



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

March 19, 2024

Office of Field  
Operations  
Des Moines  
District Office

Electronically mailed on March 19, 2024

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

Tony Paskewitz, Owner  
Prairie Meats, Inc., Est. M47273  
2505 W. Lincoln Ave  
Olivia, Minnesota 56277  
[tonyp@prairiemeatsinc.com](mailto:tonyp@prairiemeatsinc.com)  
320-523-7060

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515.727.8960  
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### NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Attention: Tony and Heidi Paskewitz

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 March 14, 2024, at Prairie Meats, Inc., Est. M47273, located at 2505 W. Lincoln Ave, Olivia, Minnesota 56277, into abeyance (NOSA). This letter follows verbal notification, provided by (b) (6), District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS), to Ms. Heidi Paskewitz, Owner and Finance Manager, on March 18, 2024, at approximately 1445 hours.

On March 15 and 18, 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 Response Letter, provided March 18, 2024, at 1332 hours (10 pages)
  - Corrective actions for incident on March 14, 2024
  - Employee Corrective actions training
  - Recommended Captive Bolt Stunning Techniques for Cattle
  - Employee HHCB Stunning training
  - Record for cleaning and maintenance (HHCB)
  - Documentation for stunning

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 the start of operations on March 19, 2024.

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,

**JEFFERY  
JACOBSEN**

Digitally signed by  
JEFFERY JACOBSEN  
Date: 2024.03.19  
12:22:36 -05'00'

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