August 14, 2007



RE: FOIA Case No.: 07-172 Humane Slaughter Act



This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 13, 2006, initially submitted to the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Your request was referred to us by APHIS on May 21, 2007, for processing and direct response.

In your request, you asked for copies of records involving Humane Slaughter Act violations and subsequent penalties from January 1, 2002, to December 12, 2006, "pertaining to horses that were slaughtered at the Cavel slaughter plant in DeKalb, Illinois." In a telephone conversation of June 27, 2007, with a member of our FOIA Staff, you amended your request to only include inspection reports for calendar years 2005 through 2007.

In responding to a FOIA request, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) search will include responsive records in its control on the date the search began. FSIS' search began on May 22, 2007.

Your request is granted in part at no cost to you. Enclosed are the releasable portions of inspection reports for calendar year 2005. Please be advised that a search by knowledgeable staff in FSIS' Office of Public Affairs, Education and Outreach, failed to locate any noncompliance reports which refer to humane handling violations for calendar years 2006 through 2007.

After a thorough review of these documents, I have determined that portions of them are exempt from disclosure under (b)(4), (b)(6), and (b)(7)(C) of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. We are releasing a total of 13 pages, all of which contain redacted material.

FOIA Exemption 4 protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential." Disclosure of this information would impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future and cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained.

Exemptions 6 and 7(C) protect information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Under Exemption 6, we have withheld the identity of lower-level Agency personnel. This exemption along with the law enforcement Exemption 7(C), affords protection to Agency enforcement personnel.





You may appeal this determination within 45 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting your appeal. The envelope should be plainly marked to indicate that it contains a Freedom of Information Act appeal. If you decide to appeal, please send your appeal to:

Alfred V. Almanza Administrator U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 1140 South Building Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

For your information, your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, FSIS does not release personal privacy information, such as home address, telephone number, or social security number, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS' programs and policies.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Blake

Deputy Director

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Enclosures



Clean • Separate • Cook • Chill

Visit befoodsafe.gov, askkaren.gov, or call 1-888-MPHotline.

ANIMALS' ANGELS

The request for this information is voluntary. It is needed to monitor defects found in this inspection system. It is used by FSIS to determine whether establishments are in compliance. 9 CFR 301 and 9 CFR 381. FORM APPROVED OMB No. 0583-0089. OMB DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250: and tothe Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

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5/11/05

TO: Mr. James Tucker, Cavel International

FROM:

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SUBJECT: NR 0026-2005-8243

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

This memorandum will serve all parties that the above NR has been rescinded based on the situation cited comes under APHIS jurisdiction.

On April 26 past Cavel Management met with Tamara Mayberry discussing the receiving of horses. Guidelines were set down at this meeting.

Once the trucks come onto the plant's premises the welfare of the animals is not only your concern, but ours too.

It is imperative that management set up times of arrival for all shippers particularly those coming long distances.



(p)(6),(p)(7)(c)

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10. DESCRIPTION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

He was reminded that the plant's response to the last humane handling NR was to have only appropriately trained individuals handling the horses. The employee who was whipping the initial horse was not one of those trained. Finally I required the second downed horse to be immediately rendered unconscious by a captive bolt stunner and dragged to the knock-box.

Animals are required to be handled with a minimum of excitement and discomfort, and implements employed to move the animals shall be used as little as possible in order to minimize excitement according to 9 CFR Ch.III, regulation 313.2(a) &(b) respectively. A similar violation was noted on NR 18-2005. This document serves as written notification that your failure to comply with regulatory requirements could result in additional regulatory or administrative action.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

11. SIGNATURE OF INSPECTION PROGRAM EMPLOYEE

used until exhausted (7/98)



Addendum to Noncompliance Record #18-2005 & 19-2005

It is my belief that the violations of regulation 313 (humane handling) in the above mentioned noncompliance records were the result of establishment employee actions. These actions resulted in unnecessary, elevated levels of excitement in the horses and subsequently caused injury and discomfort to the animals. While the employees' actions were not appropriate, I do not believe the mishandling was egregious or maliciously intended. Rather, I feel it was the result of a lack of training. Because of the repeated offenses and the multiple people I have witnessed handling the animals (including people not employed by the establishment), I have concluded that training of the establishment employees in humane handling is either inadequate or not being done at all.

, PHV Est. 15849E

Chicago District

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)



Request for Adequate Response to NR 19-2005

On April 5, 2005 I received your written response to NR 18-2005. In it you stated there would be "specific, trained personnel" in the ante mortem pens to handle the horses. On April 13, 2005 another violation of the humane handling regulations occurred with the same root cause. In both cases, personnel inappropriately handling the animals resulted in unnecessary excitement and injury to the horses. Since training should have occurred between April 4th and April 13th, I have concluded that the training is inadequate or not being done. Your response to NR 19-2005 ("Additional training and supervision will be implemented.") is inadequate because it is a vague answer to a repeated violation. I am keeping the NR open until I receive a meaningful and detailed response that identifies the cause of the violation and the measures the establishment is taking to prevent recurrence. This would include identification of those employees trained in humane handling (as listed in your response to NR 18-2005) - either by providing a list names, specific uniforms, name tags, etc. Secondly what kind of "training "are these employees receiving? (Verbal, written, visual?) Who is training them? What, specifically, are they taught to ensure the animals are handled humanely? How is additional supervision going to be implemented?

If you need more information on humane handling regulations or training please contact Chicago District Veterinary Medical Specialist at (614) 833-1405 ext. 229. Humane handling training DVD's are available.



(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)



Cavel International, Inc.



International Meat Exporters

April 21, 2005

MEMO

To Dr. Rene Oleck, DVM, IIC

Re: NR 19-2005 Response

Cause of the violation: The basic cause of the original incident involved, in their motivation to speed production, kill floor personnel attempted to "help" pen personnel drive the horses to the knock box. After that incident, I have been working with pen personnel and the plant manager to have specifically trained personnel only work in the pens. Absences, (unrelated) injuries and personnel on leave have made this difficult. But some verbal training and supervision has taken place and general behavior has changed to some degree.

The specific measure the plant is taking to prevent recurrence include:

- 1. Limiting the personnel assigned to the pens to personnel who are experienced and trained in the task.
- 2. Develop a process of training for kill floor personnel who may be called on to help in the pens. This would involve verbal training by trained personnel as well-as video training.
- 3. Personnel will be identified by name in a list maintained in the plant office.
- 4. Change line up procedures so that only one animal will be in the line up section prior to the knock box and that "fanny" gate will be chained closed. Subsequent sections can be used for one or two horses to control the movement backwards in the line.
- 5. Management will restrict the use of driving devices to and and Both will be used only in an appropriate manner.

While it is important to handle the horses in a humane manner it is also important to move them expeditiously without danger to personnel. Sometimes it is necessary to lead a horse rather than drive it, however, personnel should never be required to lead a horse into a space where there is no egress for the person or where there is danger of being crushed by the animal, such as the knock box.

James Tucker, General Manager

(b)(A)

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The request for this information is voluntary. It is needed to monitor defects found in this inspection system. It is used by FSIS to determine whether establishments are in compliance. 9 CFR 301 and 9 CFR 381. FORM APPROVED OMB No. 0583-0089. OMB DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250: and tothe Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

TYPE OF NONCOMPLIANCE

Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250: and tothe Office of Information US Department of Agriculture FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE NONCOMPLIANCE RECORD		TYPE OF NONCON X Food Safety	Other Consumer Protection	n	
. DATE	2. RECORD NO.		3. ESTABLISHMEN	NT NO.	
04/04/2005	0017-2005-8243	3	15849 E/1		
I. TO (Name and Title)	3	8	5. PERSONNEL NO	OTIFIED	
James Tucker, Gener	ral Manager		James Tucker		
6. RELEVANT REGULA	TION(S)				
417.2(b)(1)				<u> </u>	
7. SECTION/PAGE OF E	ST. PROCEDURE PLAN	HACCP	SSOP	OTHER	
		622		\$ · ·	
8. ISP CODE		9. NONCOMPLIANC	E CLASSIFICATION INDIC	CATORS	
03J01		HACCP - Monito	ring	(F)	>
10. DESCRIPTION OF N	ONCOMPLIANCE				•
Trichinella lesting C	CCP. I informed Raul M	man, the plant manag	or, and no add observed an		
					÷
11. SIGN			(b/6), (b/4)	4/04/05	
	your right to appeal this decision as	s delineated by 306.5 and/or 3	NAME OF STREET	4/04/05	
You are hereby advised of y			181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	
You are hereby advised of y			181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	
You are hereby advised of y			181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	is
You are hereby advised of y			181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	is nositi
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN The procedure on he k		e action(s)): or veminde reted not	181.35 of 9 CFR.	t/04/05 ionsues of the some on tris,	is nositi
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEM The procedure on he k	MENERESPONSE (Immediate	e action(s)): or veminde reted not	181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	nositis
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN The procedure on he k	MENERESPONSE (Immediate	e action(s)): or veminde reted not	181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	nositi
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN The procedure on he k	MENERESPONSE (Immediate	e action(s)): or veminde reted not	181.35 of 9 CFR.	4/04/05	is nositi
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN Procedure on the (c) 13. PLANT MANAGEN	MENT RESPONSE (Immediate	e action(s)): or veminde noted not no do not anned action(s)):	181.35 of 9 CFR. I of the ser- to have pro-	rioniness of the somel on this,	_
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN Procedure on the K 13. PLANT MANAGEN This document serves as	MENT RESPONSE (Immediate A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	e action(s)): or veminde noted not no do not anned action(s)):	181.35 of 9 CFR. I of the ser- to have pro-	floy 105 -ion ness of the somet on this -ocedure,	_
You are hereby advised of y 12. PLANT MANAGEN Procedure on the K 13. PLANT MANAGEN This document serves as	MENT RESPONSE (Immediate	e action(s)): or veminde noted not no do not anned action(s)):	181.35 of 9 CFR. I of the ser- to have pro-	rioniness of the somel on this,	_

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13. PLANT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (further planned actions(s)):

This document serves as written notification that your failure to comply with regulatory requirement(s) could result in additional regulatory or administrative action.

14. SIGNATURE OF PLANT MANAGEMENT

15. DATE 1/21/05

16. VERIFICATION SIGNATURE OF INSPECTION PROGRAM EMPLOYEE

17. DATE

FSIS FORM 5400-4 (7/98)

Replaces FSIS Form 5400-4 (9/97), which may be used until exhausted.(7/98)

DISTRIBUTION: Original &

1 copy - Establishment 1 copy - Inspector The request for this information is Voluntary. It is needed to monitor defects found in this inspection system. It is used by FSIS to determine whether establishments are in compliance. 9CFR 301 and 9CFR 381. FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 0583-0089. OMB DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, inluding suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, D.C. 20250; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

			F AGRICULTURE	_		TYPE OF	NONCOMPLIANCE		6
	FOOD SAFET	Y AND IN	SPECTION SERVIC	E		X Fo	od Safety	Other (Consumer Protecti
	NONCOMPLIANCE RECORD			ات .۰ د					
. DATE	ATE 2. RECORD NO.			3. ESTA	BLISHMENT NO.	7.1			
1/13	1/13/2005 4-2005-8243				158	49 E/	1		
TO (Name ar	nd Title)						ONNEL NOTIFIED		
James Tu	ucker, Plant Manager 9.	Low	Manager			James	Tucker		
. RELEVANT	REGULATION(S)								
310.18	(a), 417.6 (e),								
	SECTION/PAGE OF			HACC	P	SSOP		OTHE	
ESTABLISH	MENT PROCEDURE/PLAN			119					Α,
. ISP CODE	03J01					*			
	03001			9. NO	NCOMPLIANCE CLASSI	FICATION	INDICATORS _		
PLANT	A. SSOP		Monitoring	Г	Corrective Action		Recordkeeping		Implementation
PROCESS	B. X HACCP	X	Monitoring	F	Corrective Action	Ē	Recordkeeping		Plant Verification
		믁			1		Protocol		
C.	PRODUCT	Ц.	Economic		Misbranding	<u>-</u>			Deadust Board
D. I	FACILITY		Lighting		Structural	L	Outside Premises		Product Based
E. 1	E. COLI		Other		vi				
10. DESCRI	am, while performing								
sanitary of the pl	manner to prevent contact price and provided the control provided the co	ntamına oint for	zero fecal tol	i mau eranc	e. Failure to com	nply with	n regulatory red	quireme	nts could
11-01							(b)(6), (b)(7)	(c)	-
You are here	eby advised of your rigin,			0015 and	381.35 of 9 CFR.	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			
12. PLANT	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (mmediate a	actions(s)):	de a	ed the pers	ing w	rleing at	- H	•
trii	min, inspecti	· ~ 5	Lation.						
	1 / 1						(4)		
13. PLANT	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (further plan	ned actions(s)):						
*									
This doc	ument serves as written n	otificatio	n that your failu	ire to	comply with regulat	ory requi	rement(s) could r	esult in a	dditional
	ry or administrative actio						1	5. DATE	1 —
14. SIGNA	ATURE OF PLANT MANAGEME	741						1/13/	10)
16. VERU	Trail Trail	DECTION	DOOD ALCEL MY AS	ALTER .			1	7. DATE	
13.13.101						(b)(6),	(b)(7)(c)	1/13	105
EGIC					Commence of the Commence of th	or and a supplemental supplemen	POTENTIAL DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRAC		
FSIS				400-4 (9	/97), which may be used used used (7/98)	ntil	DISTRIBUTION: On	iginal &	1 copy - Establishmer 1 copy - Inspector

U.S. DEP. FOOD SAFE	TYPE OF NONCOMPL X Food Safety	IANCE Other Consumer	Protection			
NONCOMPLIANCE RE	CORD CONTINUATIO	N SHEET				
1. DATE	2. RECORD NO.			3. ESTABLISHMENT NO	0.	
.1/13/2005	4-200	4-2005-8243			5849 E/1	
4. TO (Name and Title) James Tucker, Plant Manager	TO (Name and Title)			5. PERSONNEL NOTIFI James Tucker	ED	
6. RELEVANT REGULATION(S) 310.18 (a), 417.6 (e),					* * * * *	
7. RELEVANT SECTION/PAGE OF ESTABLISHMENT PROCEDURE/PLAN		HACCP	(4)	SSOP	OTHER	
8. ISP CODE				9. NONCOMPLIANCE HACCP Mon		<i>^</i>

10. DESCRIPTION OF NONCOMPLIANCE:

FSIS FORM 5400-4 (7/5

result in additional regulatory or administrative action.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

11 6	15. DATE
	1-13-05
	First High mant