



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection
Service
Office of Field Operations
Jackson District Office
713 S Pear Orchard Rd,
Plaza 2, Suite 402
Ridgeland, MS 39157

January 7, 2021

**Via Facsimile: bsmith@itsgoo-od.com
And FedEx Tracking Number
#772555723237**

Mr. Ray Barnes, Plant Manager
F. B. Purnell Sausage Co., Inc., Est. M7464
6931 Shelbyville Road
Simpsonville, KY 40067

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Barnes:

On January 6, 2021, a "Notice of Suspension" was issued to suspend the assignment of inspectors for your federal slaughter activities at F.B. Purnell Sausage Co., Inc., Est. M7464. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313. Specifically, on January 6, 2021, at approximately 0830 hours, while performing the livestock Humane Handling Activities Tracking System (HATS) task at Purnell Sausage Co. Inc., Est. M7464, the following observation was made by the Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer (SVMO). A suspect sow in the holding pen of the barn was observed being electrically stunned with the portable electric stunner. Your establishment uses a head-then-heart application of the wand. Your establishment personnel applied the wand to the neck of the sow sitting in a sternal position. When the wand was removed for placement on the heart, the sow was observed sensible (conscious eye-tracking). The wand was again placed on the neck of the sow. The sow went lateral recumbent and was again observed sensible (conscious eye-tracking) and rolled back to the sternal position (conscious righting reflex). Your establishment personnel applied the wand 6 times to the head and heart until the sow was rendered insensible. At one point, the sow was heard vocalizing as well. The SVMO immediately took a regulatory control action and applied U.S. Rejected tag #B45-422669 to the restrainer. (b) (6) was informed of the above observation and regulatory control action, as well as documentation of the non-compliance.

On January 6, 2021, 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 informed that you should provide the root cause of the failure and how you will prevent recurrence; provide training logs for your stun device training class, video review, and on the job training; provide training material and logs for all your employees and affirmation that will be completed prior to your employees working in the stunning process; provide training for all new hires in affected areas (training

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completed prior to work in any affected positions); provide refresher training and frequency.

On January 6, 2021, you provided your second response. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and determined that the response adequately addressed the identified issues. On January 6, 2021, at 3:30 PM 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 F.B. Purnell Sausage Co., Inc., Est. M7464, under a "Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance." This letter formally informs you of this action. Specifically, you defined the root cause of failure was due to an incorrect setting used on your stun device; you stated you will maintain three stunners at your facility; you stated that your first stunner will be used to stun all hogs entering the restrainer, your backup stunner will be used in rare cases that the primary stunner is missed, or a hog would need extra stunning and the third stunner will be used on down hogs in the barn or livestock hauling trailers under the supervision of USDA inspection; you stated that your primary and backup stunner is a Bunzl brand (head to heart) which operates at a low of 40 Hertz and high of 1250 Hertz, 2.95 amps for 10 seconds, and the Bus Duty is 275 volts at 95% which are recommended settings by Bunzl for this unit; you stated that your third stunner is Boss Double prong head stunner, 2 and 3 amps, up to 500 volts; you stated that your supervisor will check the settings prior to use; you stated that stunners will be checked three times daily to assure proper settings and voltage; you provided your Stunning Procedure which you stated will be performed by trained employees; you stated that qualified management employees will monitor all humane slaughter practices at a minimum of twice per day; you stated that a second monitoring will take place to evaluate further proper humane slaughtering actions; you stated that any mis-stuns will result in line stoppage and kill floor employees will immediately notify management and a root cause of the mis-stun will be found and documented; you stated that all affected kill personnel (unloading, sticking and stunning) will be trained upon hiring prior to being placed into the aforementioned positions; you stated that all your employees will view the video "Humane Handling of Livestock and Poultry featuring Dr. Temple Grandin" and be trained by Human Resources, Supervisor, or 1 of 2 employees who have attended the Animal Care and Handling conference sponsored by the American Meat Institute; you stated that the employee will only be released when the supervisor and management feel the employee is properly trained to perform the job duties; you stated that all training will be updated at least once a year and will be documented; you provided your Humane Handling training logs for your employees; you provided your Humane Slaughter Audit Form which will be conducted twice daily; you provided your Humane Slaughter Checklist which will be conducted twice daily.

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 January 6, 2021, 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.

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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 January 6, 2021, 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,

DAMON

RANFTLE

FOR:

Dr. Larry Davis

District Manager

Jackson District Office

Digitally signed by DAMON
RANFTLE
Date: 2021.01.07 05:55:48 -06'00'

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Cc:

(b) (6)

Dr. Larry Davis, DM (via electronic copy)

Dr. Damon Ranftle, DDM (via electronic copy)

Dr. Kermit Harvey, DDM (via electronic copy)

Mr. Jason Orlando, DDM (via electronic copy)

(b) (6)

Ms. Geraldine French, EARO (via electronic copy)

Washington, D. C. FSIS HQ personnel (via electronic copy)