



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

March 4, 2024

Office of Field  
Operations  
Des Moines  
District Office

Electronically mailed on March 4, 2024

Neal Smith  
Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Room 985  
Des Moines, IA  
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Shane Lokken and Shelly Holmes, Owners  
Northern MN Meat Co., Est. M1083  
5155 Great Scott Holmes Road  
Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55768  
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### NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Attention: Shane Lokken and Shelly Holmes

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 July 25, 2023, at Northern MN Meat Co., Est. M1083, located at 5155 Great Scott Holmes Road., Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55769, into abeyance (NOSA). This letter follows verbal notification, provided by (b) (6), DVMS, to Ms. Shelly Holmes, Owner, on March 1, 2024, at approximately 1835 hours.

On July 17, 19, 24, 27, 2023; February 15, 28, 2024; and March 1, 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 Response Letter, dated July 14, 2023 (2 pages)
- Policy Manual- Humane Methods of Slaughter part 1 (42 pages)
  - Beef policy ver. 1/3/2024 and CASH captive bolt training for beef and sheep/goat
  - Hog policy ver. 1/3/2024 and electrical stunning training
- Policy Manual- Humane Methods of Slaughter part 2 (22 pages)
  - Sheep-Goat policy ver. 3/1/2024 and captive bolt training
  - B&D Stunner cleaning and maintenance policy
  - B&D Electric Stunner Check and Maintenance Log
  - CASH Magnum XL captive bolt policy



- CASH Captive Bolt Maintenance and Cleaning Log Ver. 1 (2 pages)
- Employee Training Records (8 pages)
  - Beef stunning log
  - Hog training log and dummy practice
  - Sheep training log
- Daily Stunning log
- Slaughter floor updates and equipment photographs (9 pictures)
- HACCP Supervisor (b) (6) HACCP training certificate

Based on your written response, you were informed verbally, that the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is held in abeyance effective the start of operations on March 4, 2024.

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 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).

Sincerely,

MARK JOHNSON  
Digitally signed by  
MARK JOHNSON  
Date: 2024.03.04  
13:24:25 -06'00'

(for)

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

Shane Lokken, Owner  
Northern MN Meat Co., Est. M1083

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