

**News From:**  
**Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie**



**For Immediate Release April 24, 2018**

**TRILLIUM EGG FARM LABOR ABUSES: “TIP OF THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG”**

**TOLEDO** – Responding to a [documentary on PBS](#) tonight, an Ohio environmental group said the problems with Trillium Egg Farm Inc. “are the tip of the tip of the iceberg.”

Mike Ferner, coordinator for [Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie](#), which has [sued the USEPA](#) for not addressing poultry, dairy and swine animal factory pollution that chokes the lake with [toxic algae every summer](#), said the PBS documentary “addresses the very critical concerns of human trafficking and rightly so. It shows that these industrial meat and egg producers abuse people, just as we know they treat animals inhumanely.”

Ferner added that, “In addition, they are killing Lake Erie, where Toledoans and 13 million other people get our drinking water. In our watershed we have over [150 animal factories](#) that include over 13 million poultry with the beef, dairy and swine factories in our watershed, you have more than the combined sewage of Chicago and Los Angeles being dumped, with no treatment whatsoever, on fields that drain into our drinking water source.”

Trillium Egg Farm, Inc. is located just outside the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed, which is the focus of ACLE efforts. ACLE has successfully sued the USEPA for failing to address the toxic algae problem in Lake Erie and has [publicly called out](#) the Ohio EPA for backing away from the Clean Water Act provisions that should determine how polluters are held accountable for the lake’s condition.

ACLE was organized in early 2016, as a result of the 2014 Toledo water emergency, when microcystin toxins forced the shutdown of the city’s water supply to nearly a half-million people for over two days.

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Two archived reports on labor abuses at Trillium Egg Farm, Inc.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/4th-person-charged-teen-forced-labor-case-egg-050618991.html>

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Food/2014/08/26/Central-Ohio-egg-farm-addresses-traffic-issues.html>