



Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations
Atlanta District Office
100 Alabama St., SW.
Suite 3R90
Atlanta, GA. 30303
Phone: 404-562-5900
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CERTIFIED MAIL

October 27, 2023

Nettles Beef Processing, Inc.
M44200
147 S.W. County Road 240
Lake City, FL 32025
nettlesbeef@yahoo.com
(368) 397-5053

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. William J. Nettles:

On October 26, 2023, the Food Safety, and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a Notice of Reinstatement of Suspension (NOROS) withholding the marks of inspection and suspending the assignment of slaughter inspection program personnel for livestock slaughter at Nettles Beef Processing, Inc., Est. M4420, located at 147 S.W. County Road 240, Lake City, FL 32025. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On October 26, 2023, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Your corrective actions and preventive measures included: suspending the slaughter of rams, removing the .22-long rifle and using only the .22-magnum rifle, retraining employees on proper lamb stunning procedures, and making backup firearms available at all times during slaughter.

On October 27, 2023, FSIS determined that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures submitted were not adequate to properly address the inhumane handling incident and clarification was requested. Specifically, FSIS requested clarification regarding: whether lambs and she-goats will still be accepted and what firearm would be used on them, a record of employee training, how the presence of backup firearms will be monitored, and how it will be determined if or when rams will be accepted for slaughter again.

On October 27, 2023, you submitted your second response to provide clarification to your proffered corrective actions. Your response included: clarification that lambs and she-goats would be slaughtered using the .22-magnum rifle; updated training logs would be made available once enough lamb and goat heads were procured for stunning placement training; an updated daily stunning log to include verification of a backup firearm availability; and clarification that the plant would contact the district office before slaughtering rams again.

On October 27, 2023, you were verbally notified by FSIS that the corrective actions and preventive measures met the requirements to place Nettles Beef Processing, LLC, Est. M44200, in Abeyance and that a Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHA) and Verification Plan (VP) would be issued. You are hereby being provided written notification of the Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance.

Please be further advised that the 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 and preventing the inhumane treatment of animals. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is attached 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 stated in your responses, and that these revisions and corrective actions are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your proposed corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s), and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proposed action plan.

Please be reminded that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate actions to prevent the inhumane handling of animals. 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. Please be advised that failure to comply with these regulatory requirements or failure to effectively implement your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact the Atlanta District Office at 404-562-5900.

Mr. William J. Nettles, Owner
Nettles Beef Processing, Inc., M44200

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
October 27, 2023

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS Digitally signed
by PHYLLIS
ADAMS
ADAMS Date: 2023.10.27
14:21:29 -04'00'

Dr. Phyllis Adams
District Manager

Mr. William J. Nettles, Owner
Nettles Beef Processing, Inc., M44200

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
October 27, 2023

cc: Karen Hunter, EARO
Phyllis Adams, DM
(b) (6), Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Larry Hortert, OIEA Regional Director
Edward Hepburn, DDM
Barney Welch, DDM
Tracy Bryant, DDM
(b) (6) SEIAO
(b) (6) DCS
(b) (6) DVMS
(b) (6) FLS
(b) (6) SPHV
FO/Quarterly Reports