



# UNITED FARM WORKERS

29700 Woodford-Tehachapi Rd. • P.O. Box 62 • Keene, CA 93531

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August 27, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Attorney General Xavier Becerra

Dear Governor Newsom and Attorney General Becerra,

Nine people working at the Foster Farms plant in Livingston have died due to COVID-19.

Foster Farms has not had the decency to treat these individuals nor their families with any sense of dignity.

Foster Farms has hidden behind it's confusing company structure and hiring processes to deliberately misrepresent the danger to all workers at the plant. Foster Farms has put the more than 3,000 people who work directly for the company as "direct hires" or through one of the labor contractors or temporary agencies at risk by not sharing basic information with all workers.

Foster Farms continued today to defy county health orders. Workers in the food services operations are still working. The area known to workers as "NDC" (the shipping area) is allowed to be open if they follow strict safety protocols. Unfortunately, unless there are physical inspections there is no way to know if these protocols are being followed.

Foster Farms informed all workers that they should plan on returning to work tomorrow.

UFW members have formally requested of the company and the county to not re-open until:

1. COVID-19 tests are given to all workers at Foster Farms Livingston plant;
2. All of the COVID-19 test results have been returned for all individuals;
3. All workers are tested every 2 weeks;
4. Foster Farms implements the hazard pay the UFW "successfully" negotiated months.

Note: These negotiations took place prior to any of the 9 individuals dying – Foster Farms clearly was more dangerous place to work than the company revealed.

The United Farm Workers volunteer committee at the company will be voting soon on whether to announce a boycott of Foster Farms should the company not agree to these basic requests to ensure we do not have a 10<sup>th</sup> death.

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If Foster Farms won't listen to the County or either of you, we think they will listen to their consumers and their major food retail outlets.

If the UFW Foster Farms committee votes for a consumer boycott of Foster Farms, we request you join us in publically endorsing the boycott.

I would like to speak with you tomorrow or over the weekend to share the results of the boycott vote and request your support.

Sincerely,

Teresa Romero  
President

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