



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

AUG 16 2012

Mr. Ricardo De Los Santos
Valley Meat Company, LLC
3845 Cedarvale Road
Roswell, New Mexico 88203

Dear Mr. De Los Santos:

Thank you for your letter of August 6, 2012, regarding the status of your grant-of-inspection application for equine slaughter at Valley Meat Company in Roswell, New Mexico. I am pleased to clarify this situation for you.

In your letter, you reference a letter from me, dated July 20, 2012, stating the need for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to conduct a follow-up walk-through of your establishment. While FSIS has determined that your establishment's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) meet basic compliance requirements, the FSIS Front Line Supervisor (FLS) found sanitary issues during a walk-through of your facility on June 20, 2012, that must be addressed before the application process can continue. Again, you were informed on that day that your establishment must correct these issues and inform the FLS so that a follow-up walk-through could be scheduled to verify compliance. To date, FSIS has not received notification that these sanitary issues have been resolved.

As noted in my previous letter, given that the agency last conducted horse inspection 6 years ago, FSIS will require a significant amount of time to update its testing and inspection processes and methods before it is fully able to develop a future inspection regimen. Until this process is complete, it will not be possible for the Agency to provide inspection of horse slaughter. We will, however, continue to work closely with you.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

for Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator
Office of Field Operations

