



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Office of Field  
Operations  
Denver District Office

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Denver, CO 80225

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December 8, 2022

**SENT VIA FEDEX &  
ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Jim Wieringa, Plant Manager  
Island Grown Farmers Cooperative, Est. M21700  
11719 Westar Ln.  
Burlington, WA 98233  
igfc@igfcmeats.com

## **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION**

Dear Mr. Wieringa,

This letter confirms the verbal notification provided to your establishment, Island Grown Farmers Cooperative, M21700, located in Burlington, WA, on Tuesday, December 7, 2022, by the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Denver District, of the suspension of the assignment of inspectors and the withholding of the marks of inspection at your establishment for slaughter operations. Ms. Jenifer Monteverde, Deputy District Manager, verbally notified you of the suspension. This action was initiated in accordance with Title 21 of the United States Code (USC), Section 603(b) and Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 500.3(b) (Rules of Practice).

### **Background Authority**

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), 21 USC Section 603(b), provides for the purpose of preventing the inhumane slaughtering of livestock. The FMIA gives FSIS the authority, as designated by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, to prescribe rules and regulations describing examinations and inspections of the method by which cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines are slaughtered in the establishments inspected under the FMIA. The FMIA also provides FSIS Program personnel the authority to suspend operations at a slaughtering establishment if FSIS finds that any cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules or other equines have been slaughtered or handled in connection with slaughter at such establishments by any method not in accordance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) of August 27, 1958 (72 Statute 862; Title 7 USC, Sections 1901-1906), until the establishment furnishes FSIS with satisfactory assurances that all slaughtering and handling in connection with the slaughter of livestock shall be in accordance with such methods.

Under the authorities of these Acts, FSIS has prescribed rules and regulations required for the humane slaughtering of livestock, contained in Title 9 CFR Part 313. FSIS has also developed Rules of Practice regarding enforcement prescribed in 9 CFR Part 500.

The Rules of Practice describe the types of enforcement actions that FSIS may take and include procedures for taking a withholding action and or suspension, with or without prior notification, as well as the procedures for filing a complaint to withdraw a Grant of Federal Inspection.

### **Finding/Basis for Action**

On Tuesday, December 7, 2022, the FSIS Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI) documented in a Noncompliance Record (NR) the following event at Est. M21700:

*"At approximately 10:00 am while IPP was observing stunning of a steer. An establishment employee attempted to stun the animal with a 22 mag Ruger rifle, while the animal was loaded into a small stock trailer standing facing the back end of the trailer. The establishment stun operator aimed the firearm at the steer's head to apply the first stun attempt. The animal remained standing and did not vocalize. The stun operator immediately aimed the firearm again and delivered a second ineffective stun attempt. The steer continued to remain standing and moving around inside the trailer. The stun operator aimed the firearm again and applied a third ineffective stun attempt. The steer remained standing and moved around in circles, then stopped, and immediately a fourth effective stun attempt was applied, and the animal dropped down to the trailer floor. IPP verified the animal was not displaying any signs of consciousness or sensibility.*

*IPP verbally informed the establishment butcher that a humane handling non-compliance record would be issued and US Reject tag #B39950167 was applied to the trailer's door. IPP notified her supervisor and then Denver District office was contacted through supervisory channels.*

*Upon review of the dressed head four penetrating stun holes were observed.*

*This establishment has not implemented a Robust Systematic Approach to Humane Handling."*

### **Summary**

The decision to suspend the assignment of inspectors at your establishment is based on this noncompliance with 9 CFR 313.16(a)(1) and 313.16(b)(1)(iii). This is an inhumane noncompliance, whereby a bovine was unsuccessfully stunned multiple times with ineffective corrective actions.

The suspension of the assignment of inspectors will remain in effect until such time as you provide the Denver District Office adequate written corrective actions and preventative measures to ensure that livestock at your establishment are handled and slaughtered humanely, and in accordance with the FMIA, the HMSA, and 9 CFR 313 regulations.

These should include:

- A written description of the incident.
- The root cause of the incident
- Your immediate corrective actions.
- Your specific corrective actions to prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
- Any training or retraining of employees you plan to provide, including materials you're planning to use.

- Any monitoring procedures, including any documentation records.

In accordance with Title 9 CFR 500.5(a)(5), you may appeal this action by contacting:

Paul Wolseley  
Executive Associate for Regulatory Operations  
Office of Field Operations  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 1329, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Tel: 202-708-9506  
[Paul.Wolseley@usda.gov](mailto:Paul.Wolseley@usda.gov)

In accordance with 9 CFR Part 500.5 (d), you may request a hearing concerning this action by contacting:

Scott C. Safian  
Director, Enforcement Operations Staff  
Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Stop Code 3753, SB - Room 2148  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (202) 418-8872  
Fax: (202) 245-5097

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact the Denver District Office at (303)236-9800.

Sincerely,

JENIFER  
MONTEVERDE



Digitally signed by JENIFER  
MONTEVERDE  
Date: 2022.12.08 08:06:29 -0700

for

Dr. Robert Reeder  
District Manager  
USDA FSIS OFO  
Denver District Office  
[Robert.Reeder@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Reeder@usda.gov)

cc: FO/QER  
Est. File

D. James, DDM  
J. Monteverde, DDM  
J. VanHook, DDM

(b) (6)

S. Baucher, RD/OIEA