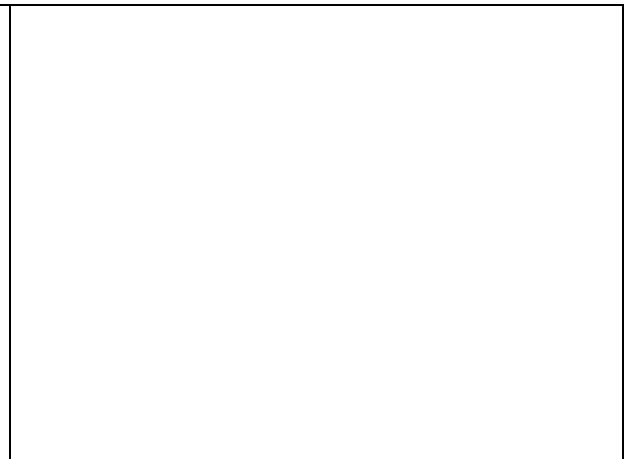


All Lives Matter

When I look into an animal's eyes, I see a living being, a friend. I feel a soul. Their products never lie. One way or the other, it guides consumers back to the source and tells the story of their lives. As a consumer, you either feel the love or taste the neglect and abuse.

It was the third day on my way to work that I noticed a calf desperately trying to break free between 2 rickety paddock doors. The calf bleats nervously as if stuck between the 2 doors. I stopped to help. The stench was unbearable. What I saw in that paddock was indescribable. A small paddock overpopulated with cows up to their knees in their own feces and urine. In front of me were two carcasses that must have been there for a while. The animals had food. I then realized that they never have left this paddock for a while. I looked to the right and noticed the name board "Goedeontmoeting – Oakland supporter of local farmers". The situation was reported to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA on the 7th of March. The animals were released to a bigger open camp nearly three weeks later, on the 20th March.



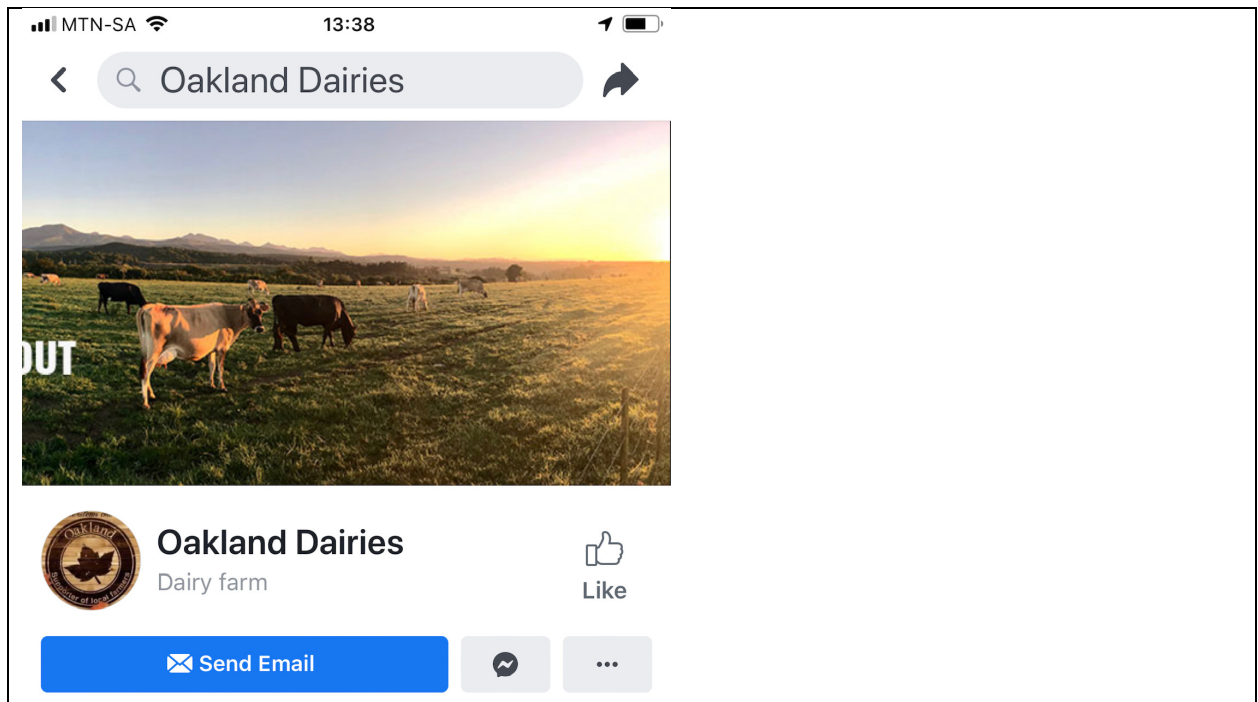


On the 13th June the same situation repeated itself. The animals were back in the paddock. I stopped to check the conditions. This time the animals were up to their knees in a mixture of rainwater and urine. Thinly spread straw were the only attempt to make the conditions more bearable. Again the conditions were reported to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. I was told that the farm worker's dogs harassed the animals; therefore the animals were moved back to the paddock. The animals were only released to an open camp on the 8th of July.



The Oakland Dairies Facebook tells a different story. On the front page is a beautiful picture of free roaming cows in a tranquil environment. Maybe it was just this farmer. Just down the Philadelphia road another Oakland Diaries' Klipheuwel dairy farm, tells a similar story. Over populated camps with Friesland cows, their only saving grace a round

circle of straw to separate them from the conditions surrounding them. Yes they have food and some of the camps have covered areas but none of these animals ever experience the free roaming tranquility the Facebook picture communicates.



It is our responsibilities as consumers to “listen” to the products before we buy. They tell a story. Either they tell a story of respect for the environment and the living soul, or a story of neglect and abuse.

Author: Voice for the voiceless.