



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

51343d

Food and Drug Administration  
Cincinnati District Office  
Central Region  
6751 Steger Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45237-3097  
Telephone: (513) 679-2700  
FAX: (513) 679-2771

**Warning Letter**

WL-CIN-7948-01

June 5, 2001

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Williams Cattle Company, Inc.  
Michael L. Williams, President  
P.O. Box 447  
London, KY 40741

Dear Mr. Williams,

An inspection of your operations located at 1255 S. Main Street, London, KY by Food and Drug Administration Investigator Robert Hudson on March 13, 23 and April 16, 2000 confirmed that four cows purchased and sold by you for slaughter for human food were in violation of Section 402 (a)(2)(C)(ii) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

USDA/FSIS analyses of tissues collected from those animals disclosed the presence of the following drugs:

Backtag of Animal	Drug	Level	Tolerance
61TR9327	Penicillin	0.01ppm	0.05ppm
61CY3788	Penicillin	0.24ppm	0.05ppm
61CZ4767	Penicillin	0.15ppm	0.05ppm
61TR9819	Sulfamethazine	0.63ppm	0.1ppm

Tolerance levels for these drugs are found in Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Section 556. The presence of these drugs, at levels above the tolerances, in edible tissue from the animals causes the food to be adulterated.

In addition, the inspection found that you lack controls to prevent the purchase and sale of animals that are not Drug Residue Legal. The inspection also demonstrated that your record keeping system is insufficient to identify the point of purchase for all of your animals. Both of these observations were listed on the form FDA-483, Inspectional Observations (copy attached) that was provided to you at the conclusion of the inspection.

You should take prompt action to correct the above violations and to establish procedures whereby such violations do not recur. Failure to correct the violations may result in regulatory action such as seizure and/or injunction without further notice. You may also be prosecuted under the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

The violations listed above are not intended to be an all-inclusive list. It is your responsibility to assure that your operations are in compliance with the law. As a dealer of animals, you are frequently the individual who introduces or offers for introduction into interstate commerce, the adulterated animal. As such, you share the responsibility for violating the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. To avoid future illegal residue violations you should take precautions such as:

1. Implementing a system to identify the animals you purchase with records to establish traceability to the source of the animal;
2. Implementing a system to determine from the source of the animal whether the animal has been medicated and with what drug(s); and
3. If the animal has been medicated, implementing a system to withhold the animal from slaughter for an appropriate period of time to deplete potentially hazardous residues of drugs from edible tissue. Your system should assure that the animals are Drug Residue Legal. If you do not want to hold the medicated animal then it should not be offered for human food, and it should be clearly identified and sold as a medicated animal.

You should be aware that it is not necessary for you to have personally shipped an animal in interstate commerce or to have medicated the animal yourself to be responsible for a violation of the Act. The fact that you offered an animal that was not Drug Residue Legal for sale to a slaughterhouse that ships in interstate commerce is sufficient to hold you responsible for a violation of the Act.

You should notify this office in writing within 15 working days of the steps you have taken to bring your firm into compliance with the law. Your response should include each step being taken, has been taken, or will be taken to correct the violations and prevent the recurrence. If corrective action cannot be completed within 15 working days, state the reason for the delay and the time frame within which the corrections will be completed. Please include copies of any available documentation demonstrating that corrections have been made.

Your reply should be addressed to Food and Drug Administration, 6751 Steger Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45237-3097, Attention: Stephen J. Rabe, Compliance Officer.

Sincerely

  
Henry L. Fielden  
District Director  
Cincinnati District Office