



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

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Syracuse, New York

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyn>

JEFFERSON COUNTY DAIRY FARMER ENTERS GUILTY PLEA TO HIRING ILLEGAL ALIENS

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, announce that **JOHN BARNEY (47, of Adams, New York)**, entered a guilty plea to a one-count Information charging him with Unlawful Employment of Illegal Aliens, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324a(a)(2) and (f)(1). On December 15, 2011, **JOHN BARNEY** entered his guilty plea before United States Magistrate Judge Andrew T. Baxter and was sentenced to 6 months unsupervised release, a \$3,000.00 fine payable to the benefit of Porferio Lopez's family, and a \$10.00 special assessment.

During the plea hearing, **BARNEY** admitted the following:

From in or about June 2009, up to and including March 20, 2011, the Defendant, **JOHN BARNEY**, was one of the owners/operators of a dairy farm named Butterville Farms, which is located in Adams, New York. During that time, **JOHN BARNEY** and Butterville Farms hired and continued to employ at least eight illegal aliens from Guatemala to work on the dairy farm.

On March 20, 2011, at 9:43 pm, the Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), along with deputies from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department (JCSD), responded to a dispatch regarding a death that occurred at Butterville Farms. During the death investigation, sheriff's deputies determined that several Butterville Farms' employees were citizens of Guatemala and illegally present in the United States. The deputies asked **JOHN BARNEY** for his employee list. After producing his employee list, **JOHN BARNEY** stated that several of his employees were illegally present in the United States. Thereafter, special agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to Butterville Farms and detained seven aliens from Guatemala that had been working and residing at Butterville Farms for several months. All seven of the detained aliens were unauthorized to work in the United States. In addition, the person who had died in an accident, Porferio Lopez, also was an alien who was unauthorized to work in the United States.

BARNEY also admitted that he knew that all of the above-described aliens he hired and continued to employ were unauthorized aliens with respect to such employment in the United States.

The expertise and determination of HSI's special agents and the constant, proactive investigative work with our law enforcement partners resulted in bringing Mr. Barney to justice," said Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero in Buffalo. "An effective, comprehensive worksite enforcement strategy must address the employers who knowingly hire illegal workers in order to reduce the demand for illegal employment and protect employment opportunities for the nation's lawful workforce."

This prosecution resulted from an investigation conducted by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ransom P. Reynolds. Further questions may be directed to Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John Duncan at (315) 448-0672.