



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 12, 2025

Hand delivered and sent via USPS

Parker County Beef Company Processing
Establishment 2918
2480 Cottondale Road
Springtown, TX 76082
Bryson@parkercountybeefcompany.com
(817) 677-2442

Attention: Mr. David Bryson Burnnett, Manager

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

This letter serves as official notification by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of its decision to, effective immediately, withhold the marks of inspection and suspend inspection services for the Slaughter Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) processes at Parker County Beef Company Processing, Establishment 2918, 2127 East Highway 199, Springtown, Texas 76082. This letter follows verbal notification of the suspension action, provided by Dr. Kinsey Naylor-Byles, Deputy District Manager (DDM), to you at approximately 5:20 p.m., March 11, 2025.

FSIS is taking this action in accordance with Title 9 of the Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Rules of Practice 500.3(b), based on the determination that Parker County Beef Company Processing handled or slaughtered livestock inhumanely, in violation of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), 21 United States Code (USC) Section 601 (*et seq.*), the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA), 7 USC 1901 (*et seq.*), and the relevant regulatory requirements of 9 CFR Part 313.

This letter provides you with information on the Agency's authority, the facts supporting FSIS' action, and information on how you can respond.

Background/Authority

FSIS is the agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for protecting the public's health by ensuring the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products for sale and distribution in commerce is safe, unadulterated, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. FSIS administers and enforces, among other laws, the FMIA, HMSA, and the statutes' implementing regulations. FSIS has prescribed rules and regulations required for establishments producing meat/meat food products, including requirements pertaining to humane handling and slaughtering of livestock (9 CFR Part 313) and other matters. FSIS has also developed the Rules of Practice regarding enforcement (9 CFR Part 500). The Rules of Practice describe the types of enforcement action that FSIS may take and include procedures for taking a withholding action

Food Safety and Inspection Service
Office of Field Operations
Dallas District Office
1100 Commerce Street, Room 516
Dallas, TX 75242
Voice 214-767-9116 Fax 844-622-0080
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Mr. David Bryson Burnett, Owner
Parker County Beef Company Processing, Est 2918

Notice of Suspension
March 12, 2025

and/or suspension, with or without prior notification, and for filing a complaint to withdraw a Federal Grant of Inspection.

Should FSIS personnel document serious or repetitive food safety, sanitation, humane handling, slaughter, or other violations, FSIS may take enforcement action under 9 CFR Part 500.

Links to the Acts and the Rules of Practice are enclosed for your information and review.

FMIA : <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/food-safety-acts/federal-meat-inspection-act>

HMSA: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/food-safety-acts/humane-methods-slaughter-act>

FSIS Rules of Practice: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-9/chapter-III/subchapter-E/part-500>

Findings/Basis for Action

On March 11, 2025, at approximately 3:33 p.m., (b) (6), Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI), observed the following at Establishment 2918: A medium sized longhorn cow was pinned in the middle of the trailer. The animal was calm and still. The first stunning attempt was applied using a 45-caliber long colt handgun. CSI (b) (6) observed the animal remain standing and had rhythmic breathing. The establishment immediately administered second shot. The animal remained standing and had rhythmic breathing. The establishment then administered a third shot. The animal remained standing, had rhythmic breathing, and had spontaneous unprovoked blinking. The establishment employee then applied a fourth shot using a .357 magnum pistol retrieved from the kill floor office. The animal was successfully rendered unconscious. CSI (b) (6) tagged the knock box with U.S. Retain/Reject tag number B30942841 and the secondary entrance where the carcass was to be brought into the facility with U.S. Retain/Reject tag number B3094846. CSI (b) (6) informed you and (b) (6), Assistant Plant Manager of the noncompliance in violation of 9 CFR 313.16 (a)(1) and 9 CFR 313.16(b)(2).

Conclusion

On September 9, 2004, FSIS published *Humane Handling and Slaughter Requirements and the Merits of a Systematic Approach to Meet Such Requirements* in the Federal Register (69 FR 54625). Subsequently, on October 23, 2013, FSIS issued guidance, titled *FSIS Compliance Guide for a Systematic Approach to the Humane Handling of Livestock*, to promote a systematic approach to achieve compliance with the FSIS requirements for the humane handling and slaughter of livestock.

If an establishment maintains a robust humane handling program, FSIS can exercise regulatory discretion when an inhumane handling or slaughter incident is observed. Although Parker County Beef Company Processing had previously developed and implemented a systematic approach to humane handling that was considered robust, it failed to effectively implement the program. This was evident from the animal's prolonged discomfort due to the establishment's inability to render it unconscious after multiple attempts, and the failure to use the adequate caliber ammunition to produce the desired result.

Mr. David Bryson Burnett, Owner
Parker County Beef Company Processing, Est 2918

Notice of Suspension
March 12, 2025

Based on these findings, Parker County Beef Company Processing handled or slaughtered livestock inhumanely, in violation of the FMIA 21 U.S.C. 603(b), HMSA 7 U.S.C. 1901 – 1902, and 9 CFR 313.16(a)(1) and 9 CFR 313.16(b)(2). In accordance with 9 CFR Part 500.3(b), FSIS is exercising its authority to withhold the marks of inspection and suspend inspection services for the Slaughter HACCP processes at Parker County Beef Company Processing, effective immediately.

How to Respond to this Letter

Please be advised that this suspension will remain in effect for the Slaughter HACCP processes at Parker County Beef Company Processing until you provide adequate written corrective action and preventative measures to demonstrate adherence to regulatory requirements. Your written response is expected to include:

- An evaluation and identification of the nature and cause of the incident.
- A description of the specific actions taken to eliminate the cause of the incident and prevent future recurrences.
- Any corrective actions, preventative measures, and monitoring activities to ensure continued compliance.
- Copies of supporting documentation and records maintained and/or associated with the proposed corrective actions and preventative measures.

You may submit your response by fax to (844) 622-0080, or by electronic mail to kinsey.naylorbyles@usda.gov.

You are reminded that, as an operator of a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate corrective actions to prevent the inhumane handling and slaughtering of livestock. Please be advised that failure to respond adequately to these issues may result in additional enforcement action, including initiation of administrative proceedings to withdraw Federal inspection services from Parker County Beef Company Processing or other appropriate action.

Appeal and Hearing Rights

You have the right to appeal this matter and can do so by contacting:

Mr. Robert Bane
Executive Associate for Regulatory Operations
Office of Field Operations
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
4700 S. Thompson, Bldg. B, Ste. 201
Springdale, AR 72764
Telephone: (b) (6)
E-mail: robert.bane@usda.gov

Mr. David Bryson Burnett, Owner
Parker County Beef Company Processing, Est 2918

Notice of Suspension
March 12, 2025

Pursuant to 9 CFR 500.5(d), you may also request a hearing regarding this determination. Should you request a hearing, FSIS will file a complaint that will include a request for an expedited hearing. If you wish to request a hearing regarding this determination, please contact:

Mr. Scott C. Safian, Director
Enforcement Operations Staff (EOS)
Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit (OIEA)
Food Safety and Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Stop Code 3753, SB - Room 2148
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: (202) 418-8872
Facsimile: (202) 245-5097
E-mail: AEBCorrespondence@usda.gov

If you have any questions, please contact (b) (6), District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS), via telephone at (b) (6) or via electronic mail at adil.abdalla@usda.gov. Additionally, you may contact Dr. Kinsey Naylor-Byles, DDM, in the Dallas District Office at (b) (6), via electronic mail at Kinsey.Naylorbyles@usda.gov, or by fax at 844-622-0080.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM
District Manager

cc: Mr. Robert Bane, EARO
Mr. Shaun Smith, OIEA Regional Director
Dr. Gary Davis, DDM
Dr. Samuel Dragoi, DDM
Dr. Kinsey Naylor-Byles, DDM
(b) (6), FLS
(b) (6), DVMS
Inspector in Charge, Est. M2918
FO/Quarterly Reports

Mr. David Bryson Burnett, Owner
Parker County Beef Company Processing, Est 2918

Notice of Suspension
March 12, 2025

I received a copy of this Notice of Suspension dated March 12, 2025, on

Date

Responsible Plant Official

Signature of FSIS Witness