williamson. "As JBS expands into direct-to-consumer sales through Wild Fork Foods, they appear to be bringing these concerning practices with them."

### The Reality of Foie Gras Production

Foie gras production involves force-feeding ducks and geese through tubes inserted down their throats multiple times daily, causing their livers to swell up to ten times their normal size. This creates a disease state called hepatic lipidosis. Birds can suffer torn esophagi, infections, and respiratory distress, with many dying before slaughter due to organ failure.

"The sale of foie gras isn't just a legal issue—it's a profound ethical concern," Williamson explained. "California banned these products precisely because the production process is inherently cruel and causes extreme suffering to birds."

### Next Steps

Animal Outlook's investigation suggests that Wild Fork Foods' foie gras sales are not common practice in California's retail landscape. "Whether this is a deliberate testing of regulatory boundaries or simply corporate negligence, the result is the same—a cruel product is being sold in apparent violation of California law," Williamson concluded. "We're committed to ensuring that these apparent violations are addressed and that animals receive the protection they deserve under the law."

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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/>