

Please consider contacting your elected officials and asking them to address the grave concerns over animal welfare.

Here is a brief synopsis of development needing their immediate attention:

As you may have heard on WABI television or MPBN radio, Fair Play Farm in Clinton is suspected of massive horse neglect.

According to a complaint filed with the state's animal welfare program last week, dozens of horses were at immediate risk of starvation and exposure.

The state has told the public it is working on a "herd management" program with the owners and that there is an on-going investigation.

Meanwhile, dozens of additional complaints made to Animal Welfare have resurfaced. In nearly every case, horses have perished while Animal Welfare failed to intervene. Complaints have been made on farms in Anson, Jay, Topsham, Danforth, Rockport, Searsport, Cumberland. The list is growing and shows a glaring disregard for the welfare of these animals by the very people charged with protecting them, the Animal Welfare program.

Maine has the second toughest animal protection laws in the country, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. But clearly, there is a miserable disconnect between law and enforcement.

Many say Animal Welfare's place within the Department of Agriculture, which is in the business of processing livestock and food stuffs (NOT protecting animals), creates a culture of inaction.

If this story were simply another tragedy of animal abuse, it might not be so important for you to get involved. But additional elements make your involvement crucial. Those elements are:

- state animal welfare complacency regarding Fair Play Farm*
- the years-long record of inaction by animal welfare.*

- *the helplessness felt by the greater horse community, including the many non-profit rescue agencies ready to care for the animals if the state would only seize them.*

Please visit NickerNews.net and click on "Equine Welfare Watchdog" under the Articles menu item for more information.