



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Office of Field  
Operations  
Des Moines  
District Office

Neal Smith  
Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Room 985  
Des Moines, IA  
50309-2123

Voice  
515.727.8960  
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May 30, 2024

Electronically mailed on May 30, 2024

Dan Lewer, Owner  
Neighbors Meats, LLC, Est. M1880  
PO Box 213  
New Richland, Minnesota 56072  
[neighborsmeatsllc@gmail.com](mailto:neighborsmeatsllc@gmail.com)  
507-456-3888

### NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Attention: Dan Lewer

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 May 16, 2024, at Neighbors Meats, LLC, Est. M1880, located at 202 Ash Ave S, New Richland, Minnesota 56072, into abeyance (NOSA). This letter follows verbal notification, provided by (b) (6), Frontline Supervisor, to Ms. Amber Lewer, Owner, on May 30, 2024.

On May 18, 20, and 29, 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, provided May 18, 2024, at 1028 hours
  - Humane Handling: Consciousness and Stunning training (19 pages)
- Clarification email response, provided May 20, 2024, at 1737 hours
  - Image of proposed temporary gates
  - Image of Slaughter Stunning and HH log completed for May 2, 2024
  - Slaughter monitoring Log (1 page)
- Clarification email response, provided May 29, 2024, at 1630 hours
  - Completed employee training record- Venison (3 pages)

- Completed employee training record- Humane Handling/Slaughter (4 pages)
- Completed employee training record- HH/Slaughter/Skull examination (1 page)

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 May 30, 2024, at 1233 hours.

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 DVMS (b) (6)

Sincerely,

**TODD GERWIG**

Digitally signed by TODD  
GERWIG  
Date: 2024.05.30 14:11:41 -05'00'

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