#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA HAMMOND DIVISION

MOHAMMAD SABEEHULLAH	)
and NABIL KHAN, individually and	)
on behalf of all others similarly situated,	)
	)
Plaintiffs,	)
	) Case No.
v.	)
	) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
FAIRLIFE, LLC, MIKE McCLOSKEY, and	)
SUE McCLOSKEY,	)
	)
Defendants.	

#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs bring this Complaint against Defendants, and in support thereof state:

#### NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This case seeks to hold Defendants liable for engaging in a massive consumer fraud involving the sale of milk products. Defendants advertised, promoted, and sold a variety of milk products at premium prices justified solely by the representation that the milk was obtained from dairy cows that receive "extraordinary" care. That was false. Fair Oaks Farms, run by defendants Mike and Sue McCloskey, abused and tortured the dairy cows and young calves on the farm. Undercover video exposed the sickening treatment of these animals—treatment that one hopes is far worse than the treatment of dairy cows and calves on any other dairy farm that produces and sells milk at a non-premium price. Plaintiffs were deceived into purchasing Defendants' products.

#### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff Mohammad Sabeehullah ("Mr. Sabeehullah" or "Plaintiff Sabeehullah") is a citizen of Indiana. Mr. Sabeehullah is willing to pay a premium price to buy from companies that humanely treat the animals used to produce their products. At least once during the Indiana Class

Period, Plaintiff Sabeehullah purchased a Fairlife ultra-filtered milk product. Throughout the Indiana Class Period, Fairlife advertised on its label that it provided "extraordinary" care for the dairy cows that produced the milk. Mr. Sabeehullah purchased this product because he believed and relied on this representation. Mr. Sabeehullah was injured in fact and lost money because of the false representation. Mr. Sabeehullah stopped purchasing this product after learning of Defendants' inhumane treatment of the dairy cows that produced the milk.

- 3. Plaintiff Nabil Khan ("Mr. Khan" or "Plaintiff Khan") is a citizen of California, residing in San Diego. Mr. Khan is willing to pay a premium price to buy from companies that humanely treat the animals used to produce their products. At least once during the California Class Period, Plaintiff Khan purchased Fairlife ultra-filtered milk product. Throughout the California Class Period, Fairlife advertised on its label that it provided "extraordinary" care for the dairy cows that produced the milk. Mr. Khan purchased this product because he believed and relied on this representation. Mr. Khan was injured in fact and lost money because of the false representation. Mr. Khan stopped purchasing this product after learning of Defendants' inhumane treatment of the dairy cows that produced the milk.
- 4. Prior to moving to California, Mr. Khan also resided in Indiana during the Indiana Class Period. At least once during the Indiana Class Period, Plaintiff Khan purchased a Fairlife ultra-filtered milk product. As previously stated, throughout the Indiana Class Period, Fairlife advertised on its label that it provided "extraordinary" care for the dairy cows that produced the milk. Mr. Khan purchased this product because he believed and relied on this representation. Mr. Khan was injured in fact and lost money because of the false representation. Mr. Khan has stopped purchasing this product after learning of Defendants' inhumane treatment of the dairy cows that produced the milk.

- 5. Defendant Fairlife, LLC ("Fairlife") is a Delaware corporation headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Fairlife manufactures, advertises, sells, and markets various milk products nationwide, including in Indiana. Fairlife's principal source of milk is its dairy plant at Fair Oaks Farms, located in Fair Oaks, Indiana. Fairlife is owned by Select Milk Producers Inc. and the Coca-Cola Company and is distributed by Coca-Cola Refreshments.
- 6. Defendants Mike McCloskey and Sue McCloskey, residents of Indiana, are the owners and operators of Fair Oaks Farms and are co-founders of Fairlife and of Select Milk Producers Inc. Ms. McCloskey developed the ultra-filtered process to remove the lactose from the milk to create what they brand as "ultra-filtered milk." The McCloskey's devised the fraudulent marketing scheme for Fairlife and are responsible for both the false representations and the animal abuse that occurs at Fair Oak Farms. Defendants Mike and Sue McCloskey act as spokespersons for Fairlife milk products and make a personal "promise," signed under their own names, on the product labels that are the core of the fraudulent marketing scheme, including the promise that Defendants provide "extraordinary care and comfort for [their] cows." Defendants Mike and Sue McCloskey have promoted the fraudulent marketing scheme on Fairlife's website and on Fairlife's social media platforms.
- 7. At all relevant times, each Defendant acted in concert with, with the knowledge and approval of, and/or as the agent of the other Defendants within the course and scope of the agency, regarding the acts and omissions alleged.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because this case is pled as a class action, the matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and class members are citizens of a different state than Defendants.

- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Mike and Sue McCloskey are residents of the State of Indiana and Fairlife is registered to do business in and in fact conducts substantial business in the State of Indiana.
- 10. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District.

#### **BACKGROUND FACTS**

#### I. Consumers Are Willing to Pay a Price Premium for Animal Well-being

- 11. Meat and dairy manufacturers have begun making representations about animal welfare on product labels to propel more sales or to justify charging higher prices. The reasoning is simple: consumers deeply care whether their food comes from animals that were humanely treated and received a high level of care and are willing to pay a price premium for food sourced from humane farms. Defendants made claims that cows receive "extraordinary care and comfort" and their "promise" that "exceptional care [is] taken every step of the way" for this reason to charge inflated prices and increase unit sales of their milk products.
- 12. A common interpretation of a Humanely Raised and Handled product, perceived by a reasonable number of consumers, is that a product is produced and handled in such manner that it upholds a reasonable degree of virtuous principle, as it relates to the welfare of the animal subject to the reference, if the label implies such notion.
- 1. For instance, the American Humane Association conducted a survey with 2,634 consumers and found that: (1) 95.21 percent of the consumers believe a product that is labeled humanely raised referred to the "better treatment of animals", (2) 74 percent of the consumers would be "very willing" to pay an increased amount for such products, and (3) of that 74 percent, 34 percent were

willing to pay 10-20 percent more, (4) while 28 percent would be willing to pay 20-30 percent more for humanely raised products.<sup>1</sup>

- 2. In 2014, a survicey by the American Humane Association of more than 5,900 consumers found that: (1) 92.6 percent of the participants felt that it was "very important" to buy humanely raised products, (2) 89.6 percent of consumers were "extremely interested" in supporting the humane treatment of farm animals, and (3) only 0.7 percent were either not interested or felt that the humane treatment of farm animals did not concern them.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. According to the 2018 Power of Meat Survey: (1) humanely-raised products significantly influence consumers to purchase their product, as opposed to conventional products that do not have such claims, (2) more than 65 percent of consumers aware of the humanely raised claim on a product were reported to feel more inclined to purchase that product over a conventional product, and (3) 71 percent of Millennials and 64 percent of boomers claimed that they would likely select a humanely raised product over a conventional product.<sup>3</sup>

#### II. The Humane Treatment of Cows Is the Basis for Fairlife Milk's Premium Price

- 4. Defendants exploited consumer desire for dairy products originating from farms that ensure increased levels of animal well-being by making their representations a central premise in their labeling strategy. Defendants executed these actions while methodically mistreating their cows.
  - 5. Defendants' representations are effectively uniform on every label of their milk products.

 $<sup>^{1}\</sup> See\ https://www.americanhumane.org/app/uploads/2013/08/humane-heartland-farm-animals-survey-results.pdf (last accessed 6/13/19).$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See https://www.americanhumane.org/app/uploads/2016/08/2014-humane-heartland-farm-survey.pdf (last accessed 6/13/19).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See http://www.meatconference.com/sites/default/files/books/Power\_of\_meat\_2018.pdf (last accessed 6/13/19).

6. All versions of 1.5 Liter milk product labels depict a virtually identical promise to the one directly below:



7. The label specifically states:

#### **OUR PROMISE**

We are dairy farmers who **believe in better.**® From our farm in Fair Oaks, Indiana, along with all of our family farm partners, we started **fairlife**® to provide high quality real milk filtered for wholesome nutrition from farms where we take exceptional care at every step.

- Extraordinary care for our cows
- High milk quality standards
- Traceability back to our own farms
- Pursuit of sustainable farming

Mike & Sue McCloskey

fairlife® co-founders, dairy farmers (emphasis in original)

8. Likewise, all versions of 11.5 ounce labels of the milk products are fundamentally identical to the one displayed directly below:



9. The label specifically states:

#### **OUR PROMISE**

We provide extraordinary animal care, and we can trace our milk back to the family farms that produced it, so you can confidently enjoy every sip.

Mike & Sue McCloskey fairlife® co-founders, dairy farmers (emphasis in original)

- 10. Directly below the co-founders' signature is an illustration of the "flagship farm in Indiana" where the matter of animal maltreatment occurred.
- 11. A further example of a 1.5 liter label of the milk product is displayed directly below. The version directly below illustrates the uniform promise that is made on Defendants' milk products,

even with the trivial alteration in product labeling. All Defendants' products make the same fundamental claims as depicted below:



12. The label specifically states:

#### **OUR PROMISE**

The idea for this one-of-a-kind milk began at our kitchen table over 20 years ago. It was an ambition to provide the world with better nutrition while making the world a better place. Our **fairlife**® family farmers provide high quality, real milk, filtered for wholesome nutrition with exceptional care taken every step of the way.

- Extraordinary care and comfort for our cows
- Exceptional quality milk standards
- Traceability back to our farms
- Continual pursuit of sustainable farming

We'd love to have you visit our flagship farm in Indiana so you can see for yourself.

\*\*Mike & Sue McCloskey\*\*

fairlife® co-founders, dairy farmers

13. Directly above the co-founders' signature is an invitation to visit their "flagship farm in Indiana" where the animal mistreatment occurred.

14. Directly below the co-founders' signature is an illustration of the "flagship farm in Indiana" where the animal mistreatment occurred.

15. Defendants make an explicit "promise," in large bold lettering on all material labels of the milk products, that they provide "extraordinary animal care" (on the 11.5 once labels) or "extraordinary care and comfort for our cows" (on the 1.5 Liter labels). The "promise" is signed on the milk products' labels by Defendants Mike McCloskey and Sue McCloskey. However, as discussed herein, Defendants' "promise" is a sham. Defendants' cows do not receive "extraordinary care," but are instead methodically abused and ill-treated while they are present at the "flagship farm in Indiana".

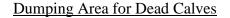
#### III. Defendants' Representations Are False

16. Between August and November 2018, an undercover investigator from the Animal Recovery Mission ("ARM"), a nonprofit animal welfare organization founded in 2010, disguised himself as a calf care employee at Fair Oaks Farms. Fundamentally, the actions on behalf of the investigator are warranted due to the explicit invitation located on the labeling of their products, as referenced above.

17. During that time, while undercover, the investigator documented several instances that illustrate the methodical and monstrous ill-treatment of the Defendants' cows that took place at Fair Oaks Farms. Such documents can be located at https://vimeo.com/340769169 (one-and-a-half-hour video) (last accessed 6/13/19) and https://vimeo.com/341672220 (4-minute video) (last accessed 6/13/19).

18. While undercover, the investigator documented (and recorded) observing the following examples of maltreatment "on virtually a daily basis" which were "a matter of routine and practice" at Fair Oaks Farms:

- Calves tortured, kicked, stomped on, body slammed;
- Calves thrown off the side of trucks;
- Calves stabbed and beaten with steel rebar;
- Calves through the dirt by their ears;
- Calves hit in the mouth and face with hard plastic milking bottles;
- Calves kneed in the spine;
- Calves left to die in over 100-degree temperatures;
- Calves provided with improper nutrition;
- Calves denied medical attention;
- Calves experiencing extreme pain and suffering, and in some cases permanent injury and death; and
- Calves that do not survive the torture are dumped in mass graves.
- 19. The investigator noted that "the abuse is rampant" at the Fair Oaks Farm in Indiana, which customers of the Fairlife product are encouraged to visit, as described above.
- 20. The following images are an accurate representation of the "care" that Defendants' cows receive:





### Dead Calves Being Transported



Calf's Head Being Stomped By Full Weight of Adult Man



Calves Left Throughout Summer in 113 Degree Temperature





#### Calf Being Choked and Thrown into a Trailer

#### IV. Defendants Admit that the Animal Abuse Took Place at Fair Oaks Farm

- 21. Soon after the release of the video, defendant Mike McCloskey admitted that everything depicted in the video occurred at Fair Oaks Farm in Indiana.
- 22. Defendant Mike McCloskey admitted that "after closely reviewing the released ARM video," he can confirm that employees at Fair Oaks Farm the "flagship farm" were "committing multiple instances of animal cruelty and despicable judgment." Defendant Mike McCloskey stated that he "take[s] full responsibility for the actions seen in the footage, as it goes against everything that we stand for in regard to responsible cow care and comfort." (emphasis added). In other words, while the labels of Defendants' milk products promised "Extraordinary care and comfort for our cows," defendant Mike McCloskey admits that Defendants have failed to live up to that standard by "committing multiple instances of animal cruelty and despicable judgment." Nonetheless, although defendant Mike McCloskey stated he took "full responsibility," he then went on to excuse the animal abuse by blaming a few bad apples, even though the abuse was rampant and known and approved by management at Fair Oaks farms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See https://fofarms.com/post/response/ (last accessed 6/14/19).

23. In a video posted to Fairlife website, its Chief Operating Officer Tim Doelman issued a public statement on behalf of Fairlife:

This week we saw appalling footage of animal abuse at Fair Oaks Farms, one of Fairlife's supplying dairy farms. This was something that never should have happened. It was wrong. Animal care is foundational to Fairlife. We have a responsibility to make sure that the dairy farms that supply our milk uphold the highest and most humane standards. We failed in doing that, and we are truly sorry. But sorry is not good enough, we offer you a commitment to improving practices that we now know were insufficient.<sup>5</sup>

24. Mr. Doelman also admitted in the video that Fairlife conducted only one purportedly unannounced audit per year of its dairy farms.

#### V. Defendants Profited from Their Fraudulent Marketing Scheme

25. As exemplified herein, a clear majority of consumers prefer products that ensure the general well-being of animals that produce such products is a top priority. Therefore, the fraudulent claims displayed on Defendants' product labels are an attempt to elevate product demand, and ultimately accumulate a significant increase in product revenue.

26. In September of 2017, according to Food Navigator-USA, it discovered that: (1) In 2016, Defendants increased their revenue in dollar sales by 79 percent, according to the Fairlife VP of Communications Anders Porter, and (2) that Fairlife had an estimate 76,000 outlets nationwide.<sup>6</sup>

27. According to The Dairy 100 List, it found that: (1) Fairlife generate \$200.0 million in sales in 2015, (2) \$350.0 million in sales during 2017, and (3) the Fair Oaks Farms was listed as one of the plants contributing to the production of Fairlife products.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See https://fairlife.com/news/fairlife-statement-regarding-arm-video/ (last accessed on 6/14/19).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2017/09/12/fairlife-ultra-filtered-milk-sales-surged-79-in-2016 (last accessed 6/14/19).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See https://www.dairyfoods.com/2017-Dairy-100-3 (last accessed 6/14/19).

28. In more recent article from Food Navigator-USA in 2019, it was reported that: (1) Fairlife is increasing its "production and distribution" by planning to construct a new \$200 million production facility, which (2) the facility is estimated to produce 3 to 4 million pounds of milk each day, and (3) Fairlife sales have increased by 42 percent compared to the previous year.<sup>8</sup>

29. All material increases in revenue and product demand, as allocated above, are a product of deceptive marketing. Thus, consumers who purchased Defendants' products did so based on a fallacy that Defendants claims regarding animal welfare were veracious.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

#### INDIANA CLASS

- 30. Plaintiffs Khan and Sabeehullah bring this action on behalf of themselves and all Indiana residents who purchased Defendants' milk products on or after June 17, 2017 (the "Indiana Class Period") in the State of Indiana, each such person termed as "Indiana Class Member," and all such persons termed the "Indiana Class."
  - 31. Plaintiffs seeks certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (3).
- 32. Excluded from the Indiana Class are: (a) Fairlife and its employees, principals, affiliated entities, legal representatives, successors and assigns; (b) the judges to whom this action is assigned and any members of their immediate families; and (c) all governmental entities.
- 33. On information and belief, there are thousands of Indiana Class Members who are geographically dispersed throughout Indiana. Therefore, individual joinder of all Indiana Class Members would be impracticable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>See https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2019/04/09/fairlife-to-build-200m-production-facility-to-meet-consumer-demand (last accessed 6/14/19).

- 34. Common questions of law or fact exist as to all Indiana Class Members. These questions predominate over the questions affective only individual Indiana Class Members. These common legal or factual questions include:
  - a. Whether Fairlife provided "extraordinary" care for the dairy cows that produced the milk products;
  - b. Whether Fairlife's "promise" that they provide "extraordinary animal care...so you can confidently enjoy every sip" on the milk products is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
  - c. Whether Defendants' representations are unlawful;
  - d. Whether an injunction against Defendants is warranted; and
  - e. The appropriate measure of damages, disgorgement, and restitution.
- 35. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Indiana Class in that Plaintiffs are consumers who purchased Defendants' milk products in Indiana during the Indiana Class Period. Plaintiffs are thus no different in any relevant respect from any other Indiana Class Member, and the relief sought is common to the Indiana Class.
- 36. Plaintiffs are adequate representatives of the Indiana Class because their interests do not conflict with the interests of the Indiana Class Members they seek to represent, and they have retained counsel competent and experienced in conducting complex class action litigation. Plaintiffs and their counsel will adequately protect the interests of the Indiana Class.
- 37. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this dispute. The damages suffered by each individual Indiana Class Member will be relatively small, especially given the relatively low cost of the milk products at issue compared to the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendants' conduct. Thus, it would be virtually impossible for Indiana Class Members individually to effectively redress the wrongs done to them. Moreover, even if the Indiana Class Members could

afford individual actions, which they cannot, it would still be far less desirable than efficient class-wide litigation. Individualized actions present the potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

38. In addition, the Indiana Class may be certified because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Indiana Class, thereby making appropriate declaratory and equitable relief with respect to the Indiana Class.

#### CALIFORNIA CLASS

- 39. Plaintiff Khan brings this action on behalf of himself and all California residents who purchased Defendants' milk products on or after June 14, 2014 (the "California Class Period") in the State of California, each such person termed a "California Class Member," and all such persons termed the "California Class."
  - 40. Plaintiff Khan seeks certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and (3).
- 41. Excluded from the California Class are: (a) Fairlife and its employees, principals, affiliated entities, legal representatives, successors and assigns; (b) the judges to whom this action is assigned and any members of their immediate families; and (c) all governmental entities.
- 42. On information and belief, there are thousands of California Class Members who are geographically dispersed throughout California. Therefore, individual joinder of all California Class Members would be impracticable.
- 43. Common questions of law or fact exist as to all California Class Members. These questions predominate over the questions affective only individual California Class Members. These common legal or factual questions include:

- a. Whether Fairlife provided "extraordinary" care for the dairy cows that produced the milk products;
- b. Whether Fairlife's "promise" that they provide "extraordinary animal care...so you can confidently enjoy every sip" on the milk products is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
- c. Whether Defendants' representations are unlawful;
- d. Whether an injunction against Defendants is warranted; and
- e. The appropriate measure of damages, disgorgement, and restitution.
- 44. Plaintiff Khan's claims are typical of the claims of the California Class in that Plaintiff Khan is a consumer who purchased Defendants' milk products in California during the California Class Period. Plaintiff Khan is thus no different in any relevant respect from any other California Class Member, and the relief sought is common to the California Class.
- 45. Plaintiff Khan is an adequate representative of the California Class because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the California Class Members he seeks to represent, and he has retained counsel competent and experienced in conducting complex class action litigation. Plaintiff Khan and his counsel will adequately protect the interests of the California Class.
- 46. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this dispute. The damages suffered by each individual California Class Member will be relatively small, especially given the relatively low cost of the milk products at issue compared to the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendants' conduct. Thus, it would be virtually impossible for California Class Members individually to effectively redress the wrongs done to them. Moreover, even if the California Class Members could afford individual actions, which they cannot, it would still be far less desirable than efficient class-wide litigation. Individualized actions present the potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties

and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

47. In addition, the California Class may be certified because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the California Class, thereby making appropriate declaratory and equitable relief with respect to the California Class.

## COUNT I: INDIANA DECEPTIVE CONSUMER SALES ACT I.C. § 24-5-0.5 (on behalf of the Indiana Class)

- 48. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 49. Defendants violated Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(a) by engaging in an unfair, abusive, and/or deceptive act of claiming that: Fairlife provides "extraordinary animal care;" "exceptional care [is] taken every step of the way...;" and its cows receive "extraordinary care and comfort. Defendants knew or should have reasonably knowns that said representations were false.
- 50. Defendants violated Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(b)(1) by making oral, written, and/or electronic representations that the milk products had characteristics and/or benefits it did not have and which the Defendants knew or should have reasonably known that it did not have. More specifically, Defendants claimed that: Fairlife provides "extraordinary animal care;" "exceptional care [is] taken every step of the way...;" and its cows receive "extraordinary care and comfort. Defendants knew or should have reasonably knowns that said representations were false.
- 51. Defendants violated Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-3(b)(1) by making oral, written or electronic representations that the milk products were of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or model, even though said representations were false and the Defendants knew or should reasonably have known that they were false. More specifically, Defendants claimed that: Fairlife provides "extraordinary animal care;" "exceptional care [is] taken every step of the way…;" and its cows receive "extraordinary care and comfort. Defendants knew or should have reasonably knowns that

said representations were false.

- 52. Plaintiffs Sabeehullah and Khan and Indiana Class Members relied on Defendants' misrepresentations.
- 53. Defendants' deceptive acts were done as part of a scheme, artifice, or device with intent to defraud or mislead and constitute incurable deceptive acts under Ind. Code § 24-5-0.5-1 *et seq*.
- 54. Plaintiffs Sabeehullah and Khan and Indiana Class Members are entitled to statutory damages, reasonable attorney fees, costs of suit, and an order enjoining Defendants' unlawful practices, and any other relief which the Court deems proper.

# COUNT II: "Unlawful" Business Practices in Violation of the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq. (on behalf of the California Class)

- 55. Plaintiff Khan incorporates the above allegations as if set forth herein.
- 56. The UCL defines unfair business competition to include any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent" act or practice, as well as any "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading" advertising. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.
  - 57. A business act or practice is "unlawful" if it violates any established state or federal law.
- 58. California's Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law ("Sherman Law"), Article 6, § 110660 provides that: "Any food is misbranded if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular."
- 59. Defendants violated and continue to violate the Sherman Law, Article 6, § 110660, and hence also violated and continues to violate the "unlawful" prong of the UCL, through its "promise" that Fairlife provides "Extraordinary care and comfort for our cows" and "provide[s] extraordinary animal care" on the labels of their milk products.

60. Defendants' identical conduct that violates the Sherman Law also violates the FDCA §

403(a)(1), 21 U.S.C. § 343(a)(1), which declares food misbranded under federal law if its

"labeling is false and misleading in any particular." This identical conduct serves as the sole

factual basis of each cause of action brought by this Complaint, and Plaintiff does not seek to

enforce any of the state law claims raised herein to impose any standard of conduct that exceeds

that which is required by FDCA § 403(a)(1).

61. By committing the acts and practices alleged above, Defendants have engaged, and

continue to be engaged, in unlawful business practices within the meaning of California Business

and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

62. Through their unlawful acts and practices, Defendants have unfairly obtained, and

continue to unfairly obtain, money from members of the California Class. As such, Plaintiff Khan

requests that this Court cause Defendants to restore this money to Plaintiff Khan and all California

Class Members, to disgorge the profits Defendants made on these transactions, and to enjoin

Defendants from continuing to violate the UCL or violating it in the same fashion in the future as

discussed herein. Otherwise, the California Class may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an

effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted.

COUNT III: "Unfair" Business Practices in Violation of the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Bus. & Prof. Code. §§ 17200, et seq.

(on behalf of the California Class)

63. Plaintiff Khan incorporates the above allegations as if set forth herein.

64. The UCL defines unfair business competition to include any "unlawful, unfair or

fraudulent" act or practice, as well as any "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading" advertising.

Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

65. A business act or practice is "unfair" under the UCL if the reasons, justifications, and

motives of the alleged wrongdoer are outweighed by the gravity of the harm to the alleged victims.

66. Defendants are violating the "unfair" prong of the UCL through their misleading

"promise" on the milk products' labels that Fairlife provides "Extraordinary care and comfort for

our cows" and "provide[s] extraordinary animal care" when the cows do not receive

"extraordinary care and comfort." The gravity of the harm to members of the California Class

resulting from such unfair acts and practices outweighs any conceivable reasons, justifications

and/or motives of Defendants for engaging in such deceptive acts and practices. By committing

the acts and practices alleged above, Defendants have engaged, and continue to be engaged, in

unfair business practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code §§

17200, et seq.

67. Through their unfair acts and practices, Defendants have unfairly obtained, and continue

to unfairly obtain, money from members of the California Class. As such, Plaintiff Khan requests

that this Court cause Defendants to restore this money to Plaintiff Khan and all California Class

Members, to disgorge the profits Defendants have made on the milk products, and to enjoin

Defendants from continuing to violate the UCL or violating it in the same fashion in the future as

discussed herein. Otherwise, the California Class may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an

effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted.

Count IV: "Fraudulent" Business Practices in Violation of the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.

(on behalf of the California Class)

68. Plaintiff Khan incorporates the above allegations as if set forth herein.

69. The UCL defines unfair business competition to include any "unlawful, unfair or

fraudulent" act or practice, as well as any "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading" advertising.

Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

70. A business act or practice is "fraudulent" under the UCL if it actually deceives or is likely

to deceive members of the consuming public.

71. Defendants' acts and practices of promising that Fairlife provides "extraordinary animal

care" and that "exceptional care [is] taken every step of the way..." despite the fact that the cows

do not receive "extraordinary care and comfort" has the effect of misleading consumers into

believing the milk products are something they are not, produced from cows that receive

"extraordinary care and comfort."

72. As a result of the conduct described above, Defendants have been, and will continue to

be, unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff Khan and Members of the California Class.

Specifically, Defendants have been unjustly enriched by the profits they have obtained from

Plaintiff Khan and the California Class from the purchases of milk products made by Defendants.

73. Through their unfair acts and practices, Defendants have improperly obtained, and

continue to improperly obtain, money from members of the California Class. As such, Plaintiff

Khan requests that this Court cause Defendants to restore this money to Plaintiff Khan and all

California Class Members, to disgorge the profits Defendants have made on the milk products,

and to enjoin Defendants from continuing to violate the Unfair Competition Law or violating it

in the same fashion in the future as discussed herein. Otherwise, the California Class may be

irreparably harmed and/or denied an effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted.

Count V: False Advertising in Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, et seq.

(on behalf of the California Class and the General Public)

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74. Plaintiff Khan incorporates the above allegations as if set forth herein. This claim is brought on behalf of Plaintiff Khan, the California Class, and the general public.

75. Defendants uses advertising on its packaging to sell its milk products. Defendants are disseminating advertising concerning Fairlife's goods that by their very nature are deceptive, untrue, or misleading within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* because those advertising representations contained on Fairlife's labels are misleading and deceived, and will continue to deceive, the California Class Members and the general public.

76. In making and disseminating the representations alleged herein, Defendants knew or should have known that the representations were untrue or misleading, and that they acted in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* 

77. The misrepresentations and non-disclosures by Defendants of the material facts detailed above constitute false and misleading advertising and therefore constitute a violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq*.

78. Through their deceptive acts and practices, Defendants have improperly and illegally obtained money from Plaintiff Khan and Members of the California Class. As such, Plaintiff Khan requests that this Court cause Defendants to restore this money to Plaintiff Khan and California Class Members, and to enjoin Defendants from continuing to violate California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*, as discussed above. Otherwise, Plaintiff Khan and those similarly situated will continue to be harmed by Defendants' false and/or misleading advertising.

79. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code § 17535, Plaintiff Khan seeks an order of this Court ordering Defendants to fully disclose the true nature of their misrepresentations. Plaintiff Khan additionally requests an order requiring Defendants to disgorge their ill-gotten gains and/or award full restitution of all monies wrongfully acquired by Defendants

by means of such acts of false advertising, plus interest and attorneys' fees so as to restore any and all monies that were acquired and obtained by means of such untrue and misleading advertising, misrepresentations and omissions, and which ill-gotten gains are still retained by Defendants. Plaintiff Khan and the California Class may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted.

80. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to this date. Plaintiff Khan and the California Class are therefore entitled to the relief described below.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Indiana Class and the California Class, and for the claims brought on behalf of the general public, requests an award and relief as follows:

- A. An order certifying that this action is properly brought and may be maintained as a class action, appointing: Plaintiffs Sabeehullah and Khan, as Class Representatives for the Indiana Class; Plaintiff Khan as Class Representatives for the California Class; and Plaintiffs' Counsel as Counsel for the Class;
- B. Statutory damages and treble damages for the Indiana Class under the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act.
- C. Restitution in such amounts that Plaintiffs and all Indiana and California Class Members paid to purchase the milk products produced by milk cows provided "extraordinary care and comfort", or paid as a premium over alternatives, or restitutionary disgorgement of the profits Defendants obtained from those transactions, for claims for which they are available;
  - D. Compensatory damages for claims for which they are available;
  - E. Punitive damages for claims for which they are available;

F. A declaration and order enjoining Defendants from advertising its products misleadingly,

in violation of Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act, California's Sherman Food, Drug and

Cosmetic Law, and other applicable laws and regulations as specified in this Complaint;

G. An order awarding Plaintiffs their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

pre- and post-judgment interest;

H. An order requiring an accounting for, and imposition of, a constructive trust on all monies

received by Defendants as a result of the unfair, misleading, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct

alleged herein;

I. The requests for relief sought herein as they pertain to the Second Cause of Action do not

and shall not be read to exceed the [d]amages and other legal and equitable relief" and "costs and

expenses (including attorneys' fees based on actual time expended)" as provided in 15 U.S.C. §

2310(d); and

J. Such other and further relief as may be deemed necessary or appropriate.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all causes of action and/or all issues so triable.

Dated: June 17, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Saeed & Little, LLP

/s/ Syed Ali Saeed

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#### ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

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JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

## Case: 1:19-cv-07171 Document #: 1-1 Filed: 06/17/19 Page 1 of 2 PageID #:26

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT FAGE C	or mis re	KM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)									
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		  TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES		-	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			and One Box for  TF DEF  1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State			r Defenda PTF □ 4	<i>int)</i> <b>DEF</b> □ 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	1 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		en of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		□ 5	□ 5
W. MARKIDE OF COM	n			en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗖 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	F	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	RAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER S	TATIT	FS
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise    REAL PROPERTY   □ 210 Land Condemnation   □ 220 Foreclosure   □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   □ 245 Tort Product Liability   □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 755 Motor Vehicle □ 1360 Other Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury □ 363 Property Damage Product Liability □ 388 Other Personal Injury □ 389 Other Personal Injury □ 380 Other Personal Injury □ 361 Personal Injury □ 370 Other Fraud □ 371 Truth in Lending □ 389 Property Damage □ 385 Property Damage Product Liability □ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury PERSONAL PROPE □ 370 Other Fraud □ 371 Truth in Lending □ 389 Property Damage □ 385 Property		1	School Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 00 Other  LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 20 Labor/Management Relations 10 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical Leave Act 00 Other Labor Litigation 01 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 840 Trademark □ 840 Trademark □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609		□ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC □ 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
	Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other  448 Education  n One Box Only)  moved from  3	Other:  540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement  Remanded from Appellate Court	ner □ 46	52 Naturalization Application 55 Other Immigration Actions  astated or	ferred from				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION				(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional stat	)	Transfer		Direct F	ile
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:				EMAND \$	AND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  JURY DEMAND:				
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
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#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- **V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.