



AT N.C. PORK PROCESSING PLANT

Workers criticize producer

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ing one worker to stamp hogs with a "Vote No" stamp.

Rallies, supermarket initiatives, and church services will be held in seven of Smithfield's retail markets including Richmond, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Raleigh and Boston, said Leila McDowell, a spokesperson for the UFCW.

"It's just the beginning," McDowell said of the campaign that also has a national advertising campaign.

Joseph W. Luter, IV, the president and CEO of Smithfield Packing Company, says in a statement, "Since the UFCW has chosen this week to launch a nationwide 'anti-Smithfield' campaign, we must question the sincerity of the union's motives now. If the union's campaign succeeds, the people who will be hurt the most are the Smithfield employees that the union claims to want to help."

Smithfield Foods is the largest hog producer and pork processor in the world and nets \$7 billion annually under the name of Smithfield Foods. That figure doesn't include 32 other international acquisitions that also include beef production.

Since the plant opened in 1992, there have been two union elections, one in 1994 and in 1997 during which a fight broke out resulting in the arrests of some union supporters by a special Smithfield police department allowed by state law. The union lost both elections.

Court documents said Smithfield insisted the company did not unlawfully coerce anyone in an anti-union effort.

But the court sided with the National Labor Relations Board and upheld a "cease and desist" order the NLRB issued to Smithfield in 2004

"forbidding the company from interfering with, restraining, or coercing its employees in the exercise of their rights" under the National Labor Relations Act.

Luter, the president and CEO of Smithfield, released a statement last week saying the company would not appeal the court's decision.

"Smithfield respects and accepts the court's judgment, even though we strongly disagree with the findings. We have argued strenuously that the allegations the union made concerning Smithfield's conduct during both elections were false. But we recognize that we have lost our case in court."

Luter, who also announced his resignation as CEO, said "When a new election is called, we will comply fully with the NLRB's remedies to assure a fair vote that represents the wishes of our plant's employees. We believe that our plant should have the right to choose whether to unionize, and we respect the choices they make."

Luter also said there were unions in other Smithfield plants that have operated peacefully but have not been successful in Tar Heel and did not mince words about the company's feelings toward the campaign.

After receiving complaints from the United Food and Commercial Workers, the NLRB investigated the Bladen County plant that kills 30,000 hogs per day and has about 6,000 employees, the largest hog-killing facility in the country. The NLRB found the company used a number of scare tactics, including the confiscation of union materials, unfair discipline of employees displaying interest in union activities and the firing of four union supporters, Rayshawn Ward, Lawanna Johnson, Margo McMillan and Ada Perry.

In the May decision, the court also ordered the jobs of the four employees be reinstated.

Jerry Hostetter, a spokesman for Smithfield, did not return telephone calls from the NNPA seeking comment.

In addition to the NLRB, the Human Rights Watch, issued two reports on Smithfield. The most recent was "Blood, Sweat and Fear: Workers' Rights in U.S. Meat and Poultry" in 2005.

The report explained the dangers of high-speed production lines and the rights of immigrant workers.

"The company is quite clear about its continued opposition to unionization. In a written statement to Human Rights Watch it said:

"We do not believe a union is necessary or would be helpful to our employees at our Tar Heel, North Carolina plant... If this location undergoes a union organizing drive or general activity, the company will continue to educate its employees on the value and success we have created together and the drawbacks of union organization for themselves, the company and our customers. On occasion, the company has sought to utilize professional partners in the field of labor relations to assist with the education of labor issues to both the management and employee teams."

The workers and supporter Rev. Graylan Hagler said organizing the union will address other problems at the plant including safety and racial discrimination, including deportation threats.

Hagler, the pastor of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C., is the president of Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, a coalition of more than 600 congregations.

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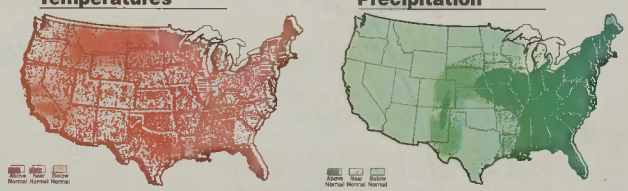
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AccuWeather.com 7-DAY FORECAST FOR CHARLOTTE, NC

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Very hot with some sun	Partly cloudy and humid	A.p.m. 1-shower possible	A.p.m. 1-shower possible	A.p.m. 1-shower possible	Thunderstorms possible	Overcast with t-storms	Overcast, rain possible
RealFeel: 94	RealFeel: 82	RealFeel: 78	RealFeel: 78	RealFeel: 78	RealFeel: 84	RealFeel: 81	RealFeel: 81

The perceived "RealFeel" temperature is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the actual temperature, wind, humidity, moisture, precipitation, and air pollution on the human body.

WEATHER TRENDS THIS WEEK



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IN THE SKY

Sun	Rise	Set	Moon	Rise	Set	Moon Phases	New	First	Full	Last
Thursday	6:10 a.m.	8:42 p.m.	Thursday	3:21 a.m.	6:07 p.m.		6/25	7/3	7/10	7/17

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Albany, SC	96	69	94	68	90	65	91	66	Memphis, TN	93	73	92	72	91	70	87	69

U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Atlanta	92	71	90	69	89	70	88	68	Miami	89	77	88	77	88	77	87	77

WORLD CITIES

City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		City	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Amsterdam	63	51	65	53	61	50	63	51	Paris	70	59	75	67	73	65	74	62

Weather (H) = sunny, pe-partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r=rain, ef=noon fumes, an=snow, ice

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Charlotte Faulk Bros. Hardware Inc. 5744 North Tryon Street 704-536-7474	Charlotte S.T.I. Turfcare Equipment 1334 Hill Road 704-554-0200	Charlotte Steele Creek Lawn Equipment 13902 York Road 704-504-2838	Mount Holly Mount Holly Farm Supply 1120 South Main Street 704-827-4431

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