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Food and Drug Administration  
Seattle District  
Pacific Region  
22201 23rd Drive SE  
Bothell, WA 98021-4421

Telephone: 425-486-8788  
FAX: 425-483-4996

January 13, 2003

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

In reply refer to Warning Letter SEA 03-11

Dale C. Devries, Owner  
Thomas R. Devries, Owner  
Devries Family Farm LLC  
15720 Highway 24  
Moxee, Washington 98936

**WARNING LETTER**

Dear Messrs. Devries:

An investigation at your dairy located at 15720 Highway 24, Moxee, Washington, by our investigator on November 20-21, 2002, confirmed that you offered animals for sale for slaughter as food in violation of Section 402(a)(2)(C)(ii) and 402(a)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act).

A food is adulterated under Section 402(a)(2)(C)(ii) of the Act if it contains a new animal drug that is unsafe within the meaning of Section 512 of the Act.

On May 13, 2002, you delivered a holstein cow with back tag #91 TO 376 identified on USDA Case #01-1852-WA, Form #431002, to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] sold this holstein cow for slaughter as human food to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] does not medicate the animals. USDA analysis of tissue samples collected from that animal identified the presence of sulfadimethoxine in the liver at 1.51 parts per million (ppm), and in the muscle at 1.84 ppm.

A tolerance of 0.1 ppm has been established for residues of sulfadimethoxine in edible tissues of cattle (Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations 556.640). This excess residue of sulfadimethoxine in edible tissue from this animal causes the food to be adulterated.

A food is adulterated under Section 402(a)(4) of the Act "if it has been prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions...whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health." As it applies in this case, "insanitary conditions" means that you hold animals which are ultimately

Thomas R. Devries, Co-Owner  
Dale C. Devries, Co-Owner  
Devries Family Farm, LLC, Moxee, WA  
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offered for sale for slaughter as food under conditions that are so inadequate that medicated animals bearing potentially harmful drug residues are likely to enter the food supply. For example, you lack an adequate system for assuring that animals to which you administer medication have been withheld from slaughter for appropriate periods of time to deplete potentially hazardous residues of drugs from edible tissues; you have no animal medication records that would identify which animal had been medicated, what date the medication was administered, what dosage of medication had been used, and what the withdrawal times should be; and you lack an adequate system for assuring that drugs are used in a manner not contrary to the directions contained in their labeling.

It is not necessary for you to personally ship an adulterated animal in interstate commerce to be responsible for a violation of the Act. The fact that you caused the adulteration of an animal that was sold and subsequently offered for sale to a slaughterhouse that ships in interstate commerce is sufficient to hold you responsible for a violation of the Act.

The above is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of violations. As a producer of animals offered for use as food, you are responsible for assuring that your overall operations and the foods you distribute are in compliance with the law.

You should take prompt action to correct the above violations and to establish procedures whereby such violations do not recur. Failure to do so may result in regulatory action without further notice. These actions may include, but are not limited to, seizure and/or injunction.

You should notify this office in writing, within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of this letter, of the specific steps you have taken to bring your firm into compliance with the law. 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.

Please send your reply to the Food and Drug Administration, Attention: Lisa M. Elrand, Compliance Officer, 22201 23rd Drive SE, Bothell, Washington 98021-4421. If you have questions regarding any issue in this letter, please contact Lisa M. Elrand, Compliance Officer, at (425) 483-4913.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Breen  
District Director