



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Office of Field  
Operations  
Denver District Office

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

Voice (303)236-9800  
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November 21, 2022

**SENT VIA FEDEX &  
ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Luke Conyac, President  
North Cascades Meat Producers Cooperative, Est. M46010  
7229 300<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
NorthCascadesMeatProducersCooperative@hotmail.com  
Hogstead.info@gmail.com

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

Dear Mr. Conyac,

On November 8, 2022, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued the establishment, North Cascade Meat Producers Cooperative, M4010, 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 313.30(a)(4), 313.30(b)(3) and 313.15(a)(3) regulations. A Noncompliance Record (NR), written by an FSIS Frontline Supervisor (FLS), documented an inhumane event whereby a swine regained consciousness following stunning via an electrical stunning device and a hand-held captive bolt device and sticking for exsanguination. This event occurred while your establishment was operating under the abeyance period for a Notice of Suspension (NOS) issued on June 9, 2022, whereby four stun attempts with multiple stunning devices were required to render a market swine unconscious.

On November 16, 2022, 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 November 17 and 18, 2022. These items included clarification on training, stunning procedures, maintenance, and monitoring. FSIS personnel received and reviewed your additional responses on November 18 and 21, 2022 and 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,  
JENIFER

MONTEVERDE

Digitally signed by JEN FER  
MONTEVERDE

DN: cn=JEN FER, o=USDA, ou=FSIS, email=jen.fer@usda.gov, c=US, date=2022.11.21 08:37:19

for

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

cc: FO/QER  
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D. James, DDM  
J. VanHook, DDM  
J. Monteverde, DDM

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S. Baucher, RD/OIEA