

From: ██████████ - FSIS
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:43 PM
To: ██████████@yahoo.com
Cc: Nelson, Ron - FSIS; Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; ██████████ FSIS
Subject: Equine Walkthrough

Good afternoon Mr. De Los Santos,

At this time the Denver District Office has instructed me to not schedule a walkthrough of your establishment until everything is complete, which also includes cleaning up the compost pile.

Please see the attached document that has possible things that may need to be addressed at your establishment:



Equine
findings.docx

Please contact FLS ██████████ or the Denver District Office if you have any questions.

Thanks,

██████████
Frontline Supervisor
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██████████



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

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March 29, 2012

Mr. De Los Santos, Owner of Valley Meat Company:

The following are possible things that may need to be addressed at the establishment before FLS [REDACTED] can conduct another walkthrough:

- The footing in pens just east of the USDA office window has had footing with approximately one to two centimeter pieces of gravel added to a concrete mixture.
 - The new footing encompasses an area approximately fifteen feet north-south by five feet east-west and fifteen feet east-west by five feet north-south ("L" shaped pattern) and covers partial areas of other divided pens.
 - The metal re-bar flooring with approximate ten by eighteen inch exposed concrete is still present in the large antemortem holding pen with holding chute.
- The chute entrance ramp has not been changed; this entrance ramp might be difficult for equine since they have different shaped hooves.
- The second horizontal bar closest to the front of the knocking area has not been changed.
- On the far, east side of the building, in an alcove/loading area approximately there are hides stacked approximately twelve to eighteen inches in height.
- Next to the above alcove are inedible barrels such identified by a faded company name, "TX" (designating the company's city), and "INEDIBLE". These bins are roughly rectangular, blue/black plastic, tapered at the bottom, and approximately five feet deep by four feet long by three feet wide.
 - There are more of these barrels/bins with debris such as fencing and small plastic containers located behind the small storage building on the south boundary of the property.
 - It appears the company still has offal barrels for contracted disposal on premises.
- The compost pile off official premises:
 - There are portions of the front file, running under the metal covered structure, which appears reach the roof line of the structure, approximately fifteen to twenty feet in height. Various side panel pieces are missing from this structure.
 - This front pile runs approximately forty feet north to south through the building.
 - There appears to be an approximate ten foot stretch of plain, dark brown material, likely manure, on the north aspect of the front pile.
 - A cement pad could not be discerned as described in Mr. De Los Santos' composting program on 3/12/12.

- There is a second pile behind the metal structure, also running north south, and reaches approximately ten to fifteen feet in height. The overall length of this pile was difficult to estimate as it runs behind the metal structure/first pile.
- Throughout all windrows (piles), excluding the north manure pile, there are visible bones protruding at all heights.
 - Mr. Rick De Los Santos' composting program 3/12/12 indicted the bones would be sifted out and removed.
- There was a front end loading tractor machine on the north aspect of the compost pile which when compared to the piles, did not appear it could effectively manage and rotate the compost windrows.
- No observation of any plain carbon material such as wood shavings or chips which could be incorporated into this pile to refresh the carbon source and maintain the desired carbon:nitrogen and carbon:phosphorus balance necessary for effective compost degradation
- No observation of any moisture adding apparatus or evidence of recent moisture activity
- Approximately six flies were observed from within thirty yards of the pile upon approach.
- There is no product trailer attached to the facility for product storage as indicated in processing plan of walkthrough on 3/12/12
- Processing room number one (smaller processing room)
 - There is no hot water sanitizer
 - There are no additional black rubber footbaths
- Processing room number two (larger processing area)
 - There is one footbath leading into the processing area from the main part of the facility.
 - There is no footbath at the other set of doors leading to the freezer and loading area.
 - The plastic curtains at this loading area are all still in place
 - The rotating processing belt on the central table has not been repaired or replaced and the company continues to cover this belt with plastic combo liner (noncompliance record #YJL5510013305N from 1/5/12 with company written response stating the belt will not be used until it is repaired or replaced and Mr. Rick De Los Santos reporting in weekly meetings the replacement/repair would occur with the upgrades for equine operations)
- Slaughter floor
 - The built in chute ladder is on the right (problems observed during 3/20 operations and reported to Mr. De Los Santos in the weekly meeting 3/23 with the move from left to right placement)
 - The chest piece in the knocking chute has not been reinserted and is resting in the side knocking area (piece removed 3/20 as the beef cattle did not fit with the piece in place).
 - A soap pump has been added to the hand sink at the sticking/heading area.
 - No head inspection station has been added (company has knee high table with bar for head racks in place) and temporary table is in same location in where head inspection occurs in front of the slaughter floor entrance door.
 - No area or equipment identified for wither removal

- Single bogey tray will not accommodate withers, lungs, heart, liver, and kidneys at one time.
- No additional lighting or equipment added for inspection of gray/white hides
- No additional space added or process equipment altered to accommodate evisceration/trim/final inspection multipurpose space.
- Platform height a split saw remains the same
- Because the knee high table is being used as head inspection, no place at final rail for disposition paperwork, Condemn and Inspection brand stamps and ink, or other USDA postmortem supplies such as retain tags, pin, and sample collection bags.
- No observable changes to rail heights.
- Footbath is located in the small hallway to the left of the kill floor door upon entering.