



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Food and Drug Administration
Cincinnati District Office
Central Region
6751 Steger Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45237-3097
Telephone: (513) 679-2700

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

WARNING LETTER CIN-WL-6873-01

March 21, 2001

Robert C. Adams
Branch Manager
Western Reserve Farm Cooperative
16003 East High Street
P.O. Box 339
Middlefield, OH 44062

Dear Mr. Adams:

An inspection of your feed mill was conducted by a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigator on February 27, 2001. This inspection found significant deviations from the requirements set forth in Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 589.2000 – Animal Proteins Prohibited in Ruminant Feed. This regulation is intended to prevent the establishment and amplification of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Such deviations cause products being manufactured and distributed by your facility to be adulterated within the meaning of Section 402(a)(4) and misbranded within the meaning of Section 403(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act).

Our inspection found your procedures to prevent cross contamination are inadequate in that there are no records to document that the equipment was cleaned or flushed of preceding batches containing prohibited materials.

Our inspection found your firm fails to label feeds which contain, or may contain, prohibited materials with the required cautionary statement "**Do not feed to Cattle or Other Ruminants**". We suggest this statement be distinguished by different type size or color or other means of highlighting the statement so it is easily noticed by the purchaser.

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. As a manufacturer of materials intended for animal feed use, you are responsible for assuring that your overall operation and the products you manufacture and distribute are in compliance with the law. We have enclosed a copy of the FDA's Small Entity Compliance Guide to assist you with complying with the regulation.

You should take prompt action to correct these violations, and you should establish a system whereby such violations do not recur. Failure to promptly correct these violations may result in regulatory action without further notice, such as seizure and/or injunction.

You should notify this office in writing within 15 working days of receipt of this letter, of the steps you have taken to bring your firm into compliance with the law. Your response should include an

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explanation of each step being taken to correct the violations, and prevent their recurrence. If corrective action cannot be completed in 15 days, state the reason for the delay and the date by which the corrections will be completed. Include copies of any available documentation demonstrating that corrections have been made.

We are aware that your firm voluntarily destroyed 13 bags of Country Choice Balance Feed and that you contacted the customer who received poultry feed which should have been labeled with the required warning statement. You do not need to include this information in your response. You do need to address, in writing, how you intend to prevent future violations. The required cautionary statement was previously discussed with you on November 10, 1998 by Carl Wolfe, an investigator with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). At that time you verbally told the ODA representative that this would be corrected.

Your reply should be directed to Deborah Grelle, Director of Compliance, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 6751 Steger Drive, Cincinnati, Oh 45237, telephone (513) 679-2700 extension 160.

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Womack for
Henry L. Fielden
District Director

Enclosure: Small Entity Compliance Guide

Cc: Dr. R. David Glauer, State Veterinarian
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399