



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

STOP 0253 – Room 2610-S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-0253

## RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 30, 2008

Mr. Stan Mendell  
Westland Meat Company  
13677 Yorba Avenue  
Chino, California 91710

Dear Mr. Mendell:

Effective immediately, this letter serves as notification to you that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is suspending your eligibility to receive contracts to supply meat products, or any other products, to the Federal food and nutrition program or for any other Federal agency or program, pending the results of an ongoing investigation. The suspension is based on adequate evidence that your company has committed irregularities of a serious nature in its business dealings with the Government; specifically, the recent incidents at your facility, which your company has acknowledged, involving the humane handling of livestock.

This action is in accordance with provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart 9.4. In particular, 48 C.F.R. subsection 9.407-2 provides that:

(a) The suspending official may suspend a contractor suspected, upon adequate evidence, of

(7) Commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that seriously and directly affects the present responsibility of a Government contractor or subcontractor.

and

(c) The suspending official may upon adequate evidence also suspend a contractor for any other cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects the present responsibility of a Government contractor or subcontractor.

As you know, our 2007 Technical Requirements Schedule for ground beef (GB-2007), which is part of your contract(s) with USDA, states that all cattle shall be humanely handled in accordance with all applicable Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations, directives, and notices. In addition, meat from carcasses of non-ambulatory or disabled cattle are not to be included in USDA purchased ground beef products

Mr. Stan Mendell

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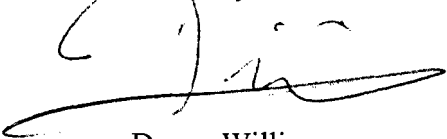
Effective immediately, Westland Meats must immediately cease production on its USDA contracts and not deliver on contracts that have been produced. During the period of suspension, Westland Meats is also excluded from conducting business with the Government as agents or representatives of other contractors, including serving as a subcontractor to other companies doing business with the Government.

This suspension is temporary but will remain in effect pending further investigation and such legal proceedings as may ensue.

Within 30 days after receipt of the notice, Westland Meats may submit, in person, in writing, or through a representative, information and argument in opposition to the suspension, including any additional specific information that it believes raises a genuine dispute over the material facts.

If you have any questions, please contact me 202-720-2650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Duane Williams  
Contracting Officer  
Livestock and Seed Program