

Establishment Inspection Report

Nature’s Best Egg Company, Inc.
Cullman, AL 35058-1532

FEI: 3008775698
EI Start: 06/27/2011
EI End: 06/28/2011

SUMMARY (LHB)

The current targeted egg safety inspection of a shell egg producer was conducted in accordance with NOL-DO FY’11 work plan per “FY 11 Inspection of Egg Farms for Monitoring Compliance with Egg Safety Rule” amended February 8, 2011, DFPG Assignment # 11-04, ORA Concurrence #2011012601, and FACTS # 1258067.

This was an initial inspection. The firm has no previous FDA inspectional history. The current inspection focused on the firm’s Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) prevention plan, that included procurement of hens/pullets that are SE monitored, biosecurity, rodent monitoring and control, fly monitoring and control, refrigeration of shell eggs, cleaning and disinfecting, environmental and egg sampling/testing program, and a review of the firm’s environmental testing results.

An FDA 483, Inspectional Observations was not issued to management. However, a discussion was held concerning deficiencies found in the firm’s temperature logs, holes in some of the cooling cells, and visible signs of pests. Management promised corrections. No samples were taken and no refusals were encountered. (b) (3)

Also, the Food Defense Alert pamphlet was provided to and discussed with Mr. Robert D. Haynes, Co-owner along with the reportable food registry.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA (LHB)

Inspected firm: Nature’s Best Egg Company, Inc.
Location: 1400 County Road 1568
Cullman, AL 35058-1532
Phone: (256) 796-8889
Fax: (256) 796-8818
Mailing address: 1400 County Road 1568
Cullman, AL 35058-1532
Dates of inspection: 06/27-28/2011
Days in the facility: 2
Participants: C. Coty Francis, Investigator
Lindsay H. Bertling, Investigator

To initiate the inspection, we displayed our credentials and issued an FDA-482, Notice of Inspection, to Robert Douglas Haynes, Co-owner. Mr. Robert D. Haynes identified himself as one of the most responsible persons at his firm. Robert Lee Haynes, Co-owner was also present. Mr. Lee Haynes also identified himself as one of the most responsible

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persons at his firm. Mr. Lee Haynes and Mr. Robert D. Haynes accompanied us during the inspection and provided us with the information regarding the firm and its operations.

Sections of this report were written by Investigator Francis and/or Investigator Bertling and are identified by their respective initials.

HISTORY (LHB)

Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc./C & R Haynes Farms, Inc. was organized in 2002. The company consists of two corporations. Mr. Robert D. Haynes explained that he and his wife own C & R Haynes Farm, Inc. He further explained that C & R Haynes Farms owns the four chicken houses located on the property. Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc. is owned by Mr. Robert D. Haynes, his wife, and Mr. Lee Haynes. Mr. Robert D. Haynes explained that Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc. owns the chickens and the eggs. The firm operates (b) (4) and has approximately (b) (4) employees, including the managers. The managers are at the firm from (b) (4).

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Lee Haynes, Co-owner
P.O. Box 463
Baileyton, AL 35019

INTERSTATE COMMERCE/JURISDICTION (LHB)

Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc. operates as an egg laying farm with (b) (4) processing. There are approximately (b) (4) laying hens used for processing eggs. The firm processes approximately (b) (4). According to management, pullets are purchased from (b) (4) and are delivered from (b) (4) to Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc. Mr. Robert D. Haynes stated that approximately (b) (4) of their eggs are delivered by company owned vehicles to grocery stores in (b) (4). The rest of the firm's eggs are delivered by company owned vehicles to grocery stores and manufacturers located within the state of (b) (4). A customer list is included as [Exhibit #4](#).

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONS INTERVIEWED (LHB/CCF)

On 06/21/11, Investigator Stephanie Cochran (NOL-DO Acting Emergency Response Coordinator) and I conducted a pre-inspectional conference call with Mr. Robert Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes, Co-owners of Nature's Best Egg Company, Inc. and representatives from the Alabama Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the call was to discuss the nature of the inspection and the firm's biosecurity policy.

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During the actual inspection of the facility, Mr. Robert D. Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes provided us with the relevant information contained in this report and accompanied us during the inspection.

Robert D. Haynes, Co-owner identified himself as one of the most responsible persons at his firm. He explained that he shares responsibility of the firm with Lee Haynes. Mr. Robert D. Haynes is responsible for purchasing packaging material and feed. He stated that everyone in the facility reports to him. He also stated that he has the authority to hire and fire. Mr. Robert D. Haynes has the authority to make capital purchases along with having duty, power, and authority to detect, prevent, and correct deficiencies.

Lee Haynes, Co-owner identified himself as one of the most responsible persons at his firm. Mr. Lee Haynes is responsible for managing the plant, its employees, and the inventory. He stated that almost everyone in the facility reports to him. He also stated that he has the authority to hire and fire. He explained that he has the authority to make capital purchases along with having duty, power, and authority to detect, prevent, and correct deficiencies.

FIRM'S TRAINING PROGRAM

The firm's training program consists primarily of educating employees on proper biosecurity measures. The majority of the training is on the job training that is task specific.

MANUFACTURING/DESIGN OPERATIONS (CCF)

This family owned business operates as a caged-hen facility consisting of 4 egg laying poultry houses. All 4 layer houses are (b) (4) style houses. The poultry operation consists of a laying operation and an egg processing/packing facility. The houses are designated as 1, 3, 4 and 5. There is no house 2. Houses 1, 3 and 4 are approximately (b) (4) with an outside dimension of (b) (4) long. House 5 contains (b) (4) with an outside dimension of (b) (4) long. Houses 1, 3 and 4 consist of (b) (4) of caged hens arranged in (b) (4). House 5 contains (b) (4) of caged hens arranged in (b) (4). Each outside row for houses 1, 3 and 5 contains (b) (4) per cage, while the inside rows contain (b) (4) hens per cage (b) (4). House 4 contains (b) (4) birds per cage (b) (4). Each house is considered as one distinct flock. All hens are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes.

At the time of the inspection, all hen houses were occupied and being used for egg production. The firm has approximately (b) (4) laying hens onsite producing

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approximately (b) (4) eggs per week. The majority of eggs produced by the firm are designated for the shell egg market and the remainder is shipped to an egg breaking plant, (b) (4).

The water source used for the processing area and as drinking water for the birds comes from a municipal water supply. Feed in the (b) (4) is purchased in bulk from (b) (4) located in (b) (4). The feed consists of (b) (4).

SE PREVENTION PLAN AND TESTING

The firm has a SE prevention plan that documents the procurement of SE monitored pullets, biosecurity, pest control measures, cleaning and disinfecting measures, refrigeration of shell eggs, and environmental testing (Exhibit #1 p. 1-28). Mr. Robert Haynes stated that the plant has never had a positive result for SE.

Pullets

The facility procures tested and SE free pullets at (b) (4) old from (b) (4) (b) (4) also vaccinates all pullets for SE (Exhibit #1 p. 27). The pullets are placed into a previously cleaned and disinfected layer house and remain in that house until depopulation. The firm receives documentation from the grower indicating the pullets were SE monitored (Exhibit #2), and the negative SE testing results of the pullets at 14-16 weeks of age are maintained.

Biosecurity

Records describing biosecurity measures implemented by the firm were reviewed. Some biosecurity measures include: prohibiting employees from owning or taking home any birds or hens; maintenance of foot baths containing sanitizer that are placed inside the front door of each house entrance; and, restriction of visitors on premises and in houses unless dressed in proper protective clothing. Each visitor to the plant must be trained in the firm's biosecurity measures before being allowed to enter the premises (Exhibit #1 p. 5) The firm has an electronic security gated entrance that is only accessible through office personnel or management.

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Pest Control Measures

Procedures and records for documenting pest control measures and visual inspections are maintained by the firm and reviewed by management. Management was reminded to sign initial, and date these records. Management stated that they would comply. Visual inspections for pests and routes of pest entry points occur on a [REDACTED] b4. The firm maintains its own pest prevention and has adopted an insecticide/rodenticide rotation program. This rotation of rodenticide chemicals occurs approximately every (b) (4)

[REDACTED] Rodent prevention plan measures include numerous [REDACTED] b4 set at (b) (4) intervals on the interior and exterior of the houses. Fly monitoring is performed using the [REDACTED] b4. A [REDACTED] b4 is used [REDACTED] b4. [REDACTED] b4 is performed [REDACTED] b4. A copy of the Rodent [REDACTED] b4 Checklist and subsequent corrective action sheet is included in Exhibit #3.

Cleaning and Disinfecting/Manure Management

According to Mr. Lee Haynes, each house is cleaned, including manure removal from [REDACTED] b4, and disinfected following depopulation of hens. Cleaning of the entire house includes the removal of live chickens, dead chickens, dust, feathers, and feed. Sanitization includes that all cages and equipment are to be dry cleaned and then sanitized with (b) (4) sanitizer.

Environmental SE Testing

Firm records were reviewed and indicated environmental sampling and testing for SE occurred at 40-45 weeks of age for each flock. In the event of induced molting, the firm's flocks are tested again for SE 4-6 weeks following molting. Environmental testing by the firm includes swabbing of, conveyors, manure piles and other equipment. Lab services for SE testing of firm samples are provided by either the [REDACTED] b4 (b) (4) located at [REDACTED] b4 (b) (4) or the [REDACTED] b4 (b) (4).

EGG PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

The facility houses a processing and packing area in addition to the 4 layer houses. During production, eggs laid by hens travel down a short ramp to a conveyor belt. The conveyor travels the length of the house to the end of the row towards an area that separates the two houses. The eggs are then dropped onto another conveyor that travels the length of the facility through each house to the processing area. Once the eggs enter the processing area they are rinsed, [REDACTED] b4.

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sanitized with a [REDACTED], packaged, stored in a cooler and then shipped. A walkthrough of the processing area was not included within the scope of this inspection. All eggs are cooled to 45° F within 36 hours post lay. The desired temperature range is [REDACTED]° to 45° F. A review of cooler temperature records revealed several out of specification temperatures during the afternoon hours of the last week in May and the first week in June, 2011 (Exhibit #5). Mr. Lee Haynes stated that he was aware of the higher temperatures and that it was due to the freezer door being opened and closed so many times during the loading of trucks. He stated that he would address this situation as best as possible. It was also noted that dates, initials of the person performing the task and an approving signature were also missing on the temperature logs. Mr. Lee Haynes stated that he would make corrections. Eggs stored in trucks are cooled at 45° F or lower while in transit.

Management stated that eggs on hand are graded by the USDA [REDACTED]. Similar inspections are performed by State personnel [REDACTED]. No USDA personnel were on site at the time of inspection.

MANUFACTURING CODES (CCF)

The egg plant code for the firm is AL 2.

COMPLAINTS (LHB)

The firm has no complaint records. Mr. Robert D. Haynes stated that his firm has never had a complaint.

RECALL PROCEDURES (CCF)

Firm management stated they have the capability of recalling their egg products.

OBJECTIONABLE CONDITIONS/GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE (LHB)

No major objectionable conditions were observed and at the close of the inspection an FDA 483, Inspectional Observations, was not issued. However, a discussion regarding observations not listed on the FDA 483, were discussed with Robert D. Haynes, Co-owner and Lee Haynes, Co-owner at the conclusion of the inspection.

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The following items were discussed with Mr. Robert D. Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes:

- 1) Several holes in the air cooling cells (visibly showing outside light) located in chicken house number four.

Mr. Robert D. Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes were informed that this could provide an entry way for pests.

FIRMS RESPONSE:

Mr. Lee Haynes stated that he has already ordered new cooling cell pads and that the holes will be fixed within a week.

- 2) Evidence of rodents/pests in all four chicken houses.

Mr. Robert D. Haynes and Mr. Lee Haynes were informed that rodents could possibly contaminate their products.

FIRMS RESPONSE:

Mr. Lee Haynes stated that he plans to continue with his pest control procedures to keep the unwanted pests out.

- 3) The firm's temperature logs did not list the address of the firm, the times when the temperatures were recorded, or the initials of the person who recorded the temperatures. Also, the temperature logs were not reviewed and signed by a Co-Owner.

FIRMS RESPONSE:

Mr. Lee Haynes stated that he plans to fix the address on the log sheets this afternoon. He also stated that he plans to start dating and initialing these sheets.

At the conclusion of the close-out meeting Mr. Robert D. Haynes stated, "We want to be in compliance, we will make changes right away".

REFUSALS (LHB)

No refusals were encountered.

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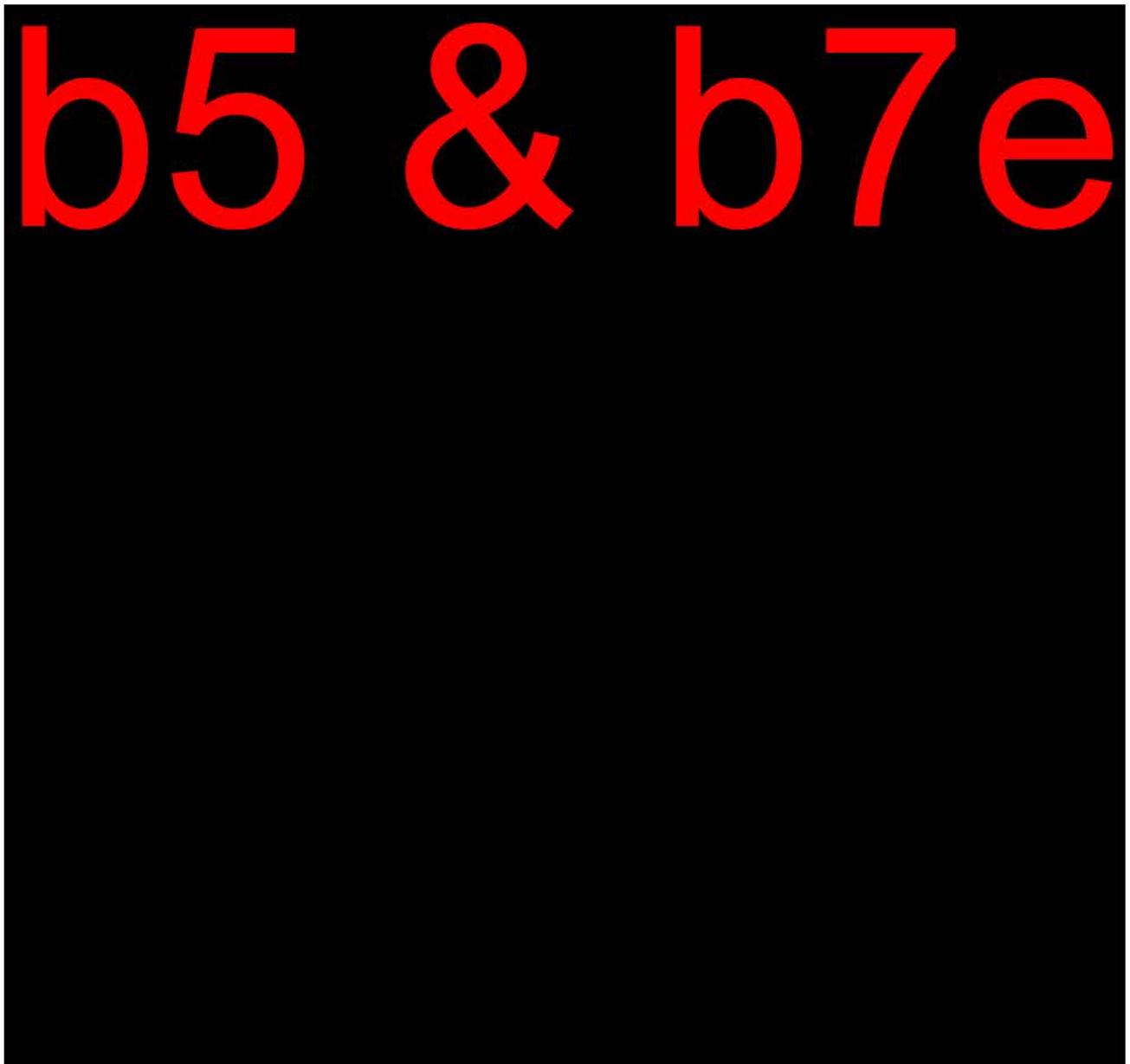
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CCF)

Attachment A: Inspection/Data Collection Tool for *Targeted Inspections*

Section I: Information for assessing future inspectional priority)



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b5 & b7e

SAMPLES COLLECTED (LHB)

No samples were collected.

EXHIBITS COLLECTED

[Exhibit #1](#) – Copy of Firm's SE Prevention Plan

[Exhibit #2](#) – USDA Report

[Exhibit #3](#) – Copy of Firm's **b4** Checklist

[Exhibit #4](#) – Copy of Firm's Customer List

[Exhibit #5](#) – Copy of Firm's Temperature Checklist

ATTACHMENTS

[FDA-482](#), Notice of Inspection

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C. Coty Francis, Investigator



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