March 1, 2017

Beltex Corporation
dba Frontier Meats
Establishment 7041
3801 North Grove Street
Fort Worth, TX 76106

Attention: Mr. Eric Nauwelaers, President

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

On February 25, 2017, your establishment was provided verbal notification by Dr. Gary Davis, Deputy District Manager (DDM), that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) was, effective immediately, suspending the assignment of inspectors related to the Slaughter Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan(s) at Establishment 7041, Beltex Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas. This action was based on the observations by inspection program personnel of egregious inhumane handling practices; a violation of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 313.15(a)(1). A written Notice of Suspension was issued to your establishment on February 27, 2017.

On February 27, 2017, and February 28, 2017, your establishment provided written responses to the Dallas District Office containing proffered immediate corrective actions and further preventive measures to be implemented to ensure that animals would be humanely handled and slaughtered at your facility. Your final written proffered corrective actions and preventive measures included the following:

A. Training of key personnel involved in the stunning of wild boar in the following areas:
   1) Correct placement of the captive bolt/slug
   2) Checking for insensibility after stunning
   3) Assessing size of wild boar to be harvested in determining the stunning device to use; a captive bolt or 410 Shotgun
   4) Provide a training log sheet to included trainee name, date, and signature.

B. If a wild boar is too big for the knock box, the 410 shotgun will be used to knock the boar. For any oversized animals where the 410 shotgun is used either primary or secondary to an ineffective captive bolt stun, a log will be kept entitled "Wild Boar Knocked using a 410 Shotgun".

C. A lockable metal box will be installed on the kill floor to secure the 410 shotgun during operations; anticipated installation is within one week.
D. The "robust" Systematic Approach to Humane Handling and Slaughter program is reassessed to accommodate the proffered changes and the daily records amended to facilitate the monitoring of such changes.

After careful evaluation of the corrective actions and preventive measures submitted, Mr. Bernard Brown, Vice President of Operations, was contacted on February 28, 2017, by Dr. Ronald Nida, DDM, who verbally informed him of the decision to hold the suspension in abeyance and explained the verification process.

The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS that your proffered preventive and corrective measures have been effectively implemented. A copy of FSIS's Verification Plan is enclosed to assist you in understanding the nature and importance of the Agency's verification activities. This Verification Plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the corrective actions in your response and that these actions are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. It identifies the corrective action elements, the relevant regulatory requirements, and the Public Health Information System (PHIS) tasks under which each corrective action element will be verified.

You are reminded that as an operator of a federally inspected facility, you are expected to comply with FSIS Regulations and to take appropriate corrective action at your establishment. Failure to comply with regulatory requirements could result in the reinstatement of suspension of inspection for your HACCP plan(s), or other appropriate administrative or legal action.

If you have any questions, contact (b) (6) or (b) (6)

Sincerely,

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM
District Manager

cc: (b) (6) Fort Worth, TX
Inspector in Charge, Establishment 7041, Fort Worth, TX
On February 25, 2017, Establishment 7041 in Fort Worth, Texas was provided a verbal Notice of Suspension for an egregious inhumane incident of ineffective stunning involving a very large wild boar. A written Notice of Suspension was provided February 27, 2017. This verification plan is designed to verify the corrective actions and preventive measures listed by the establishment in its responses received February 27, 2017, and February 28, 2017, are effectively implemented.

Livestock Humane Handling
9 CFR 313.15, 313.16 and 320.1(a)

VERIFY AND REPORT IN WEEK 1 ONLY UNLESS THERE ARE CHANGES

Verify all stunning operators are trained in effective handling and Correct Placement of Captive Bolt/410 Slug.

Verify all stunning operators are trained in effective determination of when to use the 410 shotgun as primary stunning device or as secondary once there is an ineffective primary captive bolt stun.

Verify all responsible employees trained in how to check for and recognize signs of return to sensibility after each knock.

Verify the establishment maintains a training log sheet to include trainee name, date, and signature.

Livestock Humane Handling
9 CFR 313.15, 313.16 and 320.1(a)

VERIFY ON EACH DAY OF SLAUGHTER

Verify that the responsible employee (stun operator) assesses the size of the wild boar to determine which stunning device to use (captive bolt or 410 shotgun).

Verify that a log titled “Wild Boar Knocked using a 410 Shotgun” is maintained when the 410 is used to produce unconsciousness (primary or secondary).

Livestock Humane Handling
9 CFR 313.15, 313.16 and 320.1(a)

VERIFY AND REPORT IN WEEK 1 ONLY UNLESS THERE ARE CHANGES

Verify the construction of a lockable metal box to house the 410 shotgun on the kill floor within one week of February 28, 2017.

Verify that the “robust” systematic approach to humane handling and slaughter program has been reassessed to include all of the items listed in this verification plan.