

Establishment Inspection Report

Paul Newton EHST
Womelsdorf, PA 16903

FEI: 3008780266
EI Start: 03/29/2011
EI End: 03/29/2011

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SUMMARY

The current targeted egg safety inspection of a shell egg producer was conducted in accordance with FDA PHI-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, FACTS # 1258067, OP ID #5359899.

There is no previous FDA or FDA-contracted inspectional history associated with the farm. The farm continues to participate in the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP).

The current inspection revealed that Paul Newton Ehst (Spring Pond Farm) produces eggs for the table market; eggs from House 1 (b) (4) are sold directly to (b) (4)

(b) (4) eggs from Houses 2 & 3 (b) (4) are sold directly to (b) (4)
(b) (4)

No FDA-483, Inspectional Observations, was issued. Discussion points were as follows: 1. 1 small hole in the wall of house #3 could be used as a pest entryway. 2. Irrigation piping lying against house #1 provides for a rodent harborage site. 3. Two exhaust fans on house 2 were not running but the flaps were not completely closed, this could provide for an entry point for pests. 4. On 2 days of the reviewed Rodent Control Log corrective actions were not recorded when the rodent index was moderate to severe.

No refusals were encountered during the inspection and no samples were collected.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

On 03/29/2011 Inv.'s Bradley E. Benasutti, Cara M. Minelli, and I presented credentials and issued an FDA-482, Notice of Inspection (Attachment 1), to Paul N. Ehst, Owner. According to Mr. Ehst he is the most responsible person for this farm. Credentials were also presented to **b4, b6 & b7c**, Technical Services Representative for **(b) (4)**. Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. **b4, b6 & b7c** C/O **(b) (4)** **(b) (4)**. Mr. Paul Ehst stated that the firm's legal name is Spring Pond Farm, after the FDA-482 was issued he stated that the farm goes by Spring Pond Farm on most documents but it is a sole proprietorship under his name.

Inspected firm: Paul Newton Ehst
Location: 92 Deck Road
Womelsdorf, PA 16903
Phone: 717-933-5957
FAX:
Mailing address:

Dates of inspection: 3/29/2011
Days in the facility: 1
Participants: Joshua C. Schafer, Investigator
Bradley E. Benasutti, Investigator
Cara M. Minelli, Investigator

This report was written by Inv. Schafer except where noted.

HISTORY

According to Paul N. Ehst, he is the owner and most responsible person for this farm. **(b) (4)** **(b) (4)** is contracted to handle management of the flock. Some of the aspects they cover are SE prevention plan development, SE testing, and pest control issues. The firm's gross annual sales is **(b) (4)**

The farm has three houses with approximately **(b) (4)** laying hens producing approximately **(b) (4)** eggs **(b) (4)**. House 1 is a **(b) (4)** house that has been converted to a **(b) (4)** with manure belts and houses **(b) (4)** laying hens. House 1 has **(b) (4)** rows with each row having **(b) (4)** with **(b) (4)** birds per cage. House 2 is a cage free house with **(b) (4)** laying hens. The house has **(b) (4)** of nesting boxes running the length of the house. The house is divided into **(b) (4)** partitions. House 3 is a **b4** house with **(b) (4)** laying hens. The house configuration is the same as house 2. All three houses are managed with an all in all out policy.

The current flock in house 2 had an SE positive environmental sample from the collection date 12/23/2010 when the flock was **(b) (4)** weeks old. The lab reported the positive sample on 01/12/2011. The firm decided to test the eggs instead of diverting. Eggs were collected for testing on

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01/19/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/16/2011, and 03/02/2011. All egg tests were negative for SE. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] provided a copy of the flock records for house 2 (Exhibit 3) including pullet performance summary, layer performance summary, pullet report of sale, and environmental and egg testing results. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] also provided flock records for house 1 (Exhibit 2) and house 3 (Exhibit 4).

There was no previous FDA inspection of this farm.

This firm is registered with the FDA as per 21 CFR 118.11(a).

INTERSTATE COMMERCE/ JURISDICTION

Eggs from house 1 are sent to (b) (4) (b) (4) (b) (4) Eggs
from houses 2 & 3 are sent to (b) (4) (b) (4) (b) (4) (b) (4)

Feed is provided by (b) (4) (b) (4)

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONS INTERVIEWED

{begin Inv. Benasutti}

Mr. Paul N. Ehst, Owner: On 03/29/2010 we presented credentials and issued an FDA-482, Notice of Inspection (Attachment 1), to Mr. Paul Ehst. He acknowledged being the most responsible person at the inspected firm. Mr. Paul Ehst did not participate in the inspection.

Mr. Loren Ehst, Farm manager: Oversees the day to day operations of the farm. Mr. Loren Ehst supplied information about the daily operations of the farm as well as production information regarding the flocks.

Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c], Service Technician: Works for (b) (4) (b) (4) (b) (4). Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] stated that his firm works as a contract consulting firm for various poultry farms. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] supplied information about the farm's SE Prevention Plan, flock records, and environmental sampling.

Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c], Service Technician: Also works for (b) (4) (b) (4) (b) (4). Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] accompanied Investigators Schafer and Benasutti during the walkthrough of houses #1 and #3. He is the farm's normal Service Technician and is responsible for making [b4] visits to the farm. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] is also responsible for coordinating the environmental testing of the farm's poultry houses. He supplied information regarding his weekly visits to the farm as well as the environmental testing.

{end Inv. Benasutti}

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REFUSALS/ SAMPLES COLLECTED

No refusals were encountered during the inspection and no samples were collected.

GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH MANAGEMENT

A copy of the "Egg Rule at a Glance" poster was provided.

{begin Inv. Minelli}

On 3/29/2011, I reviewed the following records:

Rodent Control Log- On 2 of the days I reviewed, there were a moderate to severe number of rodents recorded; however, no specific corrective actions were noted in the comment section of the log. According to the SE Plan, the goal is to maintain rodent index numbers in the **b4** **(b)** range. If the rodent index is **b4** a **(b) (4)** **(b) (4)** must be contacted to discuss which specific measures need to be taken in order to get the rodent index to a level of **b4** or less.

After reviewing this issue with Mr. **b4, b6 & b7c** he explained that although these 2 particular days when the number of rodents were moderate to severe did not have specific corrective actions noted, a separate log was kept titled *Layer House Action Plan and Responsibility Sheet* which outlined general corrective actions for rodent control. Some of the actions included **b4**. I explained to both Mr. **b4, b6 & b7c** and Mr. Loren Ehst that although it is a good practice to have a general action plan onsite, it is more important to record what specific corrective actions were taken for days when the number of rodents counted were moderate to severe. Recording specific corrective actions would allow them to see what measures were working to get their rodent counts down. Mr. **b4, b6 & b7c** and Mr. Loren Ehst both agreed and promised to note specific corrective actions going forward.

Fly Control Log- According to the SE Plan, an average number count of **(b) (4)** per **b4** is typically considered the recommended threshold for initiating house fly control measures. After reviewing weekly fly control records, no deviations were noted.

Refrigeration Log- The farm's SE Plan states temperature in the cooler needs to be kept between **(b) (4)** degrees Fahrenheit. After reviewing daily Refrigeration Logs, no deviations were noted.

Environmental Sampling Records- According to the farm's SE Plan, layer environment is tested for SE when layers are 40-45 weeks of age. After reviewing the environmental sampling records for all 3 houses, it was determined that this testing took place at the appropriate times as stated in the SE plan. Specifically, House 1 had negative environmental sampling results for SE on 12/01/2011; House 2 had negative environmental sampling results on 05/03/2010 and had positive results on 12/23/2010; and House 3 had negative environmental sampling results on 07/07/2010 and 03/02/2011

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Flock Records for House 2- According to the farm's SE Plan, if environmental sampling for SE is positive, the eggs will be tested for a total of 4 bi-weekly egg tests in succession. After reviewing Flock Records for House 2, it was determined that all testing was performed at the appropriate intervals. Specifically, the flock in house 2 had an SE positive environmental sample from collection date of 12/23/2010. Eggs were collected for testing on 01/19/2011, 02/02/2011, 02/16/2011, and 03/02/2011.

{end Inv. Minelli}

Discussion points were as follows:

1. A small hole (approximately 2" x 3") in the wall of house 3 could be used as a pest entryway. Management was unaware of the hole and stated it would be fixed as soon as possible.
2. Irrigation piping lying against House #1 provides for a rodent harborage site. Management said the piping would be moved to another location away from the houses.
3. Two exhaust fans on House 2 were not running but the flaps were not completely closed, this could provide for an entry point for pests. Management said the flaps would be cleaned and repaired to ensure they open and close in conjunction with the fan's operation.
4. On 2 days of the reviewed Rodent Control Log corrective actions were not recorded when the rodent index was moderate to severe. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] and Mr. Loren Ehst both acknowledged this issue and promised to note specific corrective actions going forward.

After closing the inspection and returning to the office I realized that the results for the first egg test following the positive SE environmental sample in house 2 were received 15 days after the environmental results were received. The eggs were collected 7 days after the environmental results. I called Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] on 04/04/2011 to discuss this. I explained to him that if eggs are going to be tested after a positive SE sample that the egg test results must be received within 10 days. Mr. [b4, b6 & b7c] said he understood that the results were a few days late and was due to the regulations being fairly new and trying to get everything in line when the environmental positive was found. He stated that in the future they will make sure to get the eggs collected and delivered to the lab in a shorter time frame to allow time for the lab to complete the tests within 10 days.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Section I: Information for assessing future inspectional priority)

b5 & b7e

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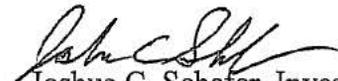
b5 & b7e

EXHIBITS COLLECTED

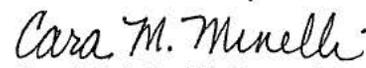
1. Paul Newton Ehst (Spring Pond Farm) SE Prevention Plan
2. House 1 flock records, 5 pages
3. House 2 flock records, 10 pages
4. House 3 flock records, 7 pages

ATTACHMENTS

1. Fda-482, Notice of Inspection, dated 03/29/2011


Joshua C. Schafer, Investigator


Bradley E. Benasutti, Investigator


Cara M. Minelli, Investigator