



Page Two

Mark G. Kohlmann  
April 16, 2003

We are also aware of a January 14, 2002, tissue residue violation (sulfadimethoxine at 0.47 ppm in the liver and 0.19 ppm in the muscle) involving a dairy animal identified with back tag no. 460 that was slaughtered at   USDA/FSIS traced that animal back to your operation. You stated that you did not recall treating any animals with sulfadimethoxine and did not recall the animal in question. However, by your own admission, you did not maintain drug treatment records or traceback records to substantiate those claims.

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 ensuring that your overall operation and the food 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, such as seizure and/or injunction, without further notice.

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 each step that has been taken to correct the violations and prevent their 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 Compliance Officer Timothy G. Philips at the address on the letterhead.

Sincerely,



W. Charles Becoat  
Director  
Minneapolis District

TGP/ccl

