



Food Safety and Inspection
Service

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

July 8, 2024

Harris Country Meats
Est. M20686
480 Twin Barnes Road
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743
harriscountrymeatsgc@gmail.com
423-638-1538

ELECTRONIC MAIL on July 8, 2024
FEDEX TRACKING #777264158428

Attention: Mr. Dennis Rose, Owner

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

On June 25, 2024, 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 Harris Country Meats, Est. M20686, located at 480 Twin Barnes Road, Greeneville, TN. 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. The evidence demonstrated failure to comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 603), the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), and the regulatory requirements (9 CFR Part 313).

On June 25, 2024, at approximately 1400 hours while performing the Livestock Humane Handling verification task on the kill floor of Harris Country Meats, the Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI) observed the following non-compliance. Your slaughter floor employee moved a sheep into the knock box. Your slaughter floor stun operator then loaded a handheld captive bolt (HHCB) device. The CSI heard and saw the initial stun attempt with the HHCB and observed that the stun had contacted the animal but was ineffective, as the animal was observed to remain standing upright and shaking its head with blood coming out of its nose. The CSI also noticed tracking eye movement. A second person on the slaughter floor then approached the animal with a knife and cut the throat of the still conscious animal. The animal then jumped, reacting to the cut, and shook its head more as it was still conscious and ultimately expired from the cut. The CSI immediately notified Establishment Manager Ashley Rayon of the non-compliance. The CSI then tagged the knock box with a U.S. Rejected/Retained Tag #B34367750.

On June 26, June 28, July 3, and July 5, 2024, you submitted written responses with corrective actions and preventive measures to meet regulatory requirements. The Jackson District Office (JDO) analyzed your responses and advised you that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures were not adequate. Requests for clarification and additional information was sent via electronic mail from the JDO to your establishment on June 26, June 28, July 3, and July 5, 2024.

Dennis Rose, Owner
Harris Country Meats, Est. M20686

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On July 6, 2024, you submitted all clarification and additional information with written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet regulatory requirements. The Jackson District Office analyzed your proffered corrective actions and preventive measures and determined that the response adequately addressed the identified issues. On July 8, 2024, at approximately 8:30 AM CT, the FSIS Jackson District Office verbally informed you of FSIS's decision to hold the suspension in abeyance. This letter is to formally inform you of this action.

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 properly implements the revisions to its humane handling of animals and other corrective actions and preventive measures stated in your June 26, June 28, July 3, July 5, and July 6, 2024, 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. Only FSIS can amend the verification plan and any modifications to your submitted acceptable corrective actions made during the abeyance period will need to be submitted in writing to FSIS for verification of compliance prior to implementation by your establishment.

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 June 26, June 28, July 3, July 5, and July 6, 2024, 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. Additionally, you can contact the Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4312 or by fax at (601) 965-5901.

Sincerely,

**KERMIT
HARVEY**

Dr. Larry Davis
District Manager
Jackson District Office

 Digitally signed by KERMIT
HARVEY
Date: 2024.07.08 07:33:53
-05'00'

for:

Dennis Rose, Owner
Harris Country Meats, Est. M20686

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July 8, 2024

Cc: Ms. Melissa Moore, EARO
(b) (6) Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Mr. Larry Hortert, OIEA Regional Director
Dr. Larry Davis, DM
Dr. Kermit Harvey, DDM
Dr. Erin Moses, DDM
(b) (6), SEIAO
(b) (6), DCS
(b) (6), DVMS
(b) (6), FLS
(b) (6), SPHV at Est. M20686
(b) (6), CSI at Est. M20686
FO/Quarterly Reports