



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

April 20, 2020

Office of Field
Operations
Denver District Office

**SENT VIA FEDEX &
ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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Center, Bldg. 45
P.O. Box 25387
Denver, CO 80225

Voice (303) 236-9800
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Mr. Roger Brandao, President
(b) (6)
Gourmet Natural Meats LLC, Est, M46547
8168 Bob Hall Road
Lynden, WA 98264
Roger.gourmetnaturalmeats@gmail.com
(b) (6)

**NOTICE OF REINSTATEMENT OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE
(NORSHA)**

Mr. Brandao, and (b) (6)

On April 17, 2020, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued your establishment, Gourmet Natural Meats, LLC, M46547, a Notice of Reinstatement of Suspension (ROS). The decision to issue the ROS was made in accordance with 21 U.S.C. 603(b) and Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 500.3(b), based on your establishment's failure to comply with 9 CFR 313.15(a)(1) regulations. A Memorandum of Information (MOI), written by the FSIS Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV), documented an inhumane event whereby a conscious bob veal calf was found partially skinned with denaturant applied. This event occurred while your establishment was operating under the abeyance period for a Notice of Suspension (NOS) issued on March 12, 2020, whereby an individual unloading bob veal calves from a trailer, on the official premises of your establishment, dragged and dropped a conscious animal during the unloading process.

On April 20, 2020, the Denver District Office (DDO) received your initial response to the ROS and corrective actions, via electronic mail. The DDO requested clarification on several items in your first response, via email, on April 20, 2020. These items included clarification on training, stunning procedures for plant rejects and calves presumed dead on arrival or presumed dead in the pen, and monitoring. FSIS personnel received and reviewed your additional responses on April 20, 2020. Further clarification was provided through a conference call with the Denver District Management team. Based upon your proposed corrective actions FSIS will hold the reinstatement of suspension of inspectors at your establishment in abeyance.

The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS inspection personnel. During this abeyance period, FSIS will continue to verify, assess, and evaluate the effectiveness of your proffered corrective actions to ensure that these are adequately implemented, and confirm that livestock are properly handled and slaughtered humanely.

FSIS will design a verification plan to confirm that your establishment is implementing the corrective actions you provided in your response to the ROS. The verification plan

identifies your corrective action plan, the relevant regulations and the frequency FSIS inspection personnel will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proffered actions.

FSIS will provide you a copy of the verification plan on a later date. Please be advised that only FSIS can amend the verification plan. If your establishment wishes to modify your proposed corrective actions during the abeyance period, please submit these changes, in writing, to FSIS for approval prior to making any changes in your actions.

FSIS reminds you that as an operator of a federally inspected facility, you are expected to comply with the *Federal Meat Inspection Act* (FMIA), the *Humane Methods of Slaughter Act* (HMSA) and the regulations in 9 CFR 313 to ensure livestock at your establishment are handled and slaughtered humanely. The regulations require establishments to take appropriate action(s) when either the establishment or FSIS determines that the establishment's system controls for humane handling requirements are ineffective. FSIS has the responsibility to initiate action if your establishment fails to operate in accordance with FSIS regulations.

Please be aware that your failure to comply with the regulatory requirements or effectively implement the commitments you proffered in your responses may lead to further administrative enforcement actions.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact the Denver District Office at (303) 236-9800.

Sincerely,

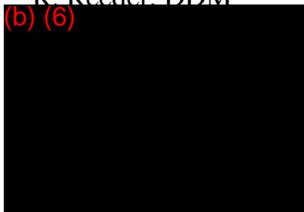
VALERIE CLAY

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CLAY
Date: 2020.04.20 17:01:31
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Valerie Clay
District Manager
FSIS Denver District Office
Valerie.Clay@usda.gov

cc: FO/QER
Est. File
S. Hoffman, DDM
J. VanHook, DDM
R. Reeder, DDM

(b) (6)



S. Baucher, RD/OIEA