



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

October 30, 2024

Digitally signed copy emailed

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines District
Office

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

Todd Casperson, Vice President of Operations
Eagle Grove Cooperative
3183 IA Hwy 17
Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533
Est. M51340
tcasperson@prestagefoods.com
515-448-2700

Voice 515.727.8960
Fax 515.727.8991

LETTER OF DEFERRAL

Attention: Todd Casperson

This letter serves as official notification by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of our decision to defer the implementation of the Notice of Intended Enforcement (NOIE), initiated on October 25, 2024, at Establishment M51340, Eagle Grove Cooperative, located at 3183 IA Hwy 17, Eagle Grove, IA.

On October 28 and 29, 2024, you provided FSIS, via multiple emails, written corrective actions and preventive measures, in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOIE. 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 313.15(a)(1) and (a)(3)}.

The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

- NOIE response letter – (1 page)
- AW 22 moving gates training – PowerPoint (8 slides)
- AW 19 CO2 stunning policy – (2 pages)
- Signed training document – (1 page)
- Sensibility and stick check monitoring form – (1 page)
- (b) (4) audit – (1 page)

Based on your written response, FSIS has decided to defer a decision regarding

enforcement action pending verification by FSIS inspection personnel.

The deferral period will remain 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 occurring in the future. 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 deferral period a verification plan will be in place with verification activities, based on your corrective actions, to be conducted by IPP. The verification activity results will be reported to the Des Moines District Office on a weekly basis. The decision to place the NOIE in deferral is based on the proffered actions. Any modifications to your submitted corrective actions and preventive measures made during the deferral 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 (b) (6), DVMS, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

**JEFFERY
JACOBSEN**

Digitally signed by
JEFFERY JACOBSEN
Date: 2024.10.30
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Mr. Jeffery Jacobsen
District Manager
USDA FSIS OFO
Des Moines District