

Tom Hayes, Chief Executive Officer  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
2200 W. Don Tyson Parkway  
Springdale, AR 72762



Dear Mr. Hayes,

As representatives of organizations whose members are affected by the pollution driven by Tyson's meat production here in the United States, we are writing to encourage your company to adopt more sustainable practices throughout its supply chain that reduce water pollution and protect our natural landscapes. In its position as the nation's largest meat company, Tyson Foods has a unique opportunity to reduce the environmental consequences of meat and lead the industry towards better farming practices.

There is a need for rapid action: the meat industry, including its feed supply, is the main source of water pollution in the United States. Pollution from raising meat is contaminating drinking water across the Midwest, and flowing downstream along the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico where it causes a massive dead zone every summer- an area so polluted that marine life cannot survive. The bulk of this pollution comes from the vast quantities of animal feed produced to raise meat, and are a result of practices driving high soil erosion rates, loss of natural landscape buffers, and excess fertilizer application.

This year, the runoff pollution reached such levels that the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico was the largest on record, due in large measure to Tyson and other companies' continued tolerance of substandard practices in their supply chains. Fortunately, solutions are available to reduce meat's environmental impact through better feed sourcing practices, which need to be rapidly implemented to prevent this disaster from recurring.

We hope you will immediately announce a sustainable agriculture policy that ensures all of your suppliers adhere to the following best practices for responsible feed production and sourcing:

- Cover cropping and conservation tillage practices to prevent soil erosion,
- Protecting and restoring natural landscape buffers to absorb runoff,
- Optimizing fertilizer application to prevent excess runoff,
- Incorporation of rotationally-raised small grains into the feed rotations
- A moratorium on further clearance of native ecosystems such as the iconic American prairie

You have pledged to "place sustainability at the center of the company's future plans" and show "how much good food can do." We applaud these statements, and believe a commitment to ensuring feed is sustainably sourced is crucial for demonstrating the company's ambition.

As the nation's largest meat company, Tyson Foods has a key role to play in keeping our waters clean and our soils healthy. Please advise us by November 17, 2017 on how Tyson Foods will address the urgent environmental and public health impacts from its supply chain, and lead the industry towards a more sustainable path forward.

Sincerely,

**Coalition Partners**

***Organizations:***

Gulf Restoration Network  
350 New Orleans  
Grow On  
Care2  
LifeCity  
A Community Voice  
Southern United Neighborhoods  
New Orleans Food & Farm Network  
LA Shrimp Association  
Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development  
Loyola Association of Students for Sustainability:  
(LASS)  
ACORN International

***Businesses:***

Fair Grinds Coffeehouse  
Harley London  
New Orleans Kayak Swamp Tours  
Allie's Natural Hair Community  
Drip Affogato Bar  
Freda New Orleans  
Heartsleeve  
Piccola Gelateria  
Midway Pizza  
BABE  
Good Bird  
Freret Beer Room  
The Bike Shop  
The Daily Beet  
The Allways Lounge & Cabaret  
JuiceNOLA  
St. Lawrence  
Earth Odyssey  
J and M Jewelry