

Wagner, Scott - FSIS

From: ██████████ FSIS
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Symons, Sara - FSIS; Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS; Nelson, Ron - FSIS
Subject: plant response for Est. 7299



Plant response,
11-4-11.pdf

I just scanned the plant response.

Everyone should have everything now.

VALLEY MEAT CO. EST.7299
3845 CEDARVALE RD.
ROSWELL, N.M. 88203

NOVEMBER 04, 2011

Ms. Anna Gallegos
Deputy District Manager
Denver District Office

Dr. [REDACTED]
USDA/FSIS/FO
District Veterinary Specialist

Dear Ms. Gallegos and Dr. [REDACTED]

In response to events that occurred at my Establishment on November 04, 2011 during slaughter operations. I am well aware of the regulations regarding humane slaughter procedures and the consequences.

First of all I would like to explain the position I was in at this particular time. We have been trying to get other sources of business for our establishment besides the weak and rough cattle that this plant has slaughtered for the last 20 plus years. Well with these other types of cattle, mainly feedlot cattle we have found out you cannot walk behind them to get them to move into the knocking chute like the rough dairy cull cows. For the last two days Thursday and Friday, we were slaughtering these types of cattle, 12 head. The first 8 head were driven up our chute and into our knocking area with minimal problems. But the last 4 head one heifer and three bulls we could not drive them into our chute, they just kept circling around in the ante-mortem pen. Finally, I was able to drive in the three bulls and knock and slaughter them. The last heifer however just would not enter the chute. That is when I asked Dr. [REDACTED] if I could knock the heifer outside and pull her in. Dr. [REDACTED] agreed and I proceeded to shoot heifer with a [REDACTED]. I thought for sure the caliber of the gun was sufficient to humanely stun the heifer. I feel I placed the shot correctly on the recommended area of skull, however the shot did not penetrate the skull to stun the heifer correctly. This was verified after knocking and skinning the head of the heifer.

My immediate response to this incident was to immediately call in a welder to design a chute system that can prevent or dramatically reduce the need to knock these more wild and or less tame cattle in the pen areas. The chute is about complete this morning and seems to be exactly what we need for these types of cattle.

I have also purchased a [REDACTED] as well as having our [REDACTED] as back up knockers to our new [REDACTED]

I believe that with the new chute system as well as the higher caliber knocker this type of deficiency can be prevented in the future.

I will continue to work and train any employees in the pen areas and or the knocking areas to insure livestock is being properly handled and knocked.

If either of you have any questions or further concerns please contact me at 575- [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]@yahoo.com.

Thank You Ms. Gallegos and Dr. [REDACTED] for your consideration in resolving this matter promptly.


Ricardo DeLosSantos