



You may have already heard that the barn in Notre Dame de Lourdes under investigation for severe neglect which left 500 pigs dead from starvation, another 160 so sick they had to be euthanized and a further 2,000 who had to be confiscated, [burned Wednesday](#).

I visited the barn before it burned and was sickened by what I saw - bones and [limbs of pigs](#) strewn everywhere, [pools of blood and feces with bones floating in them](#). The barn, although cleared of bodies, was filthy and the stench was so strong I couldn't remain long in it. These things only hint at the suffering these pigs must have endured. CTV was on the scene as well and I did an [interview](#) after emerging from the barn.

On Thursday, I returned and [inspected the bodies](#) of the 500 pigs who died. The bodies were simply dumped in a wheat field and covered with straw to aid decomposition. We have concerns that the disposal does not meet environmental regulations as the bodies are accessible to scavengers and we wonder if the province had time to do the necessary tests to ensure the bodies were disease-free before dumping them.

Even the Manitoba Pork Council has publicly denounced the cruelty and is urging authorities to "take the necessary actions to hold the individuals responsible".

We have serious concerns that given the Office of the Chief Veterinarian's lack of action on farm animal cruelty cases we've previously brought forward, the perpetrator of this horrific cruelty will not be prosecuted. ***Please help make sure that doesn't happen.***

Attached are two letters we've drafted jointly with the good folks at Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals. Please print, sign and mail them to the appropriate minister. Better yet, draft your own expressing your concern that justice be done for these suffering animals.

For the pigs,

Twyla

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