



United States Department of Agriculture

April 8, 2025

Hand Delivered by (b) (6), SPHV
on April 8, 2025
Electronically Submitted on April 8, 2025

Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC, Est. M27
604 Goff Industrial Park Road
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
(b) (6) @cfpbeef.com
(b) (6)

Attention: (b) (6), Food Safety Manager

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

This letter serves as official notification by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of its decision to place the April 7, 2025 suspension action in abeyance at Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC (Creekstone), Est. M27 located at 604 Goff Industrial Park Road, Arkansas City, Kansas 67005. Christopher Allen, District Case Specialist (DCS), notified you/Creekstone, (b) (6) (b) (6), Food Safety Manager verbally of this decision on April 7, 2025.

Previously, on April 7, 2025, FSIS issued Creekstone a Notice of Suspension (NOS), which informed you that FSIS was taking action to withhold the marks of inspection and suspend inspection services, in accordance with Title 9 Code of the Federal Regulations (CFR) Rules of Practice 500.3(b), for Creekstone's Slaughter Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) processes.

On April 7, 2025, FSIS received your responses to the NOS, which identified corrective and preventative actions Creekstone has taken or will take to ensure compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. After careful review of this matter, FSIS is placing the suspension action in abeyance.

During this abeyance period, FSIS will conduct inspection and verification activities, as described in the enclosed Verification Plan (VP). The VP is designed to assist FSIS inspection personnel in verifying that Creekstone has fully implemented the proposed corrective actions and demonstrated their effectiveness in ensuring continued statutory and regulatory compliance. FSIS will verify each corrective and preventive action, including whether Creekstone meets any deadlines associated with its proposed actions.

Note: Any changes to your proposed and accepted corrective actions dated April 7, 2025, must be submitted in writing to the District Manager for prior approval.

Please be advised that failure to effectively execute the conditions of this abeyance action or additional noncompliance with the requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*) and the regulations promulgated thereunder may result in further enforcement action by FSIS,

(b) (6), Food Safety Manager
Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC, Est. M27

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
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including withholding the marks of inspection or suspending inspection services at Creekstone, or other appropriate action.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Evan Sumner, Deputy District Manager, by telephone at (479) 717-5023 or by electronic mail at evan.sumner@usda.gov. Additionally, you can contact the Springdale District Office at (479) 751-8412 or by fax at (479) 751-4739.

Sincerely,

EVAN
SUMNER

Digitally signed by
EVAN SUMNER
Date: 2025.04.08
12:20:38 -05'00'

for

Jeffery Barham
District Manager

FSIS Verification Plan

Creekstone Farms Premium Beef LLC (M27)

Background that led to enforcement action (Bkgd)

Related Regulations (Reg)

Establishment Action Plan (AP)

Related Establishment Records (Rec)

FSIS Verification Activity (VA)

Frequency of Verification Activity (Freq)

Related PHIS Task (PHIS)

VP1	Bkgd	As in NR CII520904180N, an employee attempted to conduct an additional stun on a hanging animal at the sticker location. The shackled animal was attempting to right itself and the animal had rhythmic breathing. The sticking employees attempted to stun the animal twice more using the backup knocking gun which failed to function properly as the animal continued to show signs of consciousness. The lead employee had to leave the sticking area to travel to the knocking area to retrieve a functioning knocking device. Upon the lead's return, a stun was applied to the animal resulting in a loss of consciousness.
	Reg	9 CFR 313.15(a)(3)
	AP	The establishment increased the frequency of their monitoring of consciousness of the rail and stunning effectiveness as per the (b) (4) from (b) (4) per (b) (4) to (b) (4) times per (b) (4). If any negative findings are observed, the audits will be extended another (b) (4)
	Rec	Cattle Welfare Audit - Plant Audit (Document Number (b) (4))
	VA	Verify through review and observation and record review that Core Criteria 1 (Effective Stunning) and Core Criteria 2 (Bleed Rail Insensibility) are conducted (b) (4) times per (b) (4) and that the establishment evaluating the animals are rendered insensible with one shot and animals are still insensible in the blood pit.
	Freq	(b) (4) per (b) (4)
VP2	PHIS	Livestock Humane Handling
	Bkgd	As in NR CII520904180N, an employee attempted to conduct an additional stun on a hanging animal at the sticker location. The shackled animal was attempting to right itself and the animal had rhythmic breathing. The sticking employees attempted to stun the animal twice more using the backup knocking gun which failed to function properly as the animal continued to show signs of consciousness. The lead employee had to leave the sticking area to travel to the knocking area to retrieve a functioning knocking device. Upon the lead's return, a stun was applied to the animal resulting in a loss of consciousness.
	Reg	9 CFR 313.15(a)(3)
	AP	The establishment increased the frequency of their monitoring of consciousness of the rail and stunning effectiveness as per the (b) (4) from (b) (4) per (b) (4) to (b) (4) times per (b) (4) If any negative findings are observed, the audits will be extended another (b) (4)
	Rec	N/A
	VA	Verify through review and observation that stunning at the knock box is rendering the animal insensible and that the animal remains insensible through the sticking process
	Freq	(b) (4) per (b) (4)
VP2	PHIS	Livestock Humane Handling

VP3	Bkgd	As in NR CII520904180N, an employee attempted to conduct an additional stun on a hanging animal at the sticker location. The shackled animal was attempting to right itself and the animal had rhythmic breathing. The sticking employees attempted to stun the animal twice more using the backup knocking gun which failed to function properly as the animal continued to show signs of consciousness. The lead employee had to leave the sticking area to travel to the knocking area to retrieve a functioning knocking device. Upon the lead's return, a stun was applied to the animal resulting in a loss of consciousness.
	Reg	9 CFR 313.15(a)(3)
	AP	The establishment determined that the cartridge was either wet or underpowered. The establishment implemented a form to monitor the desiccant and the cartridges. QA will verify that unused cartridges are stored in a dry place, desiccant is added to dry container, desiccant color (purple or green indicates needs replaced), desiccant is dry, ammo is stored in the appropriate box in SL office, any wet ammo is reported to SL management and turned in.
	Rec	N/A
	VA	Verify through review and observation that cartridges are being stored in watertight canisters when operations are not ongoing, desiccant is present in the cannister, desiccant color is not purple or green, desiccant is dry, and that cartridges are not wet.
	Freq	(b) (4)
	PHIS	Livestock Humane Handling
VP4	Bkgd	As in NR CII520904180N, an employee attempted to conduct an additional stun on a hanging animal at the sticker location. The shackled animal was attempting to right itself and the animal had rhythmic breathing. The sticking employees attempted to stun the animal twice more using the backup knocking gun which failed to function properly as the animal continued to show signs of consciousness. The lead employee had to leave the sticking area to travel to the knocking area to retrieve a functioning knocking device. Upon the lead's return, a stun was applied to the animal resulting in a loss of consciousness.
	Reg	9 CFR 313.15(a)(3)
	AP	The establishment determined that the cartridge was either wet or underpowered. The establishment implemented a form to monitor the desiccant and the cartridges. QA will verify that unused cartridges are stored in a dry place, desiccant is added to dry container, desiccant color (purple or green indicates needs replaced), desiccant is dry, ammo is stored in the appropriate box in SL office, any wet ammo is reported to SL management and turned in.
	Rec	Verification of Operations Handling Stunning Equipment (Document Number SL-0062)
	VA	Verify through record review that QA is verifying cartridge storage, desiccant presence, color, and is dry, ammo stored in SL office, and that wet ammo is turned in and reported to SL management (b) (4)
	Freq	(b) (4)
	PHIS	Livestock Humane Handling