



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations
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CERTIFIED MAIL

September 29, 2023

Circle F Farms Meat Processing
M1155
324 Azalea Road
Baxley, GA 31513
folsomw@woodyfolsom.com
(912) 218-0042

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Woody Folsom:

On September 26, 2023, the Food Safety, and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a Notice of Reinstatement of Suspension (NOROS) withholding the marks of inspection and suspending the assignment of slaughter inspection program personnel for livestock slaughter at Circle F Farms Meat Processing, Est. M1155 located at 324 Azalea Road, Baxley, GA 31513. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On September 26, 2023, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. As part of your assessment: you cut the head of the cow in half and determined that the first two shots were improperly placed below the brain. Your corrective actions and preventive measures included: retraining plant employees regarding proper shot placement using the cut cow head as a specific example for the location of the brain, where the shots actually went and where the shots should have been placed; retraining plant employees using diagrams and written descriptions regarding proper shot placement from the Humane Slaughter Association; a copy of a record documenting employee retraining was provided; a .22 magnum rifle will be used you're your primary stunning device and a 9mm pistol will be available on the slaughter floor as a backup stunning device; (b) (6) will be responsible stunning livestock; you will monitor and document monitoring of stunning effectiveness for all livestock slaughtered; a copy of the record that will used to document monitoring of stunning effectiveness was provided; and you will purchase a gun cleaning kit and clean each firearm used after each kill day to ensure the firearms are in good working condition.

On September 26, 2023, FSIS determined that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures submitted were not adequate to properly address the inhumane handling incident and clarification was requested. Specifically, FSIS requested: documentation supporting that a firearm cleaning kit had been purchased; a copy of the record that would be used to document cleaning of firearms; and a copy of the record documenting that the firearms had been cleaned.

On September 27, 2023, you submitted your second response to provide clarification to your proffered corrective actions. Your response included: a copy of the receipt from buying a firearm cleaning kit; a picture of the firearm cleaning kit; copy of the record that will be used to document firearm cleaning; and a copy of the record documenting that the firearms had been cleaned.

On September 27, 2023, you were verbally notified by FSIS that the corrective actions and preventive measures met the requirements to place Circle F Farms Meat Processing, Est. M1155, in Abeyance and that a Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHA) and Verification Plan (VP) would be issued. You are hereby being provided written notification of the Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance.

Please be further advised that the 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 and preventing the inhumane treatment of animals. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is attached 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 stated in your responses, and that these revisions and corrective actions are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your proposed corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s), and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proposed action plan.

Please be reminded that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate actions to prevent the inhumane handling of animals. 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. Please be advised that failure to comply with these regulatory requirements or failure to effectively implement your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action.

Mr. Woody Folsom, Owner
Circle F Farms Meat Processing, M1155

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
September 29, 2023

If you have any questions, please contact the Atlanta District Office at 404-562-5900.

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS ADAMS
Digitally signed
by PHYLLIS
ADAMS
Date: 2023.09.29
17:50:09 -04'00'

Dr. Phyllis Adams
District Manager

Mr. Woody Folsom, Owner
Circle F Farms Meat Processing, M1155

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
September 29, 2023

cc: Karen Hunter, EARO
Phyllis Adams, DM
(b) (6), Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Larry Hortert, OIEA Regional Director
Edward Hepburn, DDM
Barney Welch, DDM
Tracy Bryant, DDM
(b) (6), SEIAO
(b) (6), DCS
(b) (6), DVMS
(b) (6), TA Coordinator, GDA
(b) (6), IIC/GDA
FO/Quarterly Reports