



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service  
Office of Field  
Operations  
Jackson District Office  
713 S Pear Orchard  
Rd, Suite 402  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

October 23, 2019

**Via Email:**  
**purchasing@boonesbutchershop.com**  
**and FedEx Tracking Number**  
**# 776795749941**

Mr. Luel Boone, Plant Manager/President  
Boone's Abattoir, Inc., Est. M8078  
100 Old Bloomfield Pike  
Bardstown, KY 40004

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Dear Mr. Boone:

On October 21, 2019, a "Notice of Suspension" was issued to suspend the assignment of inspectors for your federal slaughter activities at Boone's Abattoir, Inc., Est. M8078. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313. Specifically, on Monday, October 21, 2019, at approximately 1452 EDT, a pig was stunned using an electric hog stunner (a wand that has two pads that send electricity) by a plant slaughter employee. Your employee administered the first stun by touching the head and back. The pig appeared to be unconscious at that time. Your employee then administered a second stun on the thoracic cavity, it is standard practice to perform a second stun to ensure unconsciousness. Your employee then shackled the pig from a back foot. While the pig was hanging, your employee used his knife to bleed out the pig by cutting into the thoracic cavity just below the throat. At that point, the IIC noticed the pig was blinking and looking around. Within seconds we heard the pig squealing, there was three sets of squeals. While the pig squealed, the IIC noticed it blinking, looking in multiple directions, and it was trying to lift its head. Once your plant employee realized where the squealing was coming from, which was within five seconds of making the cut, he picked up the electric stunner wand and performed another stun by touching the head and shoulder area. Your employee then checked to see if the pig was blinking. It was not. At 1525 EDT, the IIC notified your Owner Allison Porteus that an egregious inhumane handling violation had occurred. The IIC placed U.S. rejected tags on both hog stunners (tag no. B25814751 and no. B37716636) and the knock box (tag no. B37716641), used to stun animals.

On October 22, 2019, you submitted your first response with written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and advised you that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures were not adequate. Specifically, you were asked to provide details on your "refresher training"; provide details on your "set up parameters"; provide specific details or training materials explaining your "wand placement"; provide clarification from your letterhead cover document, dated October 22, 2019, stating that there will be no changes to your HH Program; provide

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post-event (post October 21, 2019) training/instruction logs displaying that refresher training, set up parameters, and wand placement training have been provided to stun area employees after the October 21, 2019 event, displaying dates, times, and initials or signatures of said employees as having received said training; provide analysis or service of the implicated electrical stun device to ensure its integrity is intact to meet first stun effectiveness, prior to intended resumption of slaughter with that device and who will provide the service.

On October 23, 2019, you provided your second response. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and determined that the response adequately address the identified issues. On October 23, 2019, at approximately 9:43 AM CDT, the Deputy District Manager telephoned you and verbally notified you that the corrective actions and preventive measures you proffered were adequate to meet the requirements to place Boone's Abattoir, Inc., Est. M8078, under a "Notice of Reinstatement of Suspension Held in Abeyance." This letter formally informs you of this action.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan (VP) will be provided to assist you in understanding the nature and importance of the Agency's verification activities. The FSIS Verification Plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the revisions to its humane handling of animals and other corrective actions and preventive measures stated in your October 22 and 23, 2019, responses and that these revisions and corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s), and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proffered action plan.

Please be further advised that this suspension of inspection at your establishment will remain in Abeyance pending verification by FSIS that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been implemented and are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

It is important for you to understand that FSIS has the responsibility to initiate action if your establishment fails to operate in accordance with the regulations, or conditions occur that do not comply with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. In these situations, FSIS personnel will take regulatory control of product or other appropriate action.

Please be advised that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and all applicable regulations and other requirements concerning the preparation, sale, and transportation of meat products. Failure to comply with these requirements or to effectively implement the measures addressed in your responses, dated October 22 and 23, 2019, could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action(s).

If you have any questions about this action, please contact the Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4312.

Sincerely,



Dr. Larry Davis

District Manager

Jackson District Office