

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: **3002857303**  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary ..... 1

Administrative Data ..... 2

History..... 3

Interstate Commerce ..... 3

Jurisdiction..... 4

Individual Responsibility and Persons Interviewed..... 4

Firm's Training Program ..... 4

Manufacturing/Design Operations ..... 4

Manufacturing Codes ..... 5

Objectionable Conditions and Management's Response ..... 5

Refusals..... 5

General Discussion with Management ..... 6

Additional Information ..... 6

Samples Collected..... 9

Voluntary Corrections..... 9

Exhibits Collected..... 10

Attachments ..... 10

**SUMMARY**

This targeted inspection of a large shell egg producer was conducted in accordance with FACTS assignment number # 1258067, and as requested in the assignment titled "FY11—Inspection of Egg Farms for Monitoring Compliance with Egg Safety Rule, DFPG Assignment # 11-04, ORA Concurrence # 2011012601" Amended February 8, 2011 (**Attachment 2**).

There is no previous inspection data on file for this firm. The firm (including the processing facility) is owned by Gemperle Brothers dba Gemperle Enterprises. The firm is shell egg registered, as required, under Channing Ranch.

The current inspection covered the firm's *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) prevention plan and records associated with monitoring compliance with the 21 CFR 118 (Egg Rule). Three of the firm's six layer houses were inspected; houses 4, 5, and 2. No environmental samples were collected.

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: **3002857303**  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

---

No FDA 483, Inspectional Observations, was issued. The need to keep records that included all of the requirements listed under 21 CFR 118.10(b) was discussed with Michael E. Gemperle (Vice President).

No refusals were encountered.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

Inspected firm: Channing Ranch  
Location: 9488 Lander Ave  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326  
Phone: 209-667-9694  
FAX:  
Mailing address: 10218 Lander Ave  
Turlock, CA 95380-9627  
  
Dates of inspection: 3/22/2011, 3/23/2011, 3/28/2011, 3/29/2011  
Days in the facility: 4  
Participants: Estefania Fernandez, Investigator (Lead)  
Steven M. Galvez, Investigator

On 03/22/2011, credentials were displayed, and an FDA 482, Notice of Inspection, was issued to Stephen M. Gemperle, President (**Attachment 1**). Stephen M. Gemperle informed us that his brother, Michael E. Gemperle, Vice-President, would be the most appropriate person to talk to about SE prevention plan. Michael E. Gemperle accompanied us on all days of the inspection and provided all the information included in this report.

Investigator Galvez and I briefly introduced ourselves to the USDA inspector and informed her that we were conducting an inspection of the firm's SE prevention plan. No other contact was made with the USDA inspector.

This report was written by Estefania Fernandez.

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: 3002857303  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

---

**HISTORY**

Channing Ranch, located at 9488 Lander Ave Hilmar, CA 95324 is owned by Gemperle Brothers. Gemperle Brothers has a main office located at 10218 Lander Ave Turlock, CA 95380. Gemperle Brothers also own Harding Ranch at 2012 W Harding Road Turlock, CA 95380, Soderquist Ranch at 3630 S. Soderquist Road Turlock, CA 95380, Washington Ranch at 2306 S. Washington Road Turlock, CA 95380, and Hilmar Ranch at 10218 Lander Ave Turlock, CA 95380 (same location as the main office). Channing Ranch, Harding Ranch, and Soderquist Ranch were simultaneously inspected.

During the course of our inspection, Michael informed us that Gemperle Brothers and all other entities owned by them all do business as Gemperle Enterprises. Gemperle Enterprises is part of a (b) (4) . which is then part of another (b) (4) , Inc. based out of (b) (4) .

Gemperle Brothers is made up of two divisions; Channing and Harding. The Channing Ranch division is owned by Peter Gemperle, Stephen Gemperle, Richard Gemperle, Michael Gemperle, Heidi Gemperle, Anita Mahaffey, and Susan Abdo. The Harding Ranch division is owned by Peter Gemperle, Stephen Gemperle, Richard Gemperle, and Michael Gemperle.

During the time of inspection we found that August Ranch located at 18524 August Road, Hilmar, CA 95324 and Schendel Ranch located at 17265 Schendel Ave, Delhi, CA 95315 they are both owned by same owners and are operated all under the same management. On 03/28/2011, two FDA 482, Notice of Inspection, were issued to Michael E. Gemperle, Vice President for August and Schendel Ranch.

This was the initial FDA inspection of this firm. Michael states that the firm has never received an SE positive and therefore they have never had the need to conduct a recall. Channing Ranch egg packing facility runs (b) (4) , (b) (4) days a week. Office hours at main office located at 10218 Lander Ave Turlock, CA 95380 are Monday – Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.

All correspondence should be sent to Mr. Stephen M. Gemperle, President at 10218 Lander Ave Turlock, CA 95380.

**INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

Eggs are marketed by (b) (4) . Major customers include (b) (4) and (b) (4) .

Day old chicks are purchased from (b) (4) (Exhibit #1).

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: 3002857303  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

---

**JURISDICTION**

Channing Ranch produces shell eggs that are subject to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Channing Ranch produced approximately (b) (4) dozens of eggs per week.

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Michael E. Gemperle, Vice President was present during the entire inspection, accompanied us during the walk through of all farms, and provided all information. Michael stated that he is responsible for the health of the flocks at every ranch. Michael, with the assistance of his veterinarians and FDA guidance documents, developed and assures that the SE prevention plan is being implemented at each ranch. All production managers report to him. Jim Robinson is the production manager Channing Ranch and Darrel Thompson is the assistant production manager.

FDA 482, Notice of Inspection, was issued to Stephen M. Gemperle, President. Upon our arrival to the firm, he introduced himself as the most responsible person onsite, but then called upon his brother Michale E. Gemperle, Vice President to accompany us during the rest of the inspection.

**FIRM'S TRAINING PROGRAM**

Biosecurity training is done on a (b) (4) basis. If issues arise or new regulations go into affect, then training will be given to employees aside from the (b) (4) biosecurity training. All trainings are conducted by Michael E. Gemperle. Training records were reviewed; the last training held was on 10/06/2010, topics included biosecurity and FDA regulations.

**MANUFACTURING/DESIGN OPERATIONS**

Channing Ranch has six b4; four are (b) (4) and two are (b) (4) houses. (b) (4) houses are (b) (4) wide and (b) (4) high with (b) (4) birds per cage. (b) (4) houses are (b) (4) wide and (b) (4) high with an average of (b) (4) birds per cage. Channing is an inline facility and all eggs gathered from this farm are all packaged onsite.

During our inspectional walk through only 3 houses, instead of 4 as instructed in the assignment (**Attachment 2**), were inspected. There was some confusion about the order in which houses were to be inspected, in order to inspect the houses from youngest to oldest. When we stopped to verify, we had already visited house #5 which was housing (b) (4) week old birds. To prevent from walking

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: 3002857303  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

---

through houses with younger birds we walked through a different house that was housing birds that were also (b)(4) weeks.

The firm purchases chicks from (b) (4) (b)(4). The firm raises the pullets in eight brooder houses at two different pullet ranches each consisting of four houses; Hughson Ranch at 4436 Walnut Road in Hughson, CA and Bradbury Ranch at 20973 Bradbury Road in Turlock, CA.

During the inspection, the SE prevention plan and all records pertaining to the SE prevention plan were reviewed. An unsigned copy of the SE prevention plan was collected (**Exhibit #2**). No deviations were noted on the environmental sampling results reviewed. Environmental samples are collected by (b)(6) (b)(7)(c) Ralph Adney, Production Manager at Gemperle Brothers. Samples are taken to (b) (4) for analysis.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures are being documented. The firm utilizes the rodent index formula recommended by FDA draft guidance for industry. The firm's rodent index records were reviewed and unacceptable numbers were not noted. A copy of their Standard Operating Procedures Vector Monitoring Instructions was collected (**Exhibit #3**).

**MANUFACTURING CODES**

The plant number for Channing Ranch is 1686M. All product packaged at this facility is stamped with this plant number.

**OBJECTIONABLE CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE**

No Form FDA 483, Notice of Observations, was issued. Items discussed with management are listed under section titled "General Discussion with Management."

**REFUSALS**

No refusals were made. Management was very cooperative and provided all documentation requested.

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch

Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI:

**3002857303**

EI Start:

03/22/2011

EI End:

03/29/2011

**b5 & b7e**

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch

Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI:

**3002857303**

EI Start:

03/22/2011

EI End:

03/29/2011

---

**GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH MANAGEMENT**

During the review of records we informed Michael E. Gemperle of the requirements listed under 21 CFR 118.10 (b) for records maintained by shell egg producers. Initially, Michael expressed that this would be a difficult task for him because it would involve having individual forms for each farm. After some discussion and us pointing out to him the reference in the CFR, Michael stated that he would figure out a way to develop one standardized form that would meet all of the requirements and yet be applicable for all farms.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**b5 & b7e**

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch

Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI:

**3002857303**

EI Start:

03/22/2011

EI End:

03/29/2011

**b5 & b7e**

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch

Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI:

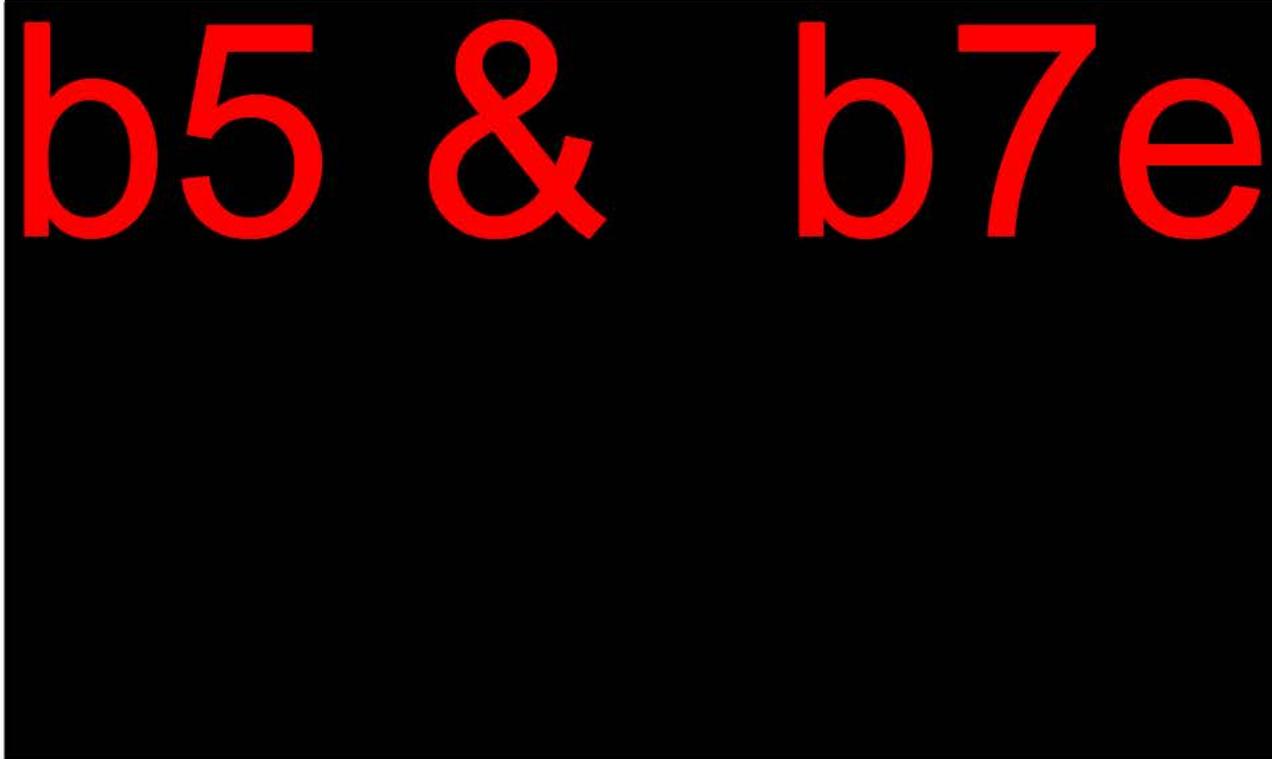
**3002857303**

EI Start:

03/22/2011

EI End:

03/29/2011



**SAMPLES COLLECTED**

No samples were collected.

**VOLUNTARY CORRECTIONS**

Before we left the facility, Michael presented to us a draft template he intends to use for all of the records that need to be maintained. The draft that Michael presented to us included all of the general requirements for records maintained by shell egg producers listed under 12 CFR 118.10 (b).

**Establishment Inspection Report**

Channing Ranch  
Hilmar, CA 95324-9326

FEI: 3002857303  
EI Start: 03/22/2011  
EI End: 03/29/2011

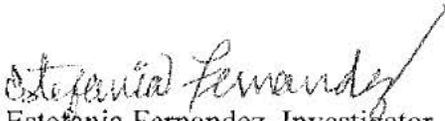
---

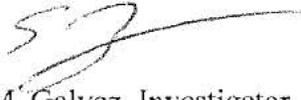
**EXHIBITS COLLECTED**

- 1- Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poultts dated 11/30/11 (1 page)
- 2- Gemperle Farms—Channing Ranch Flock Health Plan Salmonella Enteritidis Prevention Plan Component (5 pages)
- 3- Standard Operating Procedures b4 Monitoring Instructions (1 page)

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1—FORM FDA 482 Notice of Inspection
- 2—Amended Assignment- FY11—Inspection of Egg Farms for Monitoring Compliance with Egg Safety Rule, DFIG Assignment # 11-04, ORA Concurrence # 201101260I FACTS No. 1258067

  
Estefania Fernandez, Investigator

  
Steven M. Galvez, Investigator