



United States Department of Agriculture

May 20, 2022

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Office of Field  
Operations  
Denver District Office

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

Voice (303) 236-9800  
Fax (303) 236-9794

**SENT VIA FED EX &  
ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Tylee Williams, Owner  
Star Valley Meat Block  
Establishment 47200 M/V  
50 Westwood Lane  
Thayne, WY 83127  
[starvalleymeatblock@gmail.com](mailto:starvalleymeatblock@gmail.com)

## RESUMPTION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Dear Ms. Williams,

This letter serves as official notification and confirms the verbal notification of resumption of voluntary inspection service at your establishment, Star Valley Meat Block, Est. M47200, located in Thayne, Wyoming. (b) (6)

(b) (6) verbally notified you of the denial of service on May 10, 2022.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued you official notification of the denial of voluntary inspection service for failure to meet regulatory requirements in accordance with 9 CFR 352.10(a)(5) which states: *(5) Stunning to render the animal unconscious shall be in accordance with 9 CFR 313.15 or 313.16.* A Memorandum of Information (MOI), written by the FSIS Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV), documented an egregious event whereby an establishment employee required four (4) attempts with a firearm to render a yak unconscious.

On May 10, 2022, the Denver District Office (DDO) received your initial written response via email. On May 11 and May 18, 2022, the DDO requested additional written clarifications of your response via email. On May 19, 2022, the DDO received additional clarification of your response via email. Your response included clarification on training, exploring potential changes in stunning procedures, as well as utilizing a higher caliber firearm for exotic species.

After reviewing the responses, FSIS has determined that your written assurances have adequately addressed the concerns outlined in the denial of voluntary service and will allow the resumption of inspection of voluntary species. You were notified via email on May 20, 2022.

As an establishment receiving voluntary inspection, you are expected to comply with the *Agricultural Marketing Act* (AMA) and all regulations promulgated there

under. The regulations require an establishment to take appropriate action(s) when either management of the establishment or FSIS determines that the plant's procedures for handling and slaughtering animals in a humane manner may not be effective.

Failure to comply with the regulatory requirements may result in our initiating further enforcement action, which could include a recommendation to deny inspection services, or other appropriate administrative or legal action. It is important for you to understand that FSIS has responsibility to initiate action if your establishment fails to operate in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

At a later date, FSIS will provide you a copy of the Verification Plan with you. The FSIS Verification Plan is designed to ensure that your establishment fully implements the corrective actions stated in your responses received, and that these revisions and actions are effective in assuring regulatory compliance.

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

Sincerely,

JENIFER  
MONTEVERDE

Digitally signed by  
JENIFER MONTEVERDE  
Date: 2022.05.20  
08:14:26 -0600

for

Dr. Robert Reeder  
District Manager  
USDA FSIS OFO  
Denver District Office  
[Robert.Reeder@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Reeder@usda.gov)

cc: FO/QER  
Est. File  
D. James, DDM  
J. Monteverde, DDM  
J. Van Hook, DDM

(b) (6)

S. Baucher, RD/OIEA