



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

April 7, 2022

Digitally signed copy hand-delivered

Office of Field  
Operations  
Des Moines District  
Office

Terry O'Rourke, Manager  
Prestage Foods of Iowa  
3183 Hwy 17  
Eagle Grove, IA 50533

Neal Smith Federal  
Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Room 985  
Des Moines, IA  
50309-2123

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Voice 515.727.8960  
Fax 515.727.8991

Dear Mr. O'Rourke:

This letter confirms verbal notification provided by the Des Moines District Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to establishment M51340, Prestage Foods of Iowa 3183 Hwy 17 Eagle Grove, Iowa, herein referred to as your/the establishment, of the decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS), initiated on April 6, 2022, due to observation by inspection program personnel (IPP) of an egregious humane handling incident, into abeyance (NOSA).

On April 6, 2022, you provided FSIS, via emails, written corrective actions and preventive measures, in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOS. The response outlined actions adequate to address the noncompliance regarding humane handling of livestock requirements, including a plan to maintain compliance with the *Federal Meat Inspection Act* (FMIA) Title 21 of the United States Code (21 U.S.C. 603), the *Humane Methods of Slaughter Act* of 1978 (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq), and federal regulations {Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) Part 313.15(a)(1)}.

The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

- Response (1 page)
- Prestage Animal Welfare 27 Training (1 page)
- Prestage Foods Captive Bolt Euthanization Check (1 page)
- Captive Bolt Euthanasia Training (3 pages)
- AW-22 Captive Bolt Gun Maintenance Log (1 page)

Based on your written response, you were informed via telephone, that the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is held in abeyance effective April 6, 2022.

The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been effectively implemented and are adequate to maintain compliance. Establishment personnel should monitor operations to prevent violations of humane handling and slaughter from occurring in the future. It is also important for you to understand the responsibility of FSIS to initiate action when there is a failure to operate in accordance with 9 CFR Part 313 of the regulations.

During the abeyance period verification activities will be conducted by IPP and results will be reported to the Des Moines District Office on a weekly basis. The decision to hold the suspension action in abeyance is based on the proffered actions. Any modifications to your submitted corrective actions and preventive measures made during the abeyance period need to be submitted, in writing, to the Des Moines District Office for review prior to implementation by your establishment.

Please be advised that, as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate corrective action to prevent inhumane handling of livestock at your establishment. Your failure to comply with these requirements or to implement the measures in your action plan could result in reinstatement of the suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate administrative or legal action.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Des Moines District Office, at 515-727-8960 or (b) (6)  
(b) (6).

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Todd C.  
Gerwig  
Date: 2022.04.07 15:07:53 -05'00'

Dawn Sprouls, DVM  
District Manager  
USDA FSIS OFO  
Des Moines District Office