



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection
Service

July 30, 2019

Office of Field Operations
Jackson District Office
713 S Pear Orchard Rd.
Suite 402
Ridgeland, MS 39157

**Via Email: harmonbrothersmeats@gmail.com
And USPS CERTIFIED MAIL
7017 0660 0000 7888 1674**

Mr. Dave Harmon, Owner
Harmon Brothers Meats, Inc., Est. M7356
425 Ambrose Road
Warsaw, KY 41095

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Harmon:

On July 18, 2019, a "Notice of Suspension" was issued to suspend slaughter operations at Harmon Brothers Meats, Inc., Est. M7356. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On July 19, 2019, July 25, 2019 and July 30, 2019, you provided three responses to FSIS with written corrective actions and preventive measures in an effort to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office analyzed your responses and advised you that the final response was adequate. This letter is to formally inform you of this action. Specifically, your establishment will follow 1 of 3 new methods of restraint when slaughtering animals, implement a no leg grabbing policy, will use the Humane Handling Workbook to document the restraint method used and observations and a Humane Handling Corrective Action log, have retrained all employees who were on the slaughter floor at the time of the incident on proper humane handling of animals and the 3 new methods of restraint/slaughter for sheep.

Please be further advised that this 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 July 19, 2019, July 25,

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2019 and July 30, 2019, responses and that these revisions and corrective actions are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your 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. The regulations require establishments to take appropriate corrective actions when either the establishment or FSIS identifies regulatory noncompliance.

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 Slaughter Act. In these situations, FSIS personnel will take regulatory control of product or other appropriate action.

Please be advised that failure to comply with these regulatory requirements or effectively implementing your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures addressed in your responses, dated July 19, 2019, July 25, 2019 and July 30, 2019, could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact the Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4312.

Sincerely,


Dr. Larry Davis
District Manager
Jackson District Office