

United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection Service

November 15, 2024

Office of Field Operations Des Moines District Office

Electronic Mail on November 15, 2024

District Office

Neal Smith

Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Room 985

Michael Flanigan, Owner Northwoods Locker LLC 267 100th Ave. Clayton, Wisconsin 54004

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Des Moines, IA

50309-2123

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Attention: Michael Flanigan

This letter serves as official notification by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of our decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS), initiated on November 8, 2024, at, Est. 34687, Northwoods Locker LLC., located at 267 100th Ave. Clayton, WI. into abeyance. This letter follows verbal notification provided by District Case Specialist (DCS), Aubrey William to Jennifer Flanigan, Owner at 8:50am on November 14, 2024.

On November 11-13, 2024, 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}. The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

Specifically:

- NOS email response, November 11, 2024, at 9:22pm
 - Employee Observation Log
 - NWL Humane Slaughter Response
- NOS email response, November 12, 2024, at 8:20pm
 - NWL Humane Slaughter Response (updated)
- NOS email response, November 13, 2024, at 6:14pm
 - o Electric Stunning of Pigs and Sheep
 - Employee Observation Log
 - NWL Humane Slaughter Response

Based on your written response, the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is held in abeyance. 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 reoccurring. 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 program personnel 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 District Veterinary Medical Specialist (b) (6) at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

CAROL FORD Digitally signed by CAROL FORD Date: 2024.11.15 10:14:29 -06'00'

(for)

Mr. Jeffery Jacobsen District Manager USDA FSIS OFO Des Moines District