



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and Inspection  
Service

May 30, 2023

Office of Field Operations  
Jackson District Office  
713 S Pear Orchard Rd.  
Plaza 2, Suite 402  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

D&S Quality Beef, LLC  
Est. M1329  
2597 County Road 58  
Albertville, Alabama 35951  
customerservice@dsqualitybeef.com  
256-659-4417

ELECTRONIC MAIL on May 30, 2023  
FEDEX TRACKING 772284686970

Attention: Ms. Vickie Satterfield, Owner

### **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

On May 25, 2023, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a Notice of Suspension to your establishment to withhold the federal marks of inspection and suspend the assignment of Inspection Program Personnel (IPP) at D&S Quality Beef, LLC, Est. M1329, located at 2597 County Road 58, Albertville, Alabama. This action included your Slaughter Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) processes employed at your establishment. The decision to institute this enforcement action was in accordance with Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Rules of Practice 500.3(b), based on the determination that your establishment did not handle or slaughter animals humanely. Specifically, on Thursday May 25, 2023, at approximately 1:15 PM, the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) observed an establishment employee deliver a stun to a black angus bull over thirty months of age with a 410-shotgun slug in the knocking box. The animal's head was stable and secure in the head catch. This first stun was determined ineffective as the animal remained standing. Your slaughter floor employee then reloaded immediately and shot four more times with the same firearm. The animal went down in the chute but was still determined to be conscious due to vocalization and tracking eye movements. At this point, a 9-millimeter handgun was effective in rendering the animal unconscious as evidenced by the lack of vocalization and eye movement. Establishment Owner, Ms. Vickie Satterfield was notified of the non-compliance, and the knock-box was tagged with USDA Reject Tag #B30963997.

On May 26, 2023, you submitted written responses with corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office (JDO) analyzed your response and advised you that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures were not adequate. A request for clarification and additional information was sent via electronic mail from the JDO to your establishment on May 26 and May 30, 2023.

On May 30, 2023, you submitted your third response with written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and determined that the response adequately addressed the identified issues. On May 30, 2023, at approximately 9:15 AM, the Deputy District Manager verbally notified you that the corrective actions and preventive measures you proffered were adequate to meet the regulatory requirements and to place the suspension action into abeyance. This letter formally informs you of this action. Specifically, you stated the root cause of the stunning failure was due to inappropriate handling of a stun to a black angus bull over 30 months and using wrong shells in a .410 shotgun; you stated that the 9mm will not be used in the future; you stated that the captive bolt gun will be your primary stun device once the new unit is received on May 31, 2023 and expected to be in service by June 1, 2023; you stated that until receipt of the new bolt gun, the .410 firearm with slug ammunition will be used as the primary stun device for bovine; you stated that the new captive bolt will be the primary stun device for all animals; you stated that the .410 firearm with slug ammunition will be your backup stun device; you stated that the charge for your captive bolt gun will be the 25 caliber/3.5 grain; you stated that the charges and shells will be stored in a sealed plastic container within the office area; you stated that the slaughter foreman and designated employee will sign for both weapons and ammunition daily and verify that the weapons are clean, workable and the correct shells are being used and findings recorded on your Weapon/Ammunition Daily Release form; you stated that your employees will be trained on daily cleaning and inspection of the bolt, cylinder, and washers with findings recorded on your Gun Cleaning and Maintenance log; you stated that the captive bolt gun will be stored in the office area to prevent buildup of moisture and corrosion; you stated that you performed a training session with your employees involved in harvest activity; you stated that each new employee will undergo Harvest Training and your current employees will undergo quarterly refresher trainings which will be recorded on your Quarterly Harvest Training log, Quarterly Captive Bolt Gun Training log, and Quarterly Training for Ammunition Storage and First In/First Out Procedures log; you stated that your Quarterly Harvest Training log will be kept in your HACCP manual; you stated that training and monitoring of the training will be overseen by plant management and multiple stuns will be monitored by management to ensure proficiency; you provided the following documents, including signed and dated training logs recorded and maintained by your establishment: Quarterly Captive Bolt Gun Training log, Quarterly Training for Ammunition Storage and First In/First Out Procedures log, Gun Cleaning and Maintenance log, Quarterly Harvest Training, Harvest Precheck Sheet, and Weapon/Ammunition Daily Release.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan (VP) will be provided 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 and preventive measures stated in your May 26 and May 30, 2023, responses and that these revisions and corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s), and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proffered action plan.

Vickie Satterfield, Owner  
D&S Quality Beef, LLC, Est. M1329

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May 30, 2023

Please be advised that this 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. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

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. In these situations, FSIS personnel will take regulatory control of product or other appropriate action.

Please be further advised that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and all applicable regulations and other requirements concerning the preparation, sale, and transportation of meat products. Failure to comply with these requirements or to effectively implement the measures addressed in your responses, dated May 26 and May 30, 2023, could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action(s).

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Larry Davis via telephone at (601) 863-4206 or via electronic mail at [larry.davis4@usda.gov](mailto:larry.davis4@usda.gov). Additionally, you can contact the Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4312 or by fax at (601) 965-5901.

Sincerely,

**KERMIT  
HARVEY**

Digitally signed by  
KERMIT HARVEY  
Date: 2023.05.30  
10:29:44 -05'00'

*for:*

Dr. Larry Davis  
District Manager  
Jackson District Office

Vickie Satterfield, Owner  
D&S Quality Beef, LLC, Est. M1329

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance  
May 30, 2023

Cc: Mr. Paul Wolseley, Acting Assistant Administrator  
(b) (6), Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator  
Mr. Scott Ehle, OIEA Regional Director  
Dr. Larry Davis, DM  
Dr. Kermit Harvey, DDM  
Ms. Cheryl Henry, DDM  
(b) (6), SEIAO  
(b) (6), DCS  
(b) (6), DVMS  
(b) (6), FLS  
(b) (6), Area VMO  
(b) (6), Assisting Area VMO  
(b) (6), Area Supervisor  
(b) (6), CSI at Est. M1329  
FO/Quarterly Reports