These Legal Crimes  
Morgan Greenlaw

Factory farm  
Sounds nice  
Sounds swell  
Factory farm  
Is the definition of hell  
Take a step inside  
And see for yourself

Packed in tight, less than a square foot each  
Legs snap, beaks break  
’Cause they’re drug-fed for weight gain

Commodities  
That’s how they’re seen  
It’s all for money  
Not a being, what do you mean?  
If they misbehave  
They’re sent to the grave  
But there’s always a stray  
Among the decayed  
Looking for a way  
But there is no escape  
Can’t break free from all the chains

They get their babies ripped away  
This happens every single day  
Shot in the head they survive  
Electrocuted in their ears, still alive  
See their limbs cut off before their very own eyes

They scream and plead but we never cease  
They say “please, please, please” in every case  
But they don’t have a voice that we can hear  
All we hear are sounds above the fear  
It’s always noise, noise, noise in their ears

Let’s back up  
Hold on…  
How did it all start?  
Seems like someone just can’t find their heart
Manipulation, exploitation, utilization
It’s all their creation:
Cargill.
Tyson.
JBS.

Their favorite employees
Are the ones without papers
Undocumented - black & brown
It’s perfect – they can’t make a sound

“Come watch me work”
They’ll never say
You won’t step inside
And see their day

But if you did
And if you breathed
And heard
And smelled
And saw

You’d be poisoned by ammonia
Feel fecal rain upon you
Slip on waste and fall face to face
With the animal you are about to kill

BANG one
BANG two
BANG three
Lives down
You’d get the hang of it
Feel kind of numb to it
Not even think of it
Until

Joints ache
Nightmares haunt
And your brain is never the same

How have we come to this?
Why are we doing this?
How do we not realize?

**It's our ignorance that makes us guilty of these legal crimes**
It's our ignorance that makes us question these very lines

Look beyond what society has normalized.
If someone killed their own pet for meat, wouldn’t that be criticized?

How is this right, or just, or plain old okay?
How can we go on with our lives supporting this every day?
Look into their eyes and see all their pain
Look into their eyes and see what needs to change
Because they need us
To do something
To help them
To live
A life

Works Cited

