

REDLAND DAIRY, LLC

MATERIALS USED – COMMINGLING PREVENTION

(b) (4)



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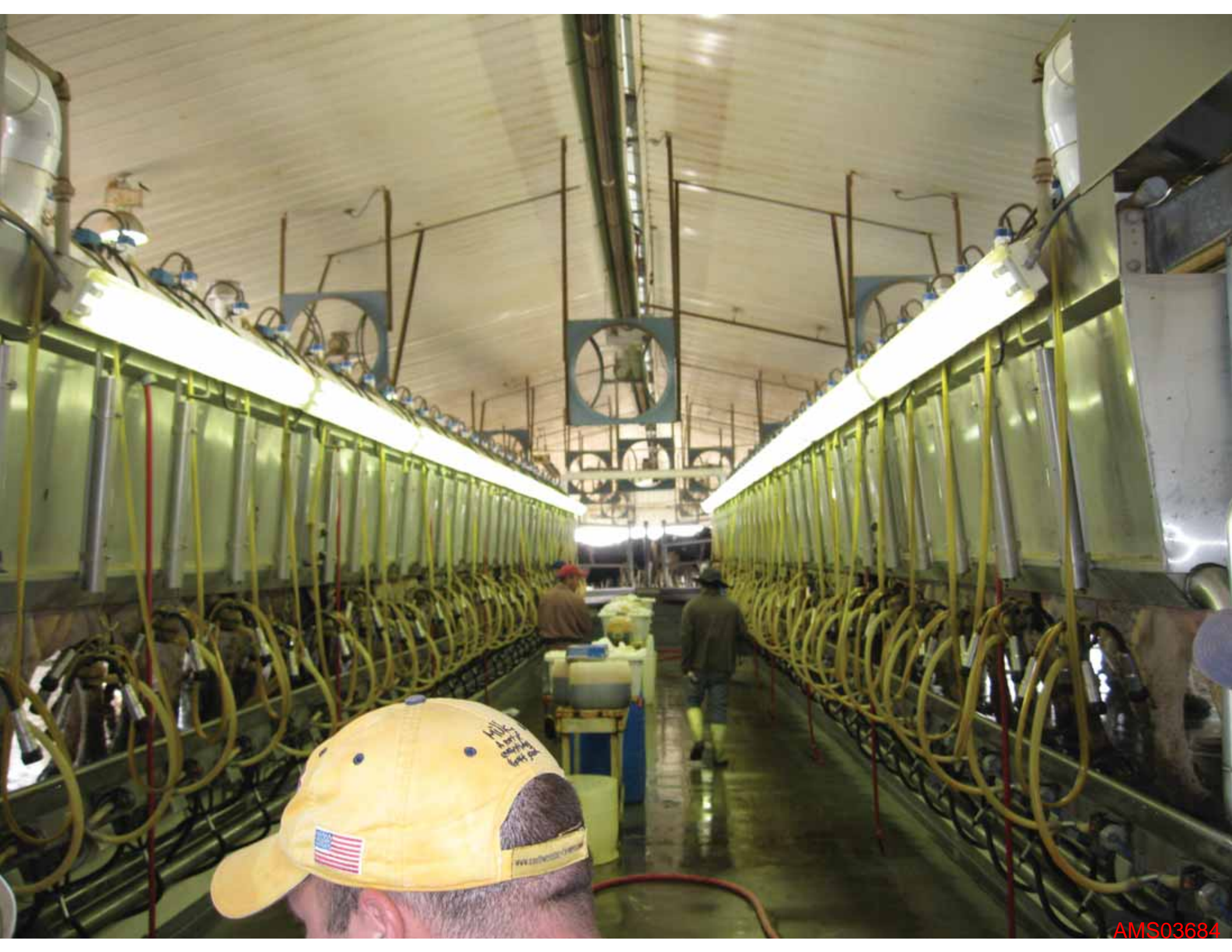
(b)(4)

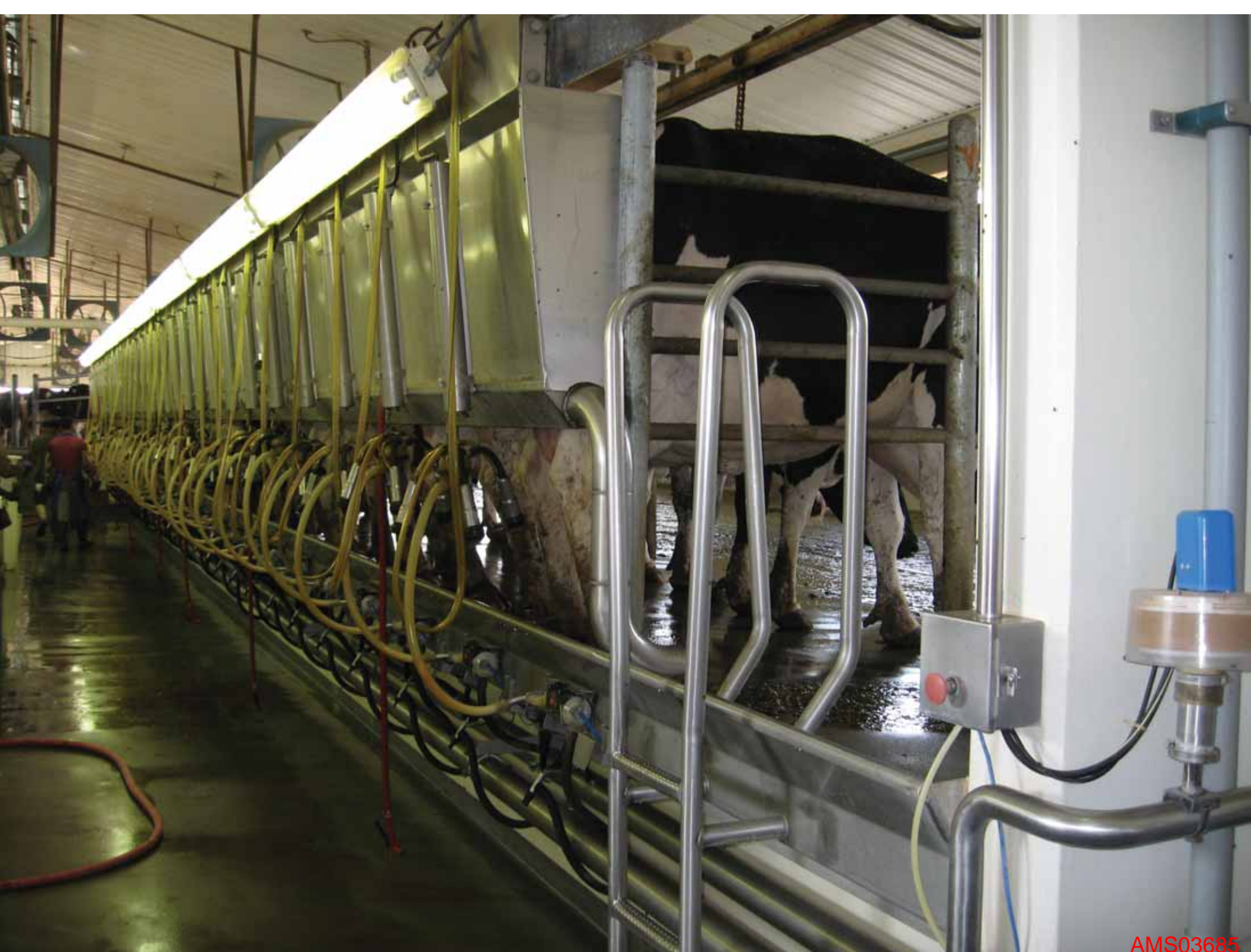
NW503682

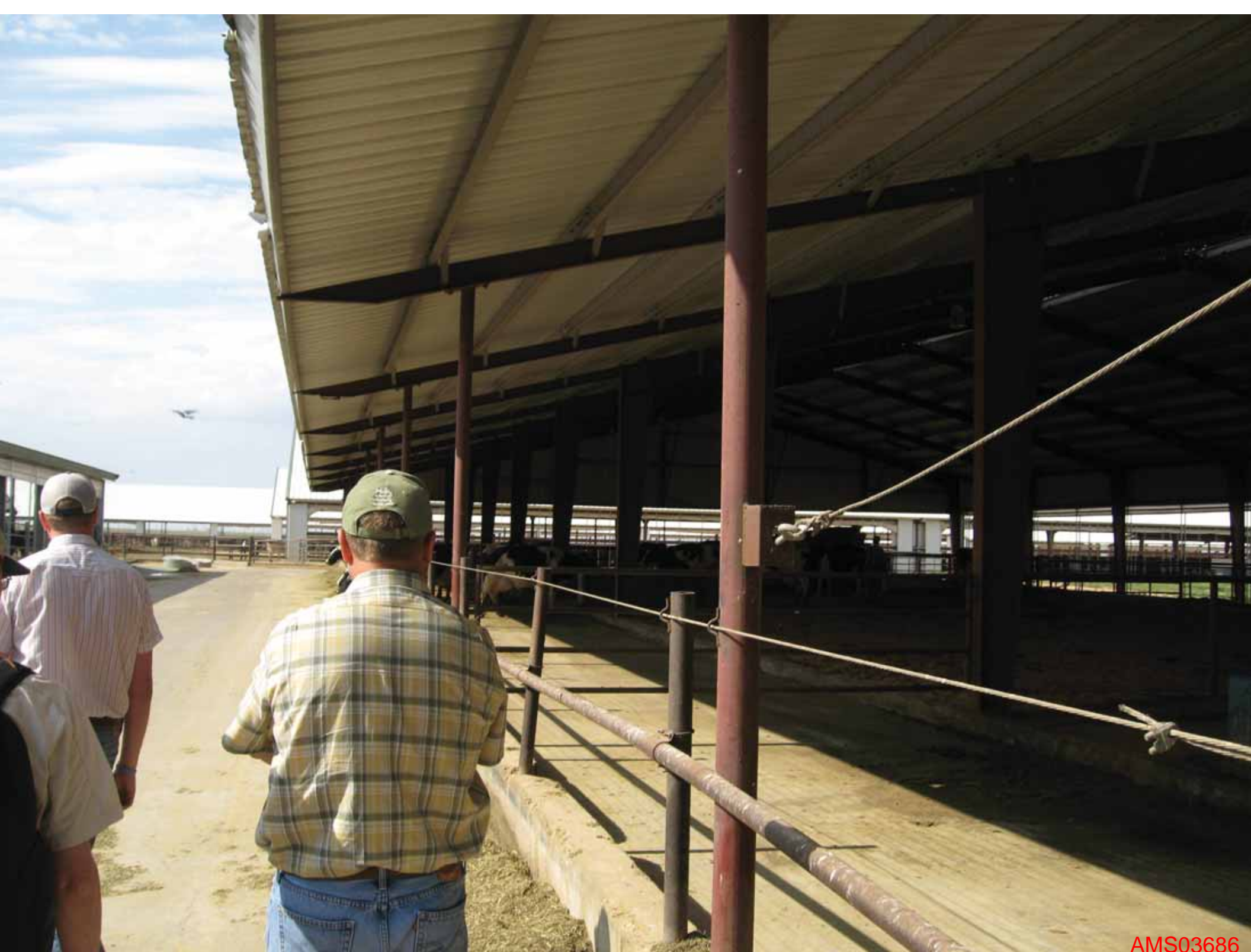
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AMS03683







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AMS03707

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AMS03709



AMS03710



WARNING - AIR CONTAMINANTS
EXCESSIVE EXPOSURE TO AIR CONTAMINANTS
FROM THIS ENGINE CAN CAUSE
LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER.
SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU
HAVE BREATHING PROBLEMS.
SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION
IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:
Coughing, wheezing, chest pain,
shortness of breath, or
throat irritation.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 5:08 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: additional files from TX-NM trip folder
Attachments: Native Pasture application - processing.pdf; Native Pasture application - ruminant livestock.pdf; TDA Notice of Temporary Variance.pdf; Lake Ridge application - ruminant livestock.pdf; Native Pasture application - crops.pdf

From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Aorora updates #2
Date: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:37:54 AM
Attachments: [Apx update 2.zip](#)

Message 2 of 3

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:40:10 AM
Attachments: [Apx update 1.zip](#)

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.

Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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From: [Lee F. Sachnoff](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: "[Brent Cannell](#)"
Subject: Aurora Organic Dairy--Coldwater Dairy Visit
Date: Monday, July 02, 2012 3:14:19 PM

Dear Mr. Updike:

I am corporate counsel for Aurora Organic Dairy. I understand that you plan to visit their Coldwater Dairy later this month. When you have a few minutes, could you or someone from the USDA please give me a call. I have a couple of questions regarding keeping Aurora Organic Dairy's confidential business information protected. Thank you.

Lee F. Sachnoff
Krendl Krendl Sachnoff & Way, P.C.
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 5350
Denver, CO 80202
303-629-2629, direct
303-629-2600, general
303-629-2606, fax

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Aurora updates #3
Date: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:38:29 AM
Attachments: [Apx update 3.zip](#)

Message 3 of 3. Please confirm when you have received all three.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 5:21 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Emailing: trip report
Attachments: trip report.docx

Hi Miles:

Here is a draft trip report. My summary findings are at the end. I haven't added any photos, but can.

Let me know what else you need on this.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 4:26 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912
Attachments: TX-NM trip report - 100912.docx

Hi Miles:

Here is the final version of the trip report with the QCS NONC date confirmed and the name of the QAI rep (b) (6) (b) (6)) added. As you suggested, I sent a copy to Mark Bradley too.

Matthew

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:25 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Attachments: AOF Inspection Docs.zip

Mathew,

I searched through my emails and did not find an email which stated who the representative would be. Would you like for me to contact Carey Allen to find the name of the representative?

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Miles has also requested the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of that as well?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

Thank you for the update below.

I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM

To: Allen, Carey

Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Thank. I received the 3 messages.

We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.

Thank you,

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM

To: Updike, Scott - AMS

Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.

Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Here you go

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [mailto:callen@nsf.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

That was (b) (6) .

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:scott.updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hi Carey,
I am helping to put together a trip report. Unfortunately we did not write down the name of the QAI representative who went on the visit at Aurora. Could you please give me her name?

Scott

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,
Miles has also requested the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of that as well?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
Thank you for the update below.
I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,
Thank. I received the 3 messages.
We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.
Thank you,
Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.
Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:48 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Dalhart Meeting location

From: Ramkrishnan [mailto:ram@qcsinfo.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:01 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Cc: Updike, Scott - AMS; ram@qcsinfo.org
Subject: RE: Dalhart Meeting location

Miles,

We will be meeting at Dalhart, TX.

The Location is Dalhart Country Club
2979 Highway 54 W, **Dalhart, TX**, 79022

My cell phone # is (b) (6)

Thanks,
Ramkrishnan

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS [mailto:Miles.McEvoy@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:38 PM
To: Ramkrishnan PB
Subject: RE: Puerto Rico contacts

Ok, thanks so much. Must have missed it.

From: Ramkrishnan PB [mailto:ram@qcsinfo.org]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:32 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: RE: Puerto Rico contacts

Miles,

I did send one on June 25, 2012.

Here is the list: Could you please confirm you have received the list.

- (b) (6) Pioneer Certified Organic grower, consultant, and organic inspector: (b) (6)
- █ (b) (6) . Consultant with the Agricultural Investment and Development Fund (FIDA) (b) (6)
- █ (b) (6) FOG has partnered with (b) (6) to schedule trainings on organic certification for agronomist and farmers.

- (b) (6). An agronomist with the Agricultural Investment and Development Fund (FIDA) (b) (6). He coordinates and promotes sustainable and (b) (6) organic agriculture, including the certification cost share, training projects and events.
- (b) (6) Experimental Station at Gurabo, University of Puerto Rico. She runs a certified organic farm at this station. Research focuses on compost, cover crops, pollinator habitat, and use of tractor machinery for weed control (b) (6)
- (b) (6) Experimental Station at Las Lajas, Univeristy of Puerto Rico. He runs a certified organic farm at this station. Research focuses on cover crops, vegetable crop varieties, and also a collaboration among a few major US universities on organic corn breeding. (b) (6)
- (b) (6), former QCS Cert. Coordinator and inspector. Currently working as contract inspector. (b) (6) is currently studying at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus and works in close collaboration with (b) (6) of Las Lajas Experimental Station. (b) (6)
- (b) (6). Organic inspector. (b) (6)

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS [<mailto:Miles.McEvoy@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:20 PM
To: ram@qcsinfo.org
Subject: Puerto Rico contacts

Hi Ram – Any chance you could send my your contacts for Puerto Rico. Nothing fancy needed. Thanks.

Miles McEvoy
 Deputy Administrator
 National Organic Program
 202-720-3252

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip.docx

Here's the schedule so far.

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Good morning,

Attached is the schedule of your upcoming travel to the Texas Panhandle. I have contacted everyone on the schedule and the dates and times are good for everyone that I've talked with. I have two people to confirm the dates and times with.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 12:05 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip.docx

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:50 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Attached is the revised schedule. I left a message with Kit and Travis to call to confirm the date and time change. I will not be in tomorrow or Monday but Scott I left your office number to have them call back to confirm.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip.docx

Here's the schedule so far.

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Good morning,

Attached is the schedule of your upcoming travel to the Texas Panhandle. I have contacted everyone on the schedule and the dates and times are good for everyone that I've talked with. I have two people to confirm the dates and times with.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Mary Ellen Holliman <Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 5:33 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS; McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: NOP trip to Texas and New Mexico - latest schedules
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip (2).docx

Good evening everyone:

As promised during my telephone conversation with Scott earlier this afternoon, I am forwarding the contact information for Mr. (b) (6) the TDA representative that will be participating in the tours.

Mr. (b) (6)
Regional Director of the West Texas Regional Office (Lubbock)
Office: (806) 799-8555
Blackberry: (806) 559-7330
(b) (6) @[TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@TexasAgriculture.gov)

Please contact him once you arrive in Amarillo as he would like to meet up (possibly over dinner) to coordinate travel schedules.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture
Office: (512) 463-7513
Fax: (888) 215-5295
Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS [mailto:Matthew.Michael@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: NOP trip to Texas and New Mexico - latest schedules

Hi Ms. Holliman:

I left you a phone message, but want to get this to you in case we didn't talk today. The schedule for Miles' and my visits to operations in Texas and New Mexico has changed for July 26 and 27. I believe that someone from the Texas Department of Agriculture was going to accompany us on some or all of the Texas visits, so I wanted you to have the revised schedule.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959

Washington, DC 20250-0268

Phone: (202) 260-8657

matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 3:16 PM
To: 'Meade, Rita'; Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Crail, Lars (Lars.Crail@ams.usda.gov); 'Hartley, Julie - AMS'; 'Pooler, Bob - AMS'; 'Rakola, Betsy'; Kuhn, Meg - AMS
Subject: FW: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle
Attachments: Texas livestock tour - July 2012.docx

Rita is going to start contacting the operations on Monday to set up the schedule. Please work with her to get all the background information together. I need a copy of the OSP and the last inspection report. The certifiers should be notified that I am conducting these visits. I am also copying the AIA accreditation managers as I will be visiting operations certified by 5 different certifiers (NMDA, TDA, QCS, CCOF and QAI)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 7:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,
Here is the updated schedule with the information I have for the operations.

Scott

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Scott – thanks. Could you provide the email and phone numbers of the operations and I will contact them directly to set up the visits. I have attached the modified schedule and a column for the email/phone numbers.

Miles

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 3:55 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,
I have attached the document I created for the over view of the trip. I have added a chart with a tentative schedule for each day with 1 additional farm in case the one of the first two farms for that day is not available.

Scott

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Art Schaap (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 4:03 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW:
Attachments: 06011101.PDF

Matthew,
Here is what we Worked with our Nationalist last fall
Art Schaap NP Dairy, [Clovis NM](#)

From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: FW: FedEx Shipment 798629567306 Delivered
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:35:20 PM

Hi Scott:

Just received notice that the CD-ROM has been delivered to you and A.ARSENAULT was the person who signed for the package.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: trackingupdates@fedex.com [mailto:trackingupdates@fedex.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 2:33 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: FedEx Shipment 798629567306 Delivered

This tracking update has been requested by:

Company Name: texas dept of agriculture
Name: Mary Ellen Holliman
E-mail: mary.ellen.holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov

Our records indicate that the following shipment has been delivered:

Reference: 11781-03131
Ship (P/U) date: Jul 17, 2012
Delivery date: Jul 18, 2012 3:29 PM
Sign for by: A.ARSENAULT
Delivery location: WASHINGTON, DC
Delivered to: Receptionist/Front Desk
Service type: FedEx Standard Overnight
Packaging type: FedEx Envelope
Number of pieces: 1
Weight: 0.50 lb.
Special handling/Services: Deliver Weekday

Tracking number: [798629567306](#)

Shipper Information	Recipient Information
Mary Ellen Holliman	Mr. Scott Updike
texas dept of agriculture	USDA National Organic Program
1700 North Congress Avenue	1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW
Room 1125E	WASHINGTON
Austin	DC
TX	US
US	20250
78701	

Please do not respond to this message. This email was sent from an unattended mailbox. This report was generated at approximately 2:32 PM CDT on 07/18/2012.

To learn more about FedEx Express, please visit our website at [fedex.com](#).

All weights are estimated.

To track the latest status of your shipment, click on the tracking number

above, or visit us at [fedex.com](https://www.fedex.com).

This tracking update has been sent to you by FedEx on the behalf of the Requestor noted above. FedEx does not validate the authenticity of the requestor and does not validate, guarantee or warrant the authenticity of the request, the requestor's message, or the accuracy of this tracking update. For tracking results and fedex.com's terms of use, go to [fedex.com](https://www.fedex.com).

Thank you for your business.

From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Meade, Rita](#); [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Crail, Lars - AMS](#); [Hartley, Julie - AMS](#); [Pooler, Bob - AMS](#); [Rakola, Betsy - AMS](#); [Kuhn, Meg - AMS](#)
Subject: FW: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle
Date: Friday, July 06, 2012 3:15:55 PM
Attachments: [Texas livestock tour - July 2012.docx](#)

Rita is going to start contacting the operations on Monday to set up the schedule. Please work with her to get all the background information together. I need a copy of the OSP and the last inspection report. The certifiers should be notified that I am conducting these visits. I am also copying the AIA accreditation managers as I will be visiting operations certified by 5 different certifiers (NMDA, TDA, QCS, CCOF and QAI)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 7:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,

Here is the updated schedule with the information I have for the operations.

Scott

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Scott – thanks. Could you provide the email and phone numbers of the operations and I will contact them directly to set up the visits. I have attached the modified schedule and a column for the email/phone numbers.

Miles

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 3:55 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,

I have attached the document I created for the over view of the trip. I have added a chart with a tentative schedule for each day with 1 additional farm in case the one of the first two farms for that day is not available.

Scott

From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: FW: Shipment tracking of OSPs for organic dairies certified by TDA
Date: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:55:16 PM

See below.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: trackingupdates@fedex.com [mailto:trackingupdates@fedex.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: FedEx Shipment Notification

This tracking update has been requested by:

Company Name: texas dept of agriculture
Name: Mary Ellen Holliman
E-mail: mary.ellen.holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov

Mary Ellen Holliman of texas dept of agriculture sent Mr. Scott Updike of USDA National Organic Program 1 FedEx Standard Overnight package(s).

This shipment is scheduled to be sent on 07/17/2012.

Reference information includes:

Reference: 11781-03131
Special handling/Services: Deliver Weekday
Status: Shipment information sent to FedEx
Tracking number: [798629567306](#)

To track the latest status of your shipment, click on the tracking number above, or visit us at [fedex.com](#).

To learn more about FedEx Express, please visit our website at [fedex.com](#).

This tracking update has been sent to you by FedEx on the behalf of the Requestor noted above. FedEx does not validate the authenticity of the requestor and does not validate, guarantee or warrant the authenticity of the request, the requestor's message, or the accuracy of this tracking update. For tracking results and fedex.com's terms of use, go to [fedex.com](#).

Thank you for your business.

From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Organic](#)
Subject: Idea proposal
Date: Friday, July 06, 2012 5:41:02 PM

Hi Scott:

I tried to leave a voice mail but my antiquated office phone was not cooperating. I've spoken with a couple of our livestock producers that will be part of the tour and if possible, they would like to have a round-table conference call. This would help decrease the chance of you and Miles hearing the same comments multiple times, and decrease the amount of time that the producers have to spend away from daily work activities. The operations I certify have at least 2 milking a day and are in the early season of harvesting feed crops. The conference call system used by TDA would allow for several more producers and their ACAs to join in on the conference call so you would be able to get a good pool for addressing the issues mentioned in your previous email. I am currently in the process of finding available locations for that week that could host the conference call. Please let me know what if you and Miles would like for me to pursue this further.

Also, I received some help from an intern in scanning all the OSP files so those should be over-night mailed to you by next Tuesday at the latest.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Office: (512) 463-7513

Fax: (888) 215-5295

Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 12:17 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: July 2012 Texas trip preview
Attachments: July 2012 Texas trip preview.docx

Matthew,
Here is the document you requested.

Enjoy your time back home in home Texas.

Scott

Trip Preview
Texas Panhandle Area
July 23-27, 2012

Purpose

The purpose of the trip was to:

- Conduct site visits of dairy operations to assess the following issues
 - How the dairies used the pasture rule exemption in 2011 due to drought conditions? What grazing practices changed? How much additional feed was used? Were additional organic feedstuffs readily available for purchase? How did the production of the cattle change with the exemption – milk production, services per conception, lameness, etc?
 - How the dairies coordinate sanitizer use on milk trucks? Do the dairies include the milk truck sanitizers on their OSP or do the dairy handlers?
 - How the dairies develop or source replacement dairy stock? Do the dairies raise and develop their own heifers? When do they sell heifer calves? Where do they sell their heifer calves? If they sell heifer calves, do they raise them organically or non organically? Do they specifically source transitioned dairy animals as replacement dairy stock? Do they use any breeder stock on the farm?
- Conduct site visit of a beef operation to assess the following issues
 - How the beef farm used the pasture rule exemption in 2011 due to drought conditions? Did the farm purchase supplemental organic feedstuffs? Were the organic feedstuffs readily available?
 - How does the beef farm market its organic slaughter stock? What could be done to increase the availability of organic slaughter facilities (none in Texas according to TDA)? What could be done to increase organic beef production?
- Conduct site visit of a layer operation to assess the following issues
 - What is the vaccination protocol for the pullets as they are developed? Which vaccines are given before day 2 when organic management is not required? Which vaccines are given after day 2 when organic management is required? Does the farm check for the use of exclude methods in the vaccines used?
 - What are the space allowances indoors and outdoors? What would happen to the farm if the space allowances were increased? What were the results of the FDA egg rule inspection? How have the EPA CAFO regulations of wet manure (required if rain can reach any of the manure) been implemented on the farm due to outdoor access?

Participants

Miles McEvoy, AMS-NOP;
Mathew Michael, AMS-NOP;

Schedule

- *Tuesday, July 24, 2012*
Site Visit at Natural Prairie Dairy Farm, Channing, Tx
Site visit at Cottonwood Cattle Co, Dalhart, Tx
Site Visit at Aurora – Coldwater Dairy Farm, Stratford, Tx
- *Wednesday, July 25*
Site Visit at Redland Dairy, Farwell, Tx
Site visit at Native Pastures, Clovis, Nm
Site visit at Lake Ridge LLC, Portales, Nm
- *Thursday, July 26*
Site visit at Hilltop Dairy, Earth, Tx
Site visit at Boehning Dairy Farm, Earth, Tx
Site visit at Idalou Egg Ranch, Idalou, Tx

Trip Preview
Texas Panhandle Area
July 23-27, 2012

Purpose

The purpose of the trip was to:








































- Conduct site visits of dairy operations to assess the following issues
 - How the dairies used the pasture rule exemption in 2011 due to drought conditions? What grazing practices changed? How much additional feed was used? Were additional organic feedstuffs readily available for purchase? How did the production of the cattle change with the exemption – milk production, services per conception, lameness, etc?
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Participants

Miles McEvoy, AMS-NOP;
Mathew Michael, AMS-NOP;

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Site visit at Lake Ridge LLC, Portales, Nm
- *Thursday, July 26*
Site visit at Hilltop Dairy, Earth, Tx
Site visit at Boehning Dairy Farm, Earth, Tx
Site visit at Idalou Egg Ranch, Idalou, Tx

					
Cottonwood - 8 9 12 conversation with Ran	RE Urgent -- Cottonwood Cattle Co	RE Would like to touch base on an issue	Cottonwood - 10 3 phone call with Wes S-	Emailing Notes for 101212 me-	Emailing Cottonwood Notes for 101212 me
					
Cottonwood call.msg	Cottonwood notes and options.msg	RE pasture variance calculation - Forest Se	RE pasture variance calculation - Forest Se	FW NOP Cottonwood meeting.msg	Cottonwood and Shamrock.msg
					
Notes for next week.msg	Cottonwood response summary.msg	FW Update regarding the drought and CCC c	RE Weekly C&E update.msg	Cottonwood - Wes Siegner message.msg	Cottonwood - proposed suspension.i
					
Supplement to Cottonwood's respons	Organic livestock tour.msg	RE Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle.m	FW Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle.m	FW Emailing Schedule of Texas Par	RE Emailing Schedule of Texas Par
					
RE Cottonwood report.msg	FW QCS NoNC draft.msg	FW Urgent -- Cottonwood Cattle Co	RE Urgent -- Cottonwood Cattle Co	Cottonwood.msg	RE Cottonwood Cattle Co .msg
					
Fw Fwd Urgent AMS NOP Issue.msg	AMS Fw Letter to USDA re Cottonwood Cattle Cor	Fw Fwd Urgent AMS NOP Issue.msg	RE Cottonwood response summary.m	Re QCS Corrective Action Report.msg	RE Cottonwood Proposed Suspension
					
RE Cottonwood resolution.msg	FW Follow up to meeting with NOP Nov	QCS notices.msg			



National Organic Program Witness Audit Checklist

Witness Audit - General Information	
This Checklist is used in conjunction with Tables 1 through 3 of the Certification File Review Worksheets. The Certification File Review Worksheets and a full file review shall be completed prior to conducting the witness audit. This Checklist is used to record evaluation information for each witness audit with exception to Grower Groups. The Witness Audit Checklist for Grower Groups shall be used when witnessing Grower Groups.	
Witness audit date:	June 7, 2012
Name of operation:	Rocky Ridge Dairy Farm
Location of operation:	Litchfield, ME
Scope of certification requested:	Dairy, Crops
Scope of certification granted:	Dairy, Crops
Actual or Demonstration inspection:	Actual
Inspector's Name:	(b) (6)
Subcontracted or staff inspector:	Staff
Verify conflict of interest and confidentiality status of inspector:	On file
Name of knowledgeable representative of the operation:	(b) (6)
Names of anyone else present during the inspection:	Katie Webb, MOFGA Cheri Courtney, USDA/NOP
Time Inspection started:	9a
Time Inspection completed:	330p
Was there enough time allocated for the inspection?	Yes
Did the inspector verify the corrective actions on previous non-compliances as applicable?	Yes
General information on operation to include: crops grown, acreage, fields, where fields are located (1 site or 2 or more); wild-crops collected, training of collectors; type of livestock operation, number of animals, identification methods; type of handling operation, products processed, etc...	Crops: pasture/hay Livestock: animals/milk
General information on materials and inputs used and are they in compliance with the National List (NL) and annotations.	Land inputs: (b) (4) Livestock inputs: vaccines, approved medical treatments



As appropriate did the OSP adequately address the requirements for:	
Crops	
Land requirements §205.202	Yes
Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard §205.203	Yes
Seeds and planting stock practice standard §205.204	Yes
Crop rotation practice standard §205.205	Yes
Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard §205.206	Yes
Wild-Crops	
Wild crop harvesting practice standard §205.207	NA
Livestock	
Origin of livestock §205.236	Yes
Livestock feed §205.237	Yes
Livestock health care practice standard §205.238	Yes
Livestock living conditions §205.239	Yes
Pasture Practice Standard §205.240	Yes
Handler	
Organic handling requirements §205.270	NA
Facility pest management practice standard §205.271	NA
Commingling and contact with prohibited substance prevention practice standard §205.272	NA

Sampling	
Was a sample pulled during the inspection? §205.670	No
What was sampled and why?	NA
Verify sampling procedures, chain of control, etc. §205.670(c)	NA
Did the inspector provide the applicant with a receipt for any samples taken? §205.403(e)	NA
Did the sampling process follow the ACA's sampling procedure?	NA
Was the inspector charged for the samples? §205.403(e)	NA
Did the ACA pay for the testing? §205.670(b)	NA

Labels	
Were labels verified during the on-site inspection? §205.403(c)(2)	No labels – bulk milk only; milk pick-up tags reviewed
Were the labels being used the same as those approved by the ACA?	NA
How was the inspector made aware of which labels are approved by the ACA?	NA



Exit Interview §205.403(d)	
Document information addressed by the inspector during the exit interview	
Uddermint cream in use was not listed on OSP Feed ration for milking cows in practice did not match OSP	
Was the exit interview conducted with a knowledgeable representative?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the accuracy and completeness of the inspection observations?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the need for additional information?	NA
Did the exit interview address issues of concern identified during the inspection?	Yes

Questions for the inspector:	
As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the inspector on areas of the inspection/operation that need clarification.	
What did the inspector receive from the ACA in order to conduct the inspection?	OSP, previous year's inspection report, previous year's certification decision letter
Does the Inspector have a copy of the NOP Standards?	Yes
If applicable was the inspector knowledgeable of recent updates to the standards or policy clarifications?	Yes
How is the inspector informed of the ACA's policies and procedures and changes to them?	Staff inspector; also: via email and annual inspector trainings
Does the inspector provide consulting services of any kind?	No
If so, how is this information provided to the ACA?	
What is the inspector's background (experience, training, and education) in relation to the operation being inspected?	Grew up on a dairy farm and operates one and is a farmhand on another; multiple years of experience inspecting

Questions for the Applicant / Certified Operation:	
As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the operation's representative on areas of the operation that need clarification	
Did the certified operation receive a copy of the previous inspection report, if applicable?	Yes
Did the operation receive a certificate from the ACA?	Yes
Does the client have a current copy of the NOP	Yes



Standards?	
If applicable, how did the operation receive information on temporary variances?	NA

Overall did the inspection verify:	
That the operation was in compliance or was able to comply with the ACT? §205.403(c)(1)	Yes – EXCEPT for incoming feed from a Canadian supplier. The inspector did not verify incoming product met the terms of the US/Canada Organic Equivalence Arrangement.
That the OSP accurately reflected the practices used by the operation? §205.403(c)(2)	Yes
That prohibited substances had not been and were not being applied to the operation? §205.403(c)(3)	Yes



National Organic Program Witness Audit Checklist

Witness Audit - General Information	
This Checklist is used in conjunction with Tables 1 through 3 of the Certification File Review Worksheets. The Certification File Review Worksheets and a full file review shall be completed prior to conducting the witness audit. This Checklist is used to record evaluation information for each witness audit with exception to Grower Groups. The Witness Audit Checklist for Grower Groups shall be used when witnessing Grower Groups.	
Witness audit date:	September 5, 2012
Name of operation:	New Generation Farm
Location of operation:	Fort Edward, NY
Scope of certification requested:	Crops, Livestock
Scope of certification granted:	Crops, Livestock
Actual or Demonstration inspection:	Actual
Inspector's Name:	(b) (6)
Subcontracted or staff inspector:	Contract
Verify conflict of interest and confidentiality status of inspector:	Verified by Lead Auditor at SK office
Name of knowledgeable representative of the operation:	(b) (6)
Names of anyone else present during the inspection:	NA
Time Inspection started:	9a
Time Inspection completed:	2p
Was there enough time allocated for the inspection?	Yes
Did the inspector verify the corrective actions on previous non-compliances as applicable?	Yes; the inspector also reviewed the appeal case and associated non-compliances identified in the notice of proposed suspension.
General information on operation to include: crops grown, acreage, fields, where fields are located (1 site or 2 or more); wild-crops collected, training of collectors; type of livestock operation, number of animals, identification methods; type of handling operation, products processed, etc...	Crops: pasture, hay Livestock: dairy, dry cows, heifers, and calves/youngstock
General information on materials and inputs used and are they in compliance with the National List (NL) and annotations.	The inspector reviewed all medications, vaccines, soaps, sanitizers, feed additives/supplements, and land



	inputs. This information observed on site was compared against the information in the OSP with no discrepancies found.
--	--

As appropriate did the OSP adequately address the requirements for:

Crops	
Land requirements §205.202	Yes
Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard §205.203	Yes
Seeds and planting stock practice standard §205.204	NA
Crop rotation practice standard §205.205	Yes
Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard §205.206	Yes
Wild-Crops	
Wild crop harvesting practice standard §205.207	NA
Livestock	
Origin of livestock §205.236	Yes
Livestock feed §205.237	Yes
Livestock health care practice standard §205.238	Yes
Livestock living conditions §205.239	Yes
Pasture Practice Standard §205.240	Yes
Handler	
Organic handling requirements §205.270	NA
Facility pest management practice standard §205.271	NA
Commingling and contact with prohibited substance prevention practice standard §205.272	NA

Sampling	
Was a sample pulled during the inspection? §205.670	No
What was sampled and why?	NA
Verify sampling procedures, chain of control, etc. §205.670(c)	NA
Did the inspector provide the applicant with a receipt for any samples taken? §205.403(e)	NA
Did the sampling process follow the ACA's sampling procedure?	NA
Was the inspector charged for the samples? §205.403(e)	NA
Did the ACA pay for the testing? §205.670(b)	NA

Labels	
Were labels verified during the on-site inspection? §205.403(c)(2)	Labels NA, bulk milk is the only product sold. Bulk milk tags are on



	file in the milk house. These are kept until the monthly reconciliation spreadsheet from milk hauler is received.
Were the labels being used the same as those approved by the ACA?	NA
How was the inspector made aware of which labels are approved by the ACA?	NA

Exit Interview §205.403(d)	
Document information addressed by the inspector during the exit interview	
The inspector discussed items and areas reviewed. No potential non-compliances were identified as a result of the inspection. The inspector was found to be quite thorough.	
Was the exit interview conducted with a knowledgeable representative?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the accuracy and completeness of the inspection observations?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the need for additional information?	Yes
Did the exit interview address issues of concern identified during the inspection?	Yes

Questions for the inspector:	
As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the inspector on areas of the inspection/operation that need clarification.	
What did the inspector receive from the ACA in order to conduct the inspection?	The inspector was provided the full certification file; this is ProCert policy for all inspections.
Does the Inspector have a copy of the NOP Standards?	Yes
If applicable was the inspector knowledgeable of recent updates to the standards or policy clarifications?	Yes
How is the inspector informed of the ACA's policies and procedures and changes to them?	Email from ProCert office; annual trainings
Does the inspector provide consulting services of any kind?	No
If so, how is this information provided to the ACA?	
What is the inspector's background (experience, training, and education) in relation to the operation being inspected?	Personnel records for all staff were verified at the SK office.



Questions for the Applicant / Certified Operation:	
As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the operation's representative on areas of the operation that need clarification	
Did the certified operation receive a copy of the previous inspection report, if applicable?	Yes
Did the operation receive a certificate from the ACA?	Yes
Does the client have a current copy of the NOP Standards?	Yes; primarily the online website is used.
If applicable, how did the operation receive information on temporary variances?	Email from ProCert; operation is also signed up to receive the Organic Insider alerts from the NOP.

Overall did the inspection verify:	
That the operation was in compliance or was able to comply with the ACT? §205.403(c)(1)	Yes
That the OSP accurately reflected the practices used by the operation? §205.403(c)(2)	Yes
That prohibited substances had not been and were not being applied to the operation? §205.403(c)(3)	Yes



National Organic Program Witness Audit Checklist

Witness Audit - General Information	
Important: This Checklist is used in conjunction with Tables 1 through 3 of the Certification File Review Worksheet. The Certification File Review Worksheet and a full file review shall be completed prior to conducting the witness audit. This Checklist is used to record evaluation information for each witness audit with exception to Grower Groups. The Witness Audit Checklist for Grower Groups shall be used when witnessing Grower Groups.	
Witness audit date:	7/11/12
Name of operation:	J-Rocky View
Location of operation:	Barre, VT
Scope of certification requested:	Crops, Livestock
Scope of certification granted:	Crops, Livestock
Actual or Demonstration inspection:	Actual
Inspector's Name:	(b) (6)
Subcontracted or staff inspector:	Contract
Verify conflict of interest and confidentiality status of inspector:	On file and current
Name of knowledgeable representative of the operation:	(b) (6)
Names of anyone else present during the inspection:	Nicole Dehne, VOF Miles McEvoy, USDA/NOP Cheri Courtney, USDA/NOP
Time Inspection started:	10a
Time Inspection completed:	1:30p
Was there enough time allocated for the inspection?	Yes
Did the inspector verify the corrective actions on previous non-compliances as applicable?	Yes
General information on operation to include: crops grown, acreage, fields, where fields are located (1 site or 2 or more); wild-crops collected, training of collectors; type of livestock operation, number of animals, identification methods; type of handling operation, products processed, etc...	Crop: haylage, pasture Livestock: animals, milk
General information on materials and inputs used and are they in compliance with the NL and annotations.	Crop: (b) (4) Livestock: vaccines, approved medical inputs



As appropriate did the OSP adequately address the requirements for:	
Important: Include information on items that were excluded in the OSP and whether they were an accurate reflection of the actual practices in place at the time of the witness audit.	
Crops	
Land requirements §205.202	Yes
Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard §205.203	Yes
Seeds and planting stock practice standard §205.204	Yes
Crop rotation practice standard §205.205	Yes
Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard §205.206	Yes
Wild-Crops	
Wild crop harvesting practice standard §205.207	NA
Livestock	
Origin of livestock §205.236	Yes
Livestock feed §205.237	Yes
Livestock health care practice standard §205.238	Yes
Livestock living conditions §205.239	Yes
Pasture Practice Standard §205.240	Yes
Handler	
Organic handling requirements §205.270	NA
Facility pest management practice standard §205.271	NA
Commingling and contact with prohibited substance prevention practice standard §205.272	NA

Sampling	
Was there a sample pulled during the inspection? §205.670	No
What was sampled and why?	NA
Verify sampling procedures, chain of control etc. §205.670 (c)	NA
Did the inspector provide the applicant with a receipt for any samples taken? §205.403 (e)	NA
Did the sampling process follow the ACA's sampling procedure?	NA
Was the inspector charged for the samples? §205.403 (e)	NA
Did the ACA pay for the testing? §205.670 (b)	NA



Labels	
Were labels verified during the on-site inspection? §205.403 (c) (2)	NA – bulk milk; milk pick-up tickets reviewed on site
Were the labels being used the same as those approved by the ACA?	NA
How is the inspector made aware of which labels are approved by the ACA?	NA

Exit Interview §205.403 (d)	
Below please enter information on what was addressed by the inspector during the exit interview	
Clean dry bedding for young stock in barn	
Was the exit interview conducted with a knowledgeable representative?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the accuracy and completeness of the inspection observations?	Yes
Did the exit interview address the need for additional information?	No – inspector did not verify organic certificate was on file for feed purchased
Did the exit interview address issues of concern identified during the inspection?	Yes

Questions for the inspector:	
As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the inspector on areas of the inspection/operation that need clarification	
What did the inspector receive from the ACA in order to conduct the inspection?	OSP, previous year's inspection report and certification decision/NC letter
Does the Inspector have a copy of the NOP Standards?	Yes, plus additional resources
If applicable was the inspector knowledgeable of recent updates to the standards or policy clarifications?	Yes
How is the inspector informed of the ACA's policies and procedures and changes to them?	Email, annual inspector training
Does the inspector provide consulting services of any kind? <i>If so how is this information provided to the ACA?</i>	No
What is the inspectors background in relation to the operation being inspected (<i>experience, training, and education</i>)	Grew up on a dairy farm; years of experience inspecting



Questions for the Applicant / Certified Operation:

As the inspection progresses insert additional questions to ask the operations representative on areas of the operation that need clarification

Did the certified operation receive a copy of the previous inspection report if applicable?	Yes
Did the operation receive a certificate from the ACA?	Yes
Does the client have a current copy of the NOP Standards?	Yes
If applicable how did the operation receive information on temporary variances?	NA

Overall did the inspection verify:

That the operation was in compliance or was able to comply with the ACT? §205.403 (c) (1)	Yes
That the OSP accurately reflected the practices used by the operation? §205.403 (c) (2)	Yes
That prohibited substances had not been and were not being applied to the operation? §205.403 (c) (3)	Yes

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:48 PM
To: 'mary.ellen.holliman@texasagriculture.gov'
Subject: NOP trip to Texas and New Mexico - latest schedules
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip (2).docx

Hi Ms. Holliman:

I left you a phone message, but want to get this to you in case we didn't talk today. The schedule for Miles' and my visits to operations in Texas and New Mexico has changed for July 26 and 27. I believe that someone from the Texas Department of Agriculture was going to accompany us on some or all of the Texas visits, so I wanted you to have the revised schedule.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 8:32 AM
To: Tucker, Jennifer (AMS); Michael, Matthew - AMS
Cc: Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: Organic livestock tour
Attachments: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle.docx

I was working with Scott Updike to go on an organic livestock tour in the Texas panhandle. Attached is a brief description that he put together. He has now determined that he can't go on the trip so I'm looking at options – go with someone else, go alone, cancel the trip. Any ideas?

Miles V McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program
202-720-3252

Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

A delegation from the National Organic Program will be traveling to the Texas panhandle and surrounding region to assess the effects of the pasture rule exemption issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. This exemption was issued in response to a Texas Department of Agriculture request due to a severe drought in the 2011 grazing season for 214 counties. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, the delegation will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers. The delegation will include Miles McEvoy, the Deputy Administrator for NOP and Dr. Scott Updike, the livestock specialist in the Standards Division of the NOP.

Possible farms to visit include:

Farm	Certifier	City	State	Products
Native Pastures	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Clovis	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Lake Ridge LLC	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	transitioned dairy heifers
Nature's Way Management	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Aurora Organic Farms - Coldwater	Quality Assurance International	Stratford	Texas	Dairy, Livestock, Pasture, Livestock Forage
Cottonwood Cattle Co.	Quality Certification Services	Dalhart	Texas	Cattle
Boehning Dairy Farm (Milk)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE, BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS
Hilltop Dairy, Llc	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Redland Dairy, Llc.	Texas Department of Agriculture	Farwell	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Natural Prairie Dairy Farms (LS)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Channing	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE

Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

A delegation from the National Organic Program will be traveling to the Texas panhandle and surrounding region to assess the effects of the pasture rule exemption issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. This exemption was issued in response to a Texas Department of Agriculture request due to a severe drought in the 2011 grazing season for 214 counties. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, the delegation will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers. The delegation will include Miles McEvoy, the Deputy Administrator for NOP.

Tentative Schedule (with 1 extra farm listed per day as a backup)

Day of visit	Farm	City
Tuesday (North)	Aurora	Stratford
Tuesday	Cottonwood Cattle Co	Dalhart
Tuesday	Natural prairie Dairy Farm	Channing
Wednesday (West)	Native Pastures	Clovis, NM
Wednesday	Lake Ridge LLC	Portales, NM
Wednesday	Redland Dairy	Farwell
Thursday (South)	Boehning Dairy Farm	Earth
Thursday	Hilltop Dairy	Earth
Thursday	Idalou Egg Ranch	Idalou

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Aurora Organic Farms - Coldwater	Quality Assurance International	Stratford	Texas	Dairy, Livestock, Pasture, Livestock Forage
Cottonwood Cattle Co.	Quality Certification Services	Dalhart	Texas	Cattle
Boehning Dairy Farm (Milk)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE, BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS
Hilltop Dairy, Llc	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Redland Dairy, Llc.	Texas Department of Agriculture	Farwell	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Natural Prairie Dairy Farms (LS)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Channing	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Thanks very much.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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I called her once and the phone went to voice mail. I will try to find out for you in the next day or two.

Scott

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

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Scott Updike
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Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
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Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
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Carey,
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Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS

Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
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I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:51 PM
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Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Fantastic. Thank you very much.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
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From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Here you go

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

That was (b) (6)

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:scott.updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:43 PM

To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hi Carey,

I am helping to put together a trip report. Unfortunately we did not write down the name of the QAI representative who went on the visit at Aurora. Could you please give me her name?

Scott

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USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Tate, Bret - AMS
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: colostrum, etc.

It makes perfect sense. Thanks for following up for us.
Cheers,
Bret

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Tate, Bret - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: colostrum, etc.

Hi Bret and Scott:

Per our recent discussion, I looked through my notes from Miles and my trip to the panhandle and New Mexico.

All six of the dairy operations we visited (b) (4)

Here is what I found specifically regarding the six dairy operations we visited:

Operation 1) (b) (4)

Operation 2) (b) (4)

Operation 3) (b) (4)

Operation 4) (b) (4)

Operation 5 & 6) My notes state that these two operations (b) (4)

Let me know if this doesn't make sense.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959

Washington, DC 20250-0268

Phone: (202) 260-8657

matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 6:03 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: colostrum, etc.

Mathew,
Thank you for the information on calves and colostrum.

Scott

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Tate, Bret - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: colostrum, etc.

Hi Bret and Scott:

Per our recent discussion, I looked through my notes from Miles and my trip to the panhandle and New Mexico.

All six of the dairy operations we visited (b) (4)

Here is what I found specifically regarding the six dairy operations we visited:

Operation 1) (b) (4)

Operation 2) (b) (4)

Operation 3) (b) (4)

Operation 4) (b) (4)

Operation 5 & 6) My notes state that these two operations (b) (4)

Let me know if this doesn't make sense.

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Meade, Rita
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip.docx

Modified schedule

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Good morning,

Attached is the schedule of your upcoming travel to the Texas Panhandle. I have contacted everyone on the schedule and the dates and times are good for everyone that I've talked with. I have two people to confirm the dates and times with.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 4:33 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Looks interesting. Thanks.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 4:30 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Here's the schedule so far.

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Good morning,

Attached is the schedule of your upcoming travel to the Texas Panhandle. I have contacted everyone on the schedule and the dates and times are good for everyone that I've talked with. I have two people to confirm the dates and times with.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:48 PM
To: Meade, Rita; McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am out of the office until July 30th. Matthew, you may need to call them.

Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:50 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Attached is the revised schedule. I left a message with Kit and Travis to call to confirm the date and time change. I will not be in tomorrow or Monday but Scott I left your office number to have them call back to confirm.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Meade, Rita
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip
Attachments: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip.docx

Modified schedule

-----Original Message-----

From: Meade, Rita
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:17 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Emailing: Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Good morning,

Attached is the schedule of your upcoming travel to the Texas Panhandle. I have contacted everyone on the schedule and the dates and times are good for everyone that I've talked with. I have two people to confirm the dates and times with.

Rita

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

That was the best part of the pasture too.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Nice trip report; the pictures add a lot.

(b) (5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Subject: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Hi Mark:

On Friday, Miles said this report would be useful to you for a presentation you're giving. It contains a lot of proprietary information, as well as information pursuant to our investigation of Cottonwood/QCS, but you'll be safe with the findings at the end.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Matthew

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:52 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Hi Matthew,

Thanks for the copy. I've not been able to confirm that I will be able to give this presentation. I have jury duty this month and have to get a deferral for that week. So far, I've not been able to reach anyone that is willing to grant the deferral and the Jury Coordinator is out until Thursday.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Subject: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Hi Mark:

On Friday, Miles said this report would be useful to you for a presentation you're giving. It contains a lot of proprietary information, as well as information pursuant to our investigation of Cottonwood/QCS, but you'll be safe with the findings at the end.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Matthew

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:58 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Nice trip report; the pictures add a lot. (b) (5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Bradley, Mark - AMS
Subject: Emailing: TX-NM trip report - 100912

Hi Mark:

On Friday, Miles said this report would be useful to you for a presentation you're giving. It contains a lot of proprietary information, as well as information pursuant to our investigation of Cottonwood/QCS, but you'll be safe with the findings at the end.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Matthew

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 6:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle
Attachments: Texas livestock tour - July 2012.docx

Scott – thanks. Could you provide the email and phone numbers of the operations and I will contact them directly to set up the visits. I have attached the modified schedule and a column for the email/phone numbers.

Miles

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 3:55 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,

I have attached the document I created for the over view of the trip. I have added a chart with a tentative schedule for each day with 1 additional farm in case the one of the first two farms for that day is not available.

Scott

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 11:09 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: RE: Texas trip

Yep. I will call them all today.

By the way, my BB number is 202-573-1895. I arrive in Amarillo around 5:30 on Monday and will take a cab to the hotel. If you need to contact me over the weekend, my home number is (b) (6). My personal email is (b) (6).

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: Texas trip

Did you get the message from Rita and Scott regarding our schedule? Both ate out today and Monday. There were 2 farms where we left messages but did not confirm the new times. We also need to notify Brett baker at NMDA and Mary at TDA about the schedule change.
Please let them know. Thanks.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 2:33 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Ahramjian, Lisa - AMS
Cc: Courtney, Cheri - AMS; Tucker, Jennifer - AMS; Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: RE: texas trip report
Attachments: TX-NM trip report - 100512.docx

Hi Miles:

Here is the revised report with photos. You may have additional or better photos.

I added the names except for the woman who accompanied us at Aurora. I will check with Scott next week to see if he knows. Also, Meg is out today. Next week I will confirm with her the date that the NONC went to Cottonwood.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 7:06 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Ahramjian, Lisa - AMS
Cc: Courtney, Cheri - AMS; Tucker, Jennifer - AMS; Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: texas trip report

The report looks good. We should add some photos. The summary findings include a number of items that need followup.

We also need to include the correct names for the QAI, TDA and QCS people that were present during our visits.

Miles V McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program
202-720-3252

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:51 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Cc: Updike, Scott - AMS; Meade, Rita
Subject: RE: Texas trip

I confirmed the schedule changes by phone with everyone (Kit, Travis and Brett) except TDA. I left Mary Ellen Holliman a phone message and emailed her the revised trip schedule.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: Texas trip

Did you get the message from Rita and Scott regarding our schedule? Both ate out today and Monday. There were 2 farms where we left messages but did not confirm the new times. We also need to notify Brett baker at NMDA and Mary at TDA about the schedule change.

Please let them know. Thanks.

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Sanchez, Martin <MSanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Bakker, Brett
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: trip schedule

Thanks for the updated schedule. I am planning on meeting everyone at 413 Curry Rd L in Clovis, NM at 10 am on 7/25. Please let me know if this changes.

Thanks,

Martin Sanchez
msanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505) 889-9880

From: Bakker, Brett
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Sanchez, Martin
Subject: FW: trip schedule

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS [<mailto:Matthew.Michael@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: trip schedule

Hi Brett:

Here is the revised schedule for the New Mexico portion of our trip.

July 25	Native Pastures – Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	10:00 – 1:00	(b) (6)
July 25	Lake Ridge LLC - Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	2:00 – 5:30	Kit Pettigrew 575.760.6430

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:17 PM
To: 'Sanchez, Martin'
Cc: Bakker, Brett (bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu)
Subject: RE: trip schedule

Thanks. We'll let you know if there any changes.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: Sanchez, Martin [mailto:MSanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Bakker, Brett
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: trip schedule

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Thanks,

Martin Sanchez
msanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505) 889-9880

From: Bakker, Brett
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Sanchez, Martin
Subject: FW: trip schedule

Brett Bakker

New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS [<mailto:Matthew.Michael@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: trip schedule

Hi Brett:

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July 25	Native Pastures – Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	10:00 – 1:00	(b) (6)
July 25	Lake Ridge LLC - Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	2:00 – 5:30	Kit Pettigrew 575.760.6430

Have a nice weekend.

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Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Sanchez, Martin <MSanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: trip schedule

Thanks Matthew, I hope your weekend is good too.
Martin

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS [mailto:Matthew.Michael@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Sanchez, Martin
Cc: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: trip schedule

Thanks. We'll let you know if there any changes.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
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From: Sanchez, Martin [<mailto:MSanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:15 PM
To: Bakker, Brett
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: trip schedule

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Thanks,

Martin Sanchez
msanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505) 889-9880

From: Bakker, Brett
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Sanchez, Martin
Subject: FW: trip schedule

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS [<mailto:Matthew.Michael@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: trip schedule

Hi Brett:

Here is the revised schedule for the New Mexico portion of our trip.

July 25	Native Pastures – Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	10:00 – 1:00	(b) (6)
July 25	Lake Ridge LLC - Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	2:00 – 5:30	Kit Pettigrew 575.760.6430

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
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Washington, DC 20250-0268
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matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Morr, Craig: \(b\) \(6\)](#)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:05:05 PM

Scott,

Thank you for the update below.

I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Thank. I received the 3 messages.

We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.

Thank you,

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.

Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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From: [Michael, Matthew - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:39:03 PM

If you wouldn't mind calling her, I'd appreciate it. I'm a little embarrassed that neither Miles nor I remember her name. Maybe you could say "we" (in general) need the name for our records, which would be true. Thanks again.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:25 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Mathew,
I searched through my emails and did not find an email which stated who the representative would be. Would you like for me to contact Carey Allen to find the name of the representative?

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,
Miles has also requested the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of that as well?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,
Thank you for the update below.
I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,
Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,
Thank. I received the 3 messages.
We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.
Thank you,
Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.

Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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From: [Michael, Matthew - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:51:11 PM

Fantastic. Thank you very much.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Here you go

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

That was (b) (6).

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:scott.updike@ams.usda.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hi Carey,

I am helping to put together a trip report. Unfortunately we did not write down the name of the QAI representative who went on the visit at Aurora. Could you please give me her name?

Scott

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Miles has also requested the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of that as well?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

Thank you for the update below.

I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM

To: Allen, Carey

Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Thank. I received the 3 messages.

We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.

Thank you,

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM

To: Updike, Scott - AMS

Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

QAI received updates on several of the OCP appendices from Aurora Dairy earlier this week. This is 1 of 3 messages with the zip files attached.

Do you have an update on what your travel plans will be as far as the specific dates you'll be on the farm in Stratford? QAI would like to send a representative.

Also, did you want to have your visit coincide with our inspection?

Please confirm when you have received all three messages.

Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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From: [Michael, Matthew - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:41:09 PM

Thanks very much.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:41 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

I called her once and the phone went to voice mail. I will try to find out for you in the next day or two.

Scott

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

If you wouldn't mind calling her, I'd appreciate it. I'm a little embarrassed that neither Miles nor I remember her name. Maybe you could say "we" (in general) need the name for our records, which would be true. Thanks again.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program

1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
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Subject: FW: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

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I searched through my emails and did not find an email which stated who the representative would be. Would you like for me to contact Carey Allen to find the name of the representative?

Scott Updike
USDA-AMS-NOP
202-260-8076

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Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
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Scott,
Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

Miles has also requested the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of that as well?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

Thank you for the update below.

I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

Best wishes,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

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We are still in the planning stages. Plans have changed such that I will not be travelling, though Miles may or may not. Once plans are set, I will let you know if NOP will be going to the Aurora dairy and if so, on which day so that a representative from QAI may be there as well.

Thank you,

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Hello Scott,

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Thanks,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

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734 214 6261

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:14:24 PM
Attachments: [AOF_Inspection_Docs.zip](#)

Scott,

Please find attached the inspection report and supporting documents, the NC letter and response.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Carey,

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Scott

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Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Morr, Craig; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

Scott,

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I will be out of the office July 2 – 7, 2012. Please copy Craig Morr on any communication during this time such that he may respond to any request or communicate with QAI management any travel details.

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Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
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Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: Aurora Dairy updated appendices

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Thank you,

Scott

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Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
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Carey Allen

Quality Specialist

NSF International

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

734 214 6261

callen@nsf.org

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From: (b) (6)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](mailto:Updike.Scott@ams.usda.gov)
Cc: ram@qcsinfo.org; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: cottonwood cattle
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:31:06 PM

Hi Scott,

I received an email notification from Dropbox that you joined the folder I invited you to. As you have most likely figured out, you do not need to download Dropbox to view the contents of a folder. You should also be able to download the documents in the folder without downloading Dropbox. Please let me know if you would still like me to send you the documents another way, and I will be happy to.

Thank you,

(b) (6)
Administrative Assistant
Quality Certification Services (QCS)
phone 352.377.0133 / fax 352.377.8363
PO Box 12311 Gainesville FL 32604-0311
1810 NW 6th St Suite F Gainesville FL 32609-8535
* Please visit our new website at: www.qcsinfo.org *

-
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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:07 PM
To: (b) (6)@qcsinfo.org
Subject: cottonwood cattle

Hi (b) (6) (I presume),

Is there any other way you can send the files. I do not have administrator privileges on this government computer to download and install dropbox software.

Scott

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268

Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

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From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#); [Bailey, Melissa - AMS](#)
Subject: Re: Guidance for Texas panhandle trip
Date: Monday, June 25, 2012 9:07:11 AM

That's a bummer. What happened? I don't have any other weeks available. Let me think about it and I'll get back to you.

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 04:57 AM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS; Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: Guidance for Texas panhandle trip

Miles,

I need some guidance on planning the trip to Texas. I made a mistake and am not available the week of July 23rd. That leaves the following options.

1. Find someone else to go on the trip with you.
2. You go on the trip by yourself.
3. Find another week that works for your schedule.
4. Cancel/postpone the trip.

Scott

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Idea proposal
Date: Monday, July 16, 2012 1:29:46 PM

Good morning Scott:

I've received confirmation from all three dairymen that Thursday, July 19 from 11:00 -12:00 CST (1-2:00 EST) is the preferable date and time for the conference call please forward the call-in number, pass code, etc. and I will forward to my producers. I plan to mail the CD-ROMS with all the OSPs and inspection reports today via FedEx so you should receive them on Thursday.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Mary Ellen Holliman
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:56 PM
To: 'Updike, Scott - AMS'
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Hi Scott:

I will send an email to my producers requesting the date and time that they prefer. I'm pretty sure all four dairy operations have different morning and afternoon milking schedules and one dairyman has to travel across the New Mexico-Texas state line. Typically I get the best results in reaching the dairymen via telephone between 1 and 2:00 CST (2-3 EST).

I have been including copies of the inspection reports with the OSP but will double-check before mailing. Please note that all inspections were conducted prior to the variance request so there will be no mention of how the operations were handling the variance request at the time of inspection.

Also, can you give me a tentative agenda of when you plan to start/finish the tour of the TDA operations? I need to schedule my travel and the producers have requested tentative dates and times that we will be on-site at their operations. My suggestion would be to start with the smallest operation, Redland Dairy and then travel to Boehning Dairy and Hilltop Dairy (both owned and operated by Brian Boehning) and then finish with the largest operation (which is also the furthest distance), Natural Prairie Organic Dairy Farm.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Hi Mary Ellen,

I talked to Miles and he likes the idea of having a round table conference call. NOP could host the call on our teleconference line. Miles would have some time on Tuesday the 17th around noon eastern time or Thursday the 19th sometime between 11 and 2 eastern. Would any of those times work for you and the producers? Dairy and beef farmers I have worked with here in the east were amenable to teleconference calls around lunch time. Do Texas cattle farmers feel the same way?

I appreciate all of your thoughts on the why there is such a lack of organic slaughter capacity. That seems to be the biggest stumbling block to more US production of organic beef. I was in a high end grocery store here in the MD to look at organic meat prices and all of the organic beef was from South America.

Miles has also requested a copy of the most recent inspection reports for the farms. Would it be possible for you to send those as well?

Scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic
Subject: Idea proposal

Hi Scott:

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Also, I received some help from an intern in scanning all the OSP files so those should be over-night mailed to you by next Tuesday at the latest.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Office: (512) 463-7513

Fax: (888) 215-5295

Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

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From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Idea proposal
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:57:00 PM

Hi Scott:

I will send an email to my producers requesting the date and time that they prefer. I'm pretty sure all four dairy operations have different morning and afternoon milking schedules and one dairyman has to travel across the New Mexico-Texas state line. Typically I get the best results in reaching the dairymen via telephone between 1 and 2:00 CST (2-3 EST).

I have been including copies of the inspection reports with the OSP but will double-check before mailing. Please note that all inspections were conducted prior to the variance request so there will be no mention of how the operations were handling the variance request at the time of inspection.

Also, can you give me a tentative agenda of when you plan to start/finish the tour of the TDA operations? I need to schedule my travel and the producers have requested tentative dates and times that we will be on-site at their operations. My suggestion would be to start with the smallest operation, Redland Dairy and then travel to Boehning Dairy and Hilltop Dairy (both owned and operated by Brian Boehning) and then finish with the largest operation (which is also the furthest distance), Natural Prairie Organic Dairy Farm.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Hi Mary Ellen,

I talked to Miles and he likes the idea of having a round table conference call. NOP could host the call on our teleconference line. Miles would have some time on Tuesday the 17th around noon eastern time or Thursday the 19th sometime between 11 and 2 eastern. Would any of those times work for you and the producers? Dairy and beef farmers I have worked with here in the east were amenable to teleconference calls around lunch time. Do Texas cattle farmers feel the same way?

I appreciate all of your thoughts on the why there is such a lack of organic slaughter capacity. That seems to be the biggest stumbling block to more US production of organic beef. I was in a high end grocery store here in the MD to look at organic meat prices and all of the organic beef was from South America.

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To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic
Subject: Idea proposal

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From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Re: Idea proposal
Date: Friday, July 06, 2012 11:45:26 PM

Yes. Sounds great.

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 07:02 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: FW: Idea proposal

Miles,

Would you like to have a conference call with the producers before the trip?

Scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic
Subject: Idea proposal

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Coordinator for Organic Certification Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Office: (512) 463-7513

Fax: (888) 215-5295

Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Idea proposal
Date: Monday, July 16, 2012 4:08:14 PM

I don't know. That is around the end of the first milking for at least 1 dairyman so I will have to send out update emails to see what there schedules are.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Hi Mary Ellen,
Unfortunately Miles' schedule has recently changed and the only time he has available on Thursday is 11-12:30 EST. Will that work?

Scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 1:30 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Good morning Scott:

I've received confirmation from all three dairymen that Thursday, July 19 from 11:00 -12:00 CST (1-2:00 EST) is the preferable date and time for the conference call please forward the call-in number, pass code,etc. and I will forward to my producers. I plan to mail the CD-ROMS with all the OSPs and inspection reports today via FedEx so you should receive them on Thursday.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Mary Ellen Holliman
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:56 PM
To: 'Updike, Scott - AMS'
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

Hi Scott:

I will send an email to my producers requesting the date and time that they prefer. I'm pretty sure

all four dairy operations have different morning and afternoon milking schedules and one dairyman has to travel across the New Mexico-Texas state line. Typically I get the best results in reaching the dairymen via telephone between 1 and 2:00 CST (2-3 EST).

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Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: Idea proposal

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Miles has also requested a copy of the most recent inspection reports for the farms. Would it be possible for you to send those as well?

Scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [<mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov>]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 5:40 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic
Subject: Idea proposal

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From: [Michael, Matthew - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: July 2012 Texas trip preview
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2012 12:27:47 PM

Thanks

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 12:17 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: July 2012 Texas trip preview

Matthew,
Here is the document you requested.

Enjoy your time back home in home Texas.

Scott

From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:11:28 PM

Hello,

For my peace of mind, please confirm when you have received all 5 emails with the attachments.
Thanks!

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:38 AM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater

Hi Ms. Allen,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties. We plan on going to Amarillo and then visiting some organic dairy and beef farms. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

We would like to visit the Aurora Organic Farms-Coldwater dairy, in Stratford, Texas, the week of July 23 – 27.

Is (b) (6) the best contact person?

Is (b) (6) the best contact number?

Could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan?

A representative from QAI would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Scott Updike

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division

USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:39:16 PM
Attachments: [OCP Docs.zip](#)

4 of 5 with attachments

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:38 AM
To: Allen, Carey
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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:38:22 PM
Attachments: [Apx 17-24.zip](#)

3 of 5 with attachments

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:38 AM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:39:12 PM
Attachments: [Tabs.zip](#)

5 of 5 with attachments

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
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734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:37:20 PM
Attachments: [Apx 12-16.zip](#)

2 of 5 with attachments.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:33:42 PM
Attachments: [Apx 1-11 + Table.zip](#)

1 of 5 with attachments

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Morr, Craig](#); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:03:49 PM

Dear Dr. Updike,

The contact you have below is the local facility contact. The better contact to arrange the visit is (b) (6), who is our main contact for the corporate entity, at (b) (6) or (b) (6)@aodmilk.com.

QAI is scheduled to conduct the annual inspection at this facility beginning July 17th. Would you like to possibly coordinate your visit with our inspection date in order to witness the inspection?

Alternatively, we could potentially reschedule to conduct our inspection during your dates mentioned below. Please provide feedback on this.

I have several zip files to send you with the requested OCP documentation. There will be five additional emails with attachments, the file sizes are large so if you have trouble receiving them please let me know if haven't received all five.

Thank you,

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:38 AM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater

Hi Ms. Allen,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties. We plan on going to Amarillo and then visiting some organic dairy and beef farms. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

We would like to visit the Aurora Organic Farms-Coldwater dairy, in Stratford, Texas, the week of

July 23 – 27.

Is (b) (6) the best contact person?

Is (b) (6) the best contact number?

Could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan?

A representative from QAI would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Scott Updike

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Morr, Craig](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:53:39 AM

Hello Mr. Updike,

Thank you for contacting me. I will get back to you shortly with the requested information.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:38 AM
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From: [Allen, Carey](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:29:12 PM

According to our system records the inspection has been completed in one day in the past. I would expect a full day at least.

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Allen, Carey
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater

Carey,

Yes, I did receive all 5. Thank you for your very prompt reply to my email.
Do you have an idea as to how long the inspection might last for this farm?

Scott

From: Allen, Carey [<mailto:callen@nsf.org>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Aurora Organic Farms -Coldwater

Hello,

For my peace of mind, please confirm when you have received all 5 emails with the attachments.
Thanks!

Carey Allen

Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
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From: [Ramkrishnan](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: (b) (6); ram@qcsinfo.org
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Cottonwood Cattle Co
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:16:20 PM

Scott,

We send the info to Meg. But I will ask staff to send it to you as well. Let me know the dates and yes the client has expressed interest of QCS being there. We look forward having NOP in our clients farm.

Thanks
Ramkrishnan

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:22 PM
To: 'ram@qcsinfo.org'
Subject: NOP visit to Cottonwood Cattle Co

Ramkrishnan Balasubramanian,
Meg Kuhn suggested I contact you. I am the livestock specialist with the Standards Division of the National Organic Program. I am helping to arrange for Miles McEvoy to visit several beef and dairy farms in the Texas panhandle to assess how the waiver to the pasture rule in 2011 was implemented. QCS is welcome to attend Miles' visit to Cottonwood Cattle company.

Could someone from QCS please send me the most recent OSP and inspection report for Cottonwood Cattle Company?

Scott

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
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From: [Ramkrishnan PB](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Cottonwood Cattle Co
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:10:19 PM

Scott,

Not yet. Hopefully today or tomorrow, I should be able to give the info.

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:12 AM
To: 'Ramkrishnan PB'
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Cottonwood Cattle Co

Ram,

Did you receive the desired address for where the producer would like to meet with Miles?
The scheduled time is 7/24 from 12-2:30 PM

Scott

From: Ramkrishnan PB [mailto:ram@qcsinfo.org]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit to Cottonwood Cattle Co

Scott,

I spoke with the producer and we will be meeting in Dalhart. The exact location at Dalhart will be informed tomorrow.

From there we will be driving to 9V ranch which is 20 miles north of Dalhart. The producer has large enough vehicle that will carry 8 passengers.

If time permits the producer would like to take Miles to another ranch which is 40 miles east of Dalhart.

This is just a tentative plan and of course the producer is to accommodate what whatever Miles would like to see.

Thanks,
Ramkrishnan

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information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: [Sanchez, Martin](#)
To: [Bakker, Brett](#); [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM
Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 10:16:50 AM

Hi Scott,

My name is Martin and I would like to accompany you on your livestock visits. I have a dentist appointment on the 24th at 3 pm (which I can reschedule if I need to) and the rest of my week is open. Please let me know what the schedule is looking like and I'll plan on meeting you out on the east side of the state.

Thanks,
Martin

From: Bakker, Brett
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:23 PM
To: 'Updike, Scott - AMS'
Cc: Sanchez, Martin
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Scott

I'll copy and FedEx the reports for you.

Unfortunately, I am unable to make it that week but my assistant Martin Sanchez (Certifier/Inspector) may be able to meet you for part of the visit. Please keep us both in the loop.

My apologies for neglecting to send you the contact recommendations. Sounds like you've already made contact with the operations. Just in case, these are the staff members who coordinate applications/OSP, inspections, etc:

Native Pastures

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Lake Ridge LLC in Portales, NM

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Nature's Way Management

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

thanks

brett

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
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fax: (505) 883-3235
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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:43 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Brett,
Miles has also requested a copy of the most recent inspection report. Could you send a copy of these as well? The final times for each farm are being set up with the farmers. Once I know, I will let you know when.

Scott

From: Bakker, Brett [<mailto:bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 7:19 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Scott
my apologies! leaving for the day and realized i haven't gotten you the info. i will mail it tomorrow and email you specific contacts info.

thanks

brett

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:47 PM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Brett,
Thank you for sending the information.

We would be glad to have you join us. Once I have all the contact information, I am going to contact the various farms to see which dates work best for them. We plan on spending 1 day of our trip in New Mexico. Once I finalize the itinerary, I will let you know so that you can join us.

I have been in contact with the Texas Department of Ag as well and I was surprised to hear that there are no organic beef slaughter plants in Texas. Are there any in New Mexico?

Scott

From: Bakker, Brett [<mailto:bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Mike

i will send you the requested information as soon as i can gather it . we are still paper-based so i will make copies and fedex to you.

i would like to join you on at least part of the visits.

thank you

let me know if you have any questions or concerns

brett

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We would like to visit several farms which NMDA certifies the week of July 23 – 27.

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For each of these farms could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan and the best contact person?

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USDA-AMS-NOP
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Phone 202-260-8076

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From: [Bakker, Brett](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 4:01:37 PM

Scott

same here. we have certified four or five over the past twenty years but these have all been small packing house that pretty much have all the custom business they need and so don't bother to certify any longer.

we've tried to get NMDA plant to certify but they don't want to provide competition to independents. but the large independents don't want to certify either because they have enough business from the non-organic industry.

our beef/lamb producers have to go to southern colorado!

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 1:47 PM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Brett,

Thank you for sending the information.

We would be glad to have you join us. Once I have all the contact information, I am going to contact the various farms to see which dates work best for them. We plan on spending 1 day of our trip in New Mexico. Once I finalize the itinerary, I will let you know so that you can join us.

I have been in contact with the Texas Department of Ag as well and I was surprised to hear that there are no organic beef slaughter plants in Texas. Are there any in New Mexico?

Scott

From: Bakker, Brett [<mailto:bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Mike

i will send you the requested information as soon as i can gather it . we are still paper-based so i will make copies and fedex to you.

i would like to join you on at least part of the visits.

thank you

let me know if you have any questions or concerns

brett

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(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Hi Brett Bakker,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties in 2011. While in the Amarillo area, we wanted to visit some dairies in NM near the Texas border. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

We would like to visit several farms which NMDA certifies the week of July 23 – 27.

Native Pastures in Clovis, NM

Lake Ridge LLC in Portales, NM

Nature's Way Management in Portales, NM

For each of these farms could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan and the best contact person?

A representative from NMDA would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Scott Updike

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
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From: [Bakker, Brett](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:16:23 PM

Mike

i will send you the requested information as soon as i can gather it . we are still paper-based so i will make copies and fedex to you.

i would like to join you on at least part of the visits.

thank you

let me know if you have any questions or concerns

brett

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New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
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Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: NOP visit with dairies in NM

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From: [Bakker, Brett](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Sanchez, Martin](#)
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 1:26:25 PM

thanks Scott.

i will pass this to Martin Sanchez who will join you at some point. i am unable to make it.

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Brett,

Here is the final schedule for the New Mexico certified farms:

Native Pastures in Clovis, NM	7/25	12:00 – 2:30 PM
Lake Ridge LLC in Portales, NM	7/25	3:00 – 5:30 PM
Nature's Way Management in Portales, NM		not scheduled

Scott

From: Bakker, Brett [<mailto:bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Mike

i will send you the requested information as soon as i can gather it . we are still paper-based so i will make copies and fedex to you.

i would like to join you on at least part of the visits.

thank you

let me know if you have any questions or concerns

brett

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: NOP visit with dairies in NM

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Nature's Way Management in Portales, NM

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A representative from NMDA would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Scott Updike

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From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Bailey, Melissa - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 9:04:09 PM

Scott – this looks great. Please proceed with trip planning.

Miles

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:15 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Cc: Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,

I have attached an overview of the trip to Texas as well as a list of farms that are in the area. I have included two additional farms from New Mexico that are relatively close to the dairy in Clovis you wanted to visit. Of particular interest is that the sole organic product from one of these farms is transitioned dairy heifers.

I have contacted the appropriate AIA people to find the livestock contacts for the 4 certifiers which correspond to these farms. Once I have your revisions for the purpose of the trip, I will contact the certifiers and the farms to begin arranging the trip.

Scott

From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 6:15:55 PM
Attachments: [Texas livestock tour - July 2012.docx](#)

Scott – thanks. Could you provide the email and phone numbers of the operations and I will contact them directly to set up the visits. I have attached the modified schedule and a column for the email/phone numbers.

Miles

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 3:55 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles,

I have attached the document I created for the over view of the trip. I have added a chart with a tentative schedule for each day with 1 additional farm in case the one of the first two farms for that day is not available.

Scott

From: [Kuhn, Meg - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#); [Crail, Lars - AMS](#); [Pooler, Bob - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 3:05:21 PM

Hi Scott,

You can contact the main contact at QCS, Ramkrishnan Balasubramanian. His email is ram@gcs.com. He can direct you to QCS support staff, if he is unable to answer your request directly.

Thanks,
meg

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,

Miles has asked for me to set up a trip with him to the Texas panhandle to learn about a couple of different aspects of ruminant production (dairy and beef). I have identified several ruminant farms in the area and Miles suggested that I ask you who the appropriate livestock contact person is for each of these certifiers.

QAI
QCS
Texas DOA

On the ACA assignment sheet, I did not see who was responsible for New Mexico DOA. Who should I contact to ask about the livestock contact with NM DOA?

Scott

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250
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From: [Pooler, Bob - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:45:51 PM

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

or

Joanie Quinn
Organic Advisor
New Mexico Department of Agriculture Organic Program
4501 Indian School NE, Suite 100, Room G104
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 889-9921, (575) 646-0329
jquinn@nmda.nmsu.edu

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:29 PM
To: Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: FW: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi Bob,
Who should I contact at NM DOA?

Scott

From: Crail, Lars - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:27 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: Re: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Bob Pooler is the AM for NM.
Lars Crail
USDA-AMS-NOP
202.205.5536 office
202.631.2105 BB

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,

Miles has asked for me to set up a trip with him to the Texas panhandle to learn about a couple of different aspects of ruminant production (dairy and beef). I have identified several ruminant farms in the area and Miles suggested that I ask you who the appropriate livestock contact person is for each of these certifiers.

QAI

QCS

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Scott

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Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

From: [Pooler, Bob - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Mary Ellen Holliman \(Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov\)](mailto:Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:52:25 PM

TDA Contact: Mary Ellen Holliman
Phone: 512-463-7513
Email: Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,

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From: [Crail, Lars - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Re: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 1:26:58 PM

Bob Pooler is the AM for NM.

Lars Crail
USDA-AMS-NOP
202.205.5536 office
202.631.2105 BB

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,

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Scott

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From: [Crail, Lars - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 3:16:54 PM

QAI contact is:

Carey Allen
Quality Specialist
NSF International
Quality Assurance International (QAI)
734 214 6261
callen@nsf.org

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,

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From: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:32:38 PM

Yes, let's visit.

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:00 PM
To: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Subject: FW: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27

Miles,

I checked C&E. Cornucopia filed a complaint against the relatively large dairy Natural Prairie over the use of transitioned animals as organic dairy animals. Lorraine had that case prior to working with the NOSB and the case sat during that time. According to Lorraine, the owners have been open in providing all records requested. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Would you be interested in visiting that farm or should we skip it?

Scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [<mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic; Randy Rivera
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27

Dear Mr. Updike:

Thank you for the notification. As several of these accounts are still in the renewal process, it may take time to complete the reviews and prepare the OSPs to send to you. Please be aware that these are extremely large files (each operation has at least 3 different certifications) so I must mail the files to you. For these reasons, please clarify if you just want the current OSP for each certification or if you need multiple years. Also, all of these locations were inspected as part of the organic milk audit conducted by the USDA/OIG, and the Boehning Dairy Livestock account was selected as the livestock witness audit in May 2012 as part of TDA's accreditation renewal audit. Therefore, it may be of little to no benefit in gaining new information. However, Natural Prairie has an outstanding complaint investigation with NOP that is approximately 2 years old and the owners would greatly appreciate NOP officials coming out to their facility to conduct an on-site inspection in order to complete the complaint investigation.

TDA does not currently certify any organic livestock slaughter facilities and to TDA's knowledge, there are no certified organic livestock slaughter facilities in Texas. The Texas organic producers certified by TDA do not have the resources to ship their ruminant livestock long distances and must sell their product either on the hoof or labeled as produced without the use of hormones or antibiotics.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Office: (512) 463-7513

Fax: (888) 215-5295

Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:11 AM

To: Pooler, Bob - AMS

Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman

Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi Ms. Holliman,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties in 2011. We plan on going to Amarillo and then visiting some organic dairy and beef farms. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

We would like to visit several farms which you TDA certifies the week of July 23 – 27.

Boehning Dairy Farm in Earth, TX

Hilltop Dairy, Llc in Earth, TX

Redland Dairy, Llc in Farwell, TX

Natural Prairie Dairy in Channing, TX

For each of these farms could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan and the best contact person?

I was looking to see if there are any beef slaughter plants in the panhandle region of Texas which are certified organic. Do you know of any even if TDA does not certify them? Where do the organic beef cattle in Texas go for slaughter?

A representative from TDA would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,

Scott Updike

From: Pooler, Bob - AMS

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:52 PM

To: Updike, Scott - AMS

Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman (Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)

Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

TDA Contact: Mary Ellen Holliman
Phone: 512-463-7513
Email: Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,
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From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Organic](#); [Randy Rivera](#)
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:53:44 PM

Dear Mr. Updike:

Thank you for the notification. As several of these accounts are still in the renewal process, it may take time to complete the reviews and prepare the OSPs to send to you. Please be aware that these are extremely large files (each operation has at least 3 different certifications) so I must mail the files to you. For these reasons, please clarify if you just want the current OSP for each certification or if you need multiple years. Also, all of these locations were inspected as part of the organic milk audit conducted by the USDA/OIG, and the Boehning Dairy Livestock account was selected as the livestock witness audit in May 2012 as part of TDA's accreditation renewal audit. Therefore, it may be of little to no benefit in gaining new information. However, Natural Prairie has an outstanding complaint investigation with NOP that is approximately 2 years old and the owners would greatly appreciate NOP officials coming out to their facility to conduct an on-site inspection in order to complete the complaint investigation.

TDA does not currently certify any organic livestock slaughter facilities and to TDA's knowledge, there are no certified organic livestock slaughter facilities in Texas. The Texas organic producers certified by TDA do not have the resources to ship their ruminant livestock long distances and must sell their product either on the hoof or labeled as produced without the use of hormones or antibiotics.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program
Texas Department of Agriculture
Office: (512) 463-7513
Fax: (888) 215-5295
Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Pooler, Bob - AMS
Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi Ms. Holliman,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties in 2011. We plan on going to Amarillo and then visiting some organic dairy and beef farms. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

We would like to visit several farms which you TDA certifies the week of July 23 – 27.

Boehning Dairy Farm in Earth, TX
Hilltop Dairy, Llc in Earth, TX
Redland Dairy, Llc in Farwell, TX
Natural Prairie Dairy in Channing, TX

For each of these farms could you send us a copy of their Organic System Plan and the best contact person?

I was looking to see if there are any beef slaughter plants in the panhandle region of Texas which are certified organic. Do you know of any even if TDA does not certify them? Where do the organic beef cattle in Texas go for slaughter?

A representative from TDA would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,
Scott Updike

From: Pooler, Bob - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:52 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman (Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

TDA Contact: Mary Ellen Holliman
Phone: 512-463-7513
Email: Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

Hi,
Miles has asked for me to set up a trip with him to the Texas panhandle to learn about a couple of different aspects of ruminant production (dairy and beef). I have identified several ruminant farms in the area and Miles suggested that I ask you who the appropriate livestock contact person is for each of these certifiers.

QAI
QCS
Texas DOA

On the ACA assignment sheet, I did not see who was responsible for New Mexico DOA. Who should I contact to ask about the livestock contact with NM DOA?

Scott

M. Scott Updike, PhD
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
Standards Division
USDA-AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 2646-S, STOP 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone 202-260-8076

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From: [Mary Ellen Holliman](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Cc: [Organic](#); [Randy Rivera](#)
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 5:52:00 PM

Dear Mr. Updike:

Thank you for the timely response and clarification on what information you are trying to gain. I have spoken with several beef producers (including a few who surrendered their organic certification) as well as slaughter facilities interested in and against obtaining organic certification in depth over the past few years and here are the most common responses I have received:

Contamination and disease transfer risk: There is a higher risk of parasitic bacteria transfer from the organic carcasses to the nonorganic carcasses due to paracitocides being prohibited in organic livestock production. Large volume slaughter facilities who ship product outside of the U.S. are most likely to object organic certification for this reason alone. Recent events show that with modern media, all it takes is one contamination to be traced back to completely destroy that operation's business (regardless of the cause of contamination).

Expenses vs. Profit for producers: There are fewer expenses involved with other label claims such as grass-fed and produced without the use of growth hormone, antibiotics, etc. than there are with certified organic livestock. However, the profit generated from the use of such label claims is almost or the same as being certified organic. This creates the issue of low volume for slaughter facilities.

Expenses vs. Profit for slaughter plants: There is a drastic increase in the amount of quality control that must be done by slaughter plants to ensure that the livestock is only fed certified organic feed, segregated from nonorganic livestock to prevent mislabeling of slaughtered carcasses, slaughtered and processed either during the first run of the day or have a separate wash-down prior to slaughtering organic livestock, and segregated storage space for organic carcasses or packaged beef. The employees who are responsible for these tasks are often the newest and least trained of the entire operation so the risk level for jeopardizing the organic claim is always higher than what we as regulators and certifiers might think. Also, most slaughter facilities that would be willing to obtain organic certification cannot justify the cost due to insufficient volume. Based on the herd sizes for cattle operations certified by TDA, only the larger dairies would have sufficient volume for a slaughter facility to recoup expenses and make a profit by slaughtering and processing organic beef.

Ideology: Most slaughter facilities already hold several certifications (e.g. state or federal certificate of inspection, Kosher, Dhabihah, industry certified humane slaughter) which are very detailed and highly scrutinized. While most of the processing and handling requirements organic regulations are already incorporated into these types of certification, most slaughter facilities are not willing to tackle another certification or go through another inspection they feel is unnecessary.

I hope you find this information useful, I will be available Monday and Tuesday afternoon if you would like to discuss this in further detail over the telephone.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Holliman

Coordinator for Organic Certification Program

Texas Department of Agriculture

Office: (512) 463-7513

Fax: (888) 215-5295

Organic@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Mary Ellen Holliman
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27

Dear Ms. Holliman,

Our trip is not to inspect or verify compliance of the farms or certifiers. We want to see how the farms used the pasture rule exemption and conditions that might lead to such exemptions in the future. We would like to see how the farms are sourcing replacement animals their suggestions on possible changes to the Origin of Livestock regulations. We know that the OIG audit involved inspections of dairies in Texas. We would like to talk to these farmers to get ideas for practical solutions to issues raised by OIG. We do not want to cause any problems or worry for the farms or certifiers.

We only would like a copy of an OSP from 1 year from each of the farms. A 2011 copy would be fine if you do not have 2012 copy yet.

I spoke to Miles and he would like to visit Natural Prairie. I did some checking and saw that NOP Compliance and Enforcement is working on that case, though I have no timeline for completion.

I was Beef Extension Specialist before coming to the USDA-NOP. I have spoken to many organic beef producers or beef producers who did not become organic due to the lack of organic slaughter plants. Do you have any insight into why packers across the country have not become certified?

Thank you for your help with this.

scott

From: Mary Ellen Holliman [mailto:Mary.Holliman@TexasAgriculture.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Organic; Randy Rivera
Subject: RE: TDA organic livestock operation tours the week of July 23 - 27

Dear Mr. Updike:

Thank you for the notification. As several of these accounts are still in the renewal process, it may take time to complete the reviews and prepare the OSPs to send to you. Please be aware that these are extremely large files (each operation has at least 3 different certifications) so I must mail the files to you. For these reasons, please clarify if you just want the current OSP for each certification or if you need multiple years. Also, all of these locations were inspected as part of the organic milk audit conducted by the USDA/OIG, and the Boehning Dairy Livestock account was selected as the livestock witness audit in May 2012 as part of TDA's accreditation renewal audit. Therefore, it may be of little to no benefit in gaining new information. However, Natural Prairie has an outstanding complaint investigation with NOP that is approximately 2 years old and the owners would greatly appreciate NOP officials coming out to their facility to conduct an on-site inspection in order to complete the complaint investigation.

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From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:11 AM

To: Pooler, Bob - AMS

Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman

Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

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A representative from TDA would be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,

Scott Updike

From: Pooler, Bob - AMS

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:52 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Mary Ellen Holliman (Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)
Subject: RE: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

TDA Contact: Mary Ellen Holliman
Phone: 512-463-7513
Email: Mary.Holliman@texasagriculture.gov)

From: Updike, Scott - AMS
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Kuhn, Meg - AMS; Crail, Lars - AMS; Pooler, Bob - AMS
Subject: Request for livestock contacts with certifiers

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From: [Michael, Matthew - AMS](#)
To: [McEvoy, Miles - AMS](#)
Cc: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#); [Meade, Rita](#)
Subject: RE: Texas trip
Date: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:50:55 PM

I confirmed the schedule changes by phone with everyone (Kit, Travis and Brett) except TDA. I left Mary Ellen Holliman a phone message and emailed her the revised trip schedule.

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: Texas trip

Did you get the message from Rita and Scott regarding our schedule? Both ate out today and Monday. There were 2 farms where we left messages but did not confirm the new times. We also need to notify Brett baker at NMDA and Mary at TDA about the schedule change. Please let them know. Thanks.

From: [Dropbox](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: (b) (6) wants to share "Cottonwood Cattle (1033L)" with you
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:57:51 PM



(b) (6) @qcsinfo.org) wants to share some files with you using Dropbox.

View the "Cottonwood Cattle (1033L)" folder [here](#).

Enjoy!
- The Dropbox Team

 © 2012 Dropbox

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Monday, July 23-Friday, July 27, 2012

Day	Farm	Certifier	City	Travel Time	Visit Time	Contact
July 23	Travel to Amarillo					
July 24(North)	Natural Prairie Dairy	TDA	Channing	1.5 hours	8:30 – 11:00	(b) (6)
July 24	Cottonwood Cattle	QCS	Dalhart	0.5 hour	12:00 – 2:30	(b) (6)
July 24	Aurora Dairy	QAI	Stratford	0.5 hour	3:00 – 5:30	(b) (6)
July 24	Back to Amarillo					
July 25	Native Pastures – Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	2 hour	10:00 – 1:00	(b) (6)
July 25	Lake Ridge LLC - Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	0.5 hour	2:00 – 5:30	Kit Pettigrew 575.760.6430
July 25	Stay in Clovis					
July 26 (West)	Redland Dairy	TDA	Farwell	1.5 hours	8:00 – 11:00	Travis Price 575.760.2286
July 26(South)	Hilltop Dairy	TDA	Earth	1 hour	12:30 – 3:00	Brian 806.946.8273
July 26	Boehning DairyFarm	TDA	Earth	2 hours	3:00 – 5:00	Brian 806.946.8273
	Stay in Lubbock					
July 27	Idalou Egg Ranch	CCOF	Idalou	1.5 hours	7:00 – 9:30	(b) (6)
July 27	Travel back to Amarillo	Possibly stay in Lubbock				
July 27	Travel back to DC					

July 13, 2012

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Monday, July 23-Friday, July 27, 2012

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July 26	Boehning DairyFarm	TDA	Earth	2 hours	10:00 – 1:00	Brian 806.946.8273
July 26	Idalou Egg Ranch	CCOF	Idalou	1.5 hours	4:00 – 6:00	(b) (6)
July 26	Travel back to Amarillo	Possibly stay in Lubbock				
July 27	Travel back to DC					

*not available til July 16th, will call back then.

**left message have not returned my call – will call again today, July 13th.

July 13, 2012

Schedule of Texas Panhandle Trip

Monday, July 23-Friday, July 27, 2012

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY VARIANCE APPROVAL

Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification
Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

NOV 08 2011

Dear Ms. Holliman:

On October 27, 2011, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) received a request for a temporary variance from the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations §§205.237(c) and 205.240, submitted by the Texas Department of Agriculture on behalf of ruminant livestock producers located in several drought stricken Texas counties. The basis for establishing this variance for these Texas counties is documented severe drought conditions. USDA has reviewed the recommendation for a temporary variance for organic ruminant livestock producers according to NOP regulation requirements in §205.290. Based upon the submitted documentation, the request for temporary variance from §§205.237(c) and 205.240 is granted, with restrictions, and is in effect for the 2011 grazing season.

The temporary variance from §§ 205.237(c) and 205.240 is restricted to:

- Organic ruminant livestock producers located in any of the 214 Texas counties designated as primary natural disaster areas on April 4, and June 24, 2011, by USDA Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack.
- Non-irrigated pasture only; producers having access to irrigated pasture are not included in the variance.
- 2011 grazing season only; producers must comply with §§ 205.237(c)(2) and 205.240 for the 2012 grazing season, or submit a new request for Temporary Variance for 2012, as applicable.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Robert Pooler, Regional Accreditation Manager, at (202) 720-3252 or bob.pooler@ams.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Shipman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David R. Shipman
Acting Administrator

Like many farms and ranches across the state of Texas, organic livestock operations have experienced herd loss and devastation to pasture and rangeland. However, this is doubly troubling for ruminant organic livestock producers due to certain regulations of the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). Sections 205.237(c) and 205.240 of the NOP Regulations require that ruminant animals have a grazing season of at least 120 days and obtain a minimum of 30 percent of their dry matter intake from pasture grazing.

On October 27, 2011 the Texas Department of Agriculture submitted a request to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for a temporary variance from sections 205.237(c) and 205.240 for organic livestock producers located in the state of Texas. The USDA AMS granted the temporary variance to the 214 counties that were identified as primary natural disaster areas earlier this year. Click [here](#) to view a listing of the 214 counties in alphabetical order. Click [here](#) to view a copy of the temporary variance approval notice.

Anderson	Cochran	Galveston	Jim Hogg	Midland	Scurry
Andrews	Coke	Garza	Jim Wells	Mills	Shackelford
Angelina	Coleman	Gillespie	Johnson	Mitchell	Shelby
Aransas	Collin	Glasscock	Jones	Montgomery	Sherman
Archer	Collingsworth	Goliad	Kames	Moore	Smith
Armstrong	Colorado	Gonzales	Kendall	Morris	Somervell
Atascosa	Comal	Gray	Kenedy	Motley	Starr
Austin	Comanche	Gregg	Kent	Nacogdoches	Stephens
Bailey	Concho	Grimes	Kerr	Newton	Sterling
Bandera	Cooke	Guadalupe	Kimble	Nolan	Stonewall
Bastrop	Coryell	Hale	King	Ochiltree	Sutton
Baylor	Cottle	Hall	Kleberg	Oldham	Swisher
Bee	Crockett	Hamilton	Knox	Orange	Taylor
Bell	Crosby	Hansford	La Salle	Palo Pinto	Terrell
Blanco	Culberson	Hardeman	Lamar	Panola	Throckmorton
Bosque	Dallam	Hardin	Lamb	Parker	Titus
Bowie	De Witt	Harris	Lampasas	Parmer	Tom Green
Brazoria	Deaf Smith	Harrison	Lavaca	Pecos	Travis
Brazos	Delta	Hartley	Lee	Polk	Trinity
Brewster	Denton	Haskell	Leon	Potter	Tyler
Briscoe	Dickens	Hays	Liberty	Presidio	Upshur
Brooks	Donley	Hemphill	Limestone	Rains	Upton
Brown	Duval	Hidalgo	Lipscomb	Randall	Val Verde
Burleson	Eastland	Hockley	Live Oak	Reagan	Victoria
Burnet	Edwards	Hood	Loving	Reeves	Walker
Caldwell	El Paso	Hopkins	Lubbock	Refugio	Waller
Calhoun	Ellis	Houston	Lynn	Roberts	Washington
Callahan	Erath	Howard	Madison	Robertson	Webb
Cameron	Fayette	Hudspeth	Marion	Rusk	Wheeler
Camp	Fisher	Hutchinson	Martin	Sabine	Wichita
Cass	Floyd	Irion	McCulloch	San Augustine	Wilbarger
Castro	Foard	Jack	McLennan	San Jacinto	Willacy
Chambers	Fort Bend	Jackson	McMullen	San Patricio	Wood
Cherokee	Franklin	Jasper	Medina	San Saba	Young
Childress	Freestone	Jeff Davis	Menard	Schleicher	Zapata
Clay	Frio	Jefferson			

Updike, Scott - AMS

From: Bakker, Brett <bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Cc: Sanchez, Martin
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

thanks Scott.

i will pass this to Martin Sanchez who will join you at some point. i am unable to make it.

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:09 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Brett,
Here is the final schedule for the New Mexico certified farms:

Native Pastures in Clovis, NM	7/25	12:00 – 2:30 PM
Lake Ridge LLC in Portales, NM	7/25	3:00 – 5:30 PM
Nature's Way Management in Portales, NM		not scheduled

Scott

From: Bakker, Brett [<mailto:bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Updike, Scott - AMS
Subject: RE: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Mike

i will send you the requested information as soon as i can gather it . we are still paper-based so i will make copies and index to you.

i would like to join you on at least part of the visits.

thank you

let me know if you have any questions or concerns

.ett

Brett Bakker
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
4501 Indian School Rd NE
Suite 100 Rm G104
Albuquerque NM 87110
bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu
(505)889-9924 or (575)646-0339
fax: (505) 883-3235
<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/marketing/organic-program/>

From: Updike, Scott - AMS [<mailto:Scott.Updike@ams.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:20 AM
To: Bakker, Brett
Subject: NOP visit with dairies in NM

Hi Brett Bakker,

Miles McEvoy asked me (the new livestock specialist for the NOP) to arrange a trip to Texas to assess the pasture rule exemption that was given to ruminant livestock producers in most Texas counties in 2011. While in the Amarillo area, we wanted to visit some dairies in NM near the Texas border. While touring organic beef and dairy farms, we will also examine some other issues that have been raised to the attention of the NOP including how the farms are sourcing replacement females and breeder stock for potential revisions of the Origin of Livestock regulations, how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and the availability of organic slaughter facilities for organic beef producers and culling of organic dairy cattle.

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Phone 202-260-8076

Like many farms and ranches across the state of Texas, organic livestock operations have experienced herd loss and devastation to pasture and rangeland. However, this is doubly troubling for ruminant organic livestock producers due to certain regulations of the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). Sections 205.237(c) and 205.240 of the NOP Regulations require that ruminant animals have a grazing season of at least 120 days and obtain a minimum of 30 percent of their dry matter intake from pasture grazing.

On October 27, 2011 the Texas Department of Agriculture submitted a request to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for a temporary variance from sections 205.237(c) and 205.240 for organic livestock producers located in the state of Texas. The USDA AMS granted the temporary variance to the 214 counties that were identified as primary natural disaster areas earlier this year. Click [here](#) to view a listing of the 214 counties in alphabetical order. Click [here](#) to view a copy of the temporary variance approval notice.

Anderson	Cochran	Galveston	Jim Hogg	Midland	Scurry
Andrews	Coke	Garza	Jim Wells	Mills	Shackelford
Angelina	Coleman	Gillespie	Johnson	Mitchell	Shelby
Aransas	Collin	Glasscock	Jones	Montgomery	Sherman
Archer	Collingsworth	Goliad	Kames	Moore	Smith
Armstrong	Colorado	Gonzales	Kendall	Morris	Somervell
Atascosa	Comal	Gray	Kenedy	Motley	Starr
Austin	Comanche	Gregg	Kent	Nacogdoches	Stephens
Bailey	Concho	Grimes	Kerr	Newton	Sterling
Bandera	Cooke	Guadalupe	Kimble	Nolan	Stonewall
Bastrop	Coryell	Hale	King	Ochiltree	Sutton
Baylor	Cottle	Hall	Kleberg	Oldham	Swisher
Bee	Crockett	Hamilton	Knox	Orange	Taylor
Bell	Crosby	Hansford	La Salle	Palo Pinto	Terrell
Blanco	Culberson	Hardeman	Lamar	Panola	Throckmorton
Bosque	Dallam	Hardin	Lamb	Parker	Titus
Bowie	De Witt	Harris	Lampasas	Parmer	Tom Green
Brazoria	Deaf Smith	Harrison	Lavaca	Pecos	Travis
Brazos	Delta	Hartley	Lee	Polk	Trinity
Brewster	Denton	Haskell	Leon	Potter	Tyler
Briscoe	Dickens	Hays	Liberty	Presidio	Upshur
Brooks	Donley	Hemphill	Limestone	Rains	Upton
Brown	Duval	Hidalgo	Lipscomb	Randall	Val Verde
Burleson	Eastland	Hockley	Live Oak	Reagan	Victoria
Burnet	Edwards	Hood	Loving	Reeves	Walker
Caldwell	El Paso	Hopkins	Lubbock	Refugio	Waller
Calhoun	Ellis	Houston	Lynn	Roberts	Washington
Callahan	Erath	Howard	Madison	Robertson	Webb
Cameron	Fayette	Hudspeth	Marion	Rusk	Wheeler
Camp	Fisher	Hutchinson	Martin	Sabine	Wichita
Cass	Floyd	Irion	McCulloch	San Augustine	Wilbarger
Castro	Foard	Jack	McLennan	San Jacinto	Willacy
Chambers	Fort Bend	Jackson	McMullen	San Patricio	Wood
Cherokee	Franklin	Jasper	Medina	San Saba	Young
Childress	Freestone	Jeff Davis	Menard	Schleicher	Zapata
Clay	Frio	Jefferson			



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY VARIANCE APPROVAL

NOV 08 2011

Mary Ellen Holliman
Coordinator for Organic Certification
Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Holliman:

On October 27, 2011, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) received a request for a temporary variance from the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations §§205.237(c) and 205.240, submitted by the Texas Department of Agriculture on behalf of ruminant livestock producers located in several drought stricken Texas counties. The basis for establishing this variance for these Texas counties is documented severe drought conditions. USDA has reviewed the recommendation for a temporary variance for organic ruminant livestock producers according to NOP regulation requirements in §205.290. Based upon the submitted documentation, the request for temporary variance from §§205.237(c) and 205.240 is granted, with restrictions, and is in effect for the 2011 grazing season.

The temporary variance from §§ 205.237(c) and 205.240 is restricted to:

- Organic ruminant livestock producers located in any of the 214 Texas counties designated as primary natural disaster areas on April 4, and June 24, 2011, by USDA Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack.
- Non-irrigated pasture only; producers having access to irrigated pasture are not included in the variance.
- 2011 grazing season only; producers must comply with §§ 205.237(c)(2) and 205.240 for the 2012 grazing season, or submit a new request for Temporary Variance for 2012, as applicable.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Robert Pooler, Regional Accreditation Manager, at (202) 720-3252 or bob.pooler@ams.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Shipman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David R. Shipman
Acting Administrator

Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles McEvoy, the Deputy Administrator for the National Organic Program will be traveling to the Texas panhandle to assess the effects of the pasture rule and the temporary variance issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. The temporary variance was issued in response to a severe drought in the 2011 grazing season. While touring organic poultry, beef and dairy farms, other issues will be explored including how organic dairy farms are sourcing replacement heifers; how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and outdoor access for poultry.

Tentative Schedule

Day	Farm		Certifier	City	Travel time (hrs.)	Visit time	Email/phone
Monday	Travel to Amarillo						
Tuesday (North)	Natural prairie Dairy Farm	Dairy	TDA	Channing	1.5	8:30-11	(b) (6)
Tuesday	Cottonwood Cattle Co	Beef	QCS	Dalhart	0.5	12:00-2:30	(b) (6)
Tuesday	Aurora	Dairy	QAI	Stratford	0.5	3-5:30	(b) (6)
	Back to Amarillo				1.5		
Wednesday (West)	Redland Dairy	Dairy	TDA	Farwell	1.5	8:30-11	(b) (6)
Wednesday	Native Pastures	Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	0.5	12-2:30	(b) (6)
Wednesday	Lake Ridge LLC	Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	0.5	3-5:30	(b) (6)
	Stay in Clovis						
Thursday (South)	Hilltop Dairy	Dairy	TDA	Earth	1	8-10	(b) (6)
Thursday	Boehning Dairy Farm	Dairy, beef	TDA	Earth	2	10-1	(b) (6)
Thursday	Idalou Egg Ranch	eggs	CCOF	Idalou	1.5	4-6	(b) (6)
	Travel back to Amarillo	Possibly stay			2		

		in Lubbock					
Friday	Travel back to DC						

Farm	Certifier	City	State	Products
Native Pastures	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Clovis	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Lake Ridge LLC	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	transitioned dairy heifers
Nature's Way Management	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Aurora Organic Farms - Coldwater	Quality Assurance International	Stratford	Texas	Dairy, Livestock, Pasture, Livestock Forage
Cottonwood Cattle Co.	Quality Certification Services	Dalhart	Texas	Cattle
Boehning Dairy Farm (Milk)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE, BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS
Hilltop Dairy, Llc	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Redland Dairy, Llc.	Texas Department of Agriculture	Farwell	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Natural Prairie Dairy Farms (LS)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Channing	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE

Overview of Trip to Texas Panhandle

Miles McEvoy, the Deputy Administrator for the National Organic Program will be traveling to the Texas panhandle to assess the effects of the pasture rule and the temporary variance issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. The temporary variance was issued in response to a severe drought in the 2011 grazing season. While touring organic poultry, beef and dairy farms, other issues will be explored including how organic dairy farms are sourcing replacement heifers; how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and outdoor access for poultry.

Tentative Schedule

Day	Farm		Certifier	City	Travel time (hrs.)	Visit time	Email/phone
Monday	Travel to Amarillo						
Tuesday (North)	Natural prairie Dairy Farm	Dairy	TDA	Channing	1.5	8:30-11	(b) (6)
Tuesday	Cottonwood Cattle Co	Beef	QCS	Dalhart	0.5	12:00-2:30	(b) (6)
Tuesday	Aurora	Dairy	QAI	Stratford	0.5	3-5:30	(b) (6)
	Back to Amarillo				1.5		
Wednesday (West)	Redland Dairy	Dairy	TDA	Farwell	1.5	8:30-11	(b) (6)
Wednesday	Native Pastures	Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	0.5	12-2:30	(b) (6)
Wednesday	Lake Ridge LLC	Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	0.5	3-5:30	(b) (6)
	Stay in Clovis						
Thursday (South)	Hilltop Dairy	Dairy	TDA	Earth	1	8-10	(b) (6)
Thursday	Boehning Dairy Farm	Dairy, beef	TDA	Earth	2	10-1	(b) (6)
Thursday	Idalou Egg Ranch	eggs	CCOF	Idalou	1.5	4-6	(b) (6)
	Travel back to Amarillo	Possibly stay			2		

		in Lubbock					
Friday	Travel back to DC						

Farm	Certifier	City	State	Products
Native Pastures	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Clovis	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Lake Ridge LLC	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	transitioned dairy heifers
Nature's Way Management	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Portales	New Mexico	dairy cattle
Aurora Organic Farms - Coldwater	Quality Assurance International	Stratford	Texas	Dairy, Livestock, Pasture, Livestock Forage
Cottonwood Cattle Co.	Quality Certification Services	Dalhart	Texas	Cattle
Boehning Dairy Farm (Milk)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE, BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS
Hilltop Dairy, Llc	Texas Department of Agriculture	Earth	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Redland Dairy, Llc.	Texas Department of Agriculture	Farwell	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE
Natural Prairie Dairy Farms (LS)	Texas Department of Agriculture	Channing	Texas	DAIRY CATTLE

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Meade, Rita
Cc: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: Texas trip

Please make the hotel arrangements for the Texas trip-
July 23-25 – Amarillo – prefer downtown area
July 25- Clovis
July 26 – Lubbock – prefer downtown area

Miles McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program
202-720-3252

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 7:06 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS; Ahramjian, Lisa - AMS
Cc: Courtney, Cheri - AMS; Tucker, Jennifer - AMS; Bailey, Melissa - AMS
Subject: texas trip report
Attachments: texas trip rpt.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The report looks good. We should add some photos. The summary findings include a number of items that need followup.

We also need to include the correct names for the QAI, TDA and QCS people that were present during our visits.

Miles V McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program
202-720-3252

**Texas and New Mexico Livestock Operations
National Organic Program (NOP) Trip Report**

Between July 24 and July 27, 2012, NOP Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy and NOP Compliance and Enforcement Director Matthew Michael visited nine organic livestock operations in the Texas panhandle and Eastern New Mexico. The purpose of the tour was to assess the implementation of the pasture rule by accredited certifying agents and organic ruminant operations; and evaluate the 2012 drought and effects of the temporary variances issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. While touring organic poultry, beef and dairy farms, other issues were evaluate including how organic dairy farms are sourcing replacement heifers; how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and outdoor access for poultry.

We visited six dairy farms, two replacement heifer operations and one egg producer. Five certifying agents certified the operations and representatives from each, with the exception of CCOF, accompanied us on our visits.

Name	Location	Type of Operation	Certifier
Natural Prairie Dairy	Channing, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Cottonwood Cattle	Dalhart, TX	Heifer Replacement	Quality Certification Services
Aurora Dairy	Stratford, TX	Dairy	Quality Assurance International
Native Pastures Dairy	Clovis, NM	Dairy	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Lake Ridge LLC	Portales, NM	Heifer Replacement	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Redland Dairy	Farwell, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Hilltop Dairy	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Boehning Dairy Farm	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Idalou Egg Ranch	Idalou, TX	Egg Production	CCOF

Our observations at each operation follow, along with a summary of general findings.

Natural Prairie Dairy

Natural Prairie is certified by TDA. TDA supervisor xxxx xxx met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Natural Prairie was first certified as an organic dairy operation in 2005. It is certified for livestock, handling and crops. It currently manages approximately 7,300 cattle organically and produces organic corn, wheat and alfalfa. Agrivision, the management company that runs Natural Prairie, also runs conventional dairies elsewhere in Texas.

(b) (4)
[Redacted text block]

Nature Prairie seemed to have little difficulty complying with the requirements for livestock access to pasture and DMI, even in light of drought conditions. This partially results from its abundance of irrigated land. However, it also has developed a fairly sophisticated electronic system for managing pasture and livestock and has a robust employee development program, which reportedly enhanced performance.

Natural Prairie has acquired (b) (4) cattle since its certification, both conventional and organic and mostly from Central California. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Cottonwood Cattle

Cottonwood is a heifer replacement operation certified for livestock production by Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida. Ram, QCS Certification Director, accompanied us during the visit.

It manages significant amounts of pasture around Dalhart, Texas, and a feed lot where approximately (b) (4) cattle are held. Cottonwood is affiliated with at least two other companies: (b) (4)

[Redacted]

(b) (4) [Redacted]

(b) (4), (b) (5)

In CY11, Cottonwood operated under a temporary variance granted to operations in Texas, owing to the drought. As a result of the variance, Cottonwood met neither the pasture access nor the DMI requirements in CY11. Additionally, fires damaged approximately 12,000 acres of Cottonwood's land and fencing in April, May and June of 2011. We visited this pasture and confirmed that it had limited feed value as a result of the drought and the fires. We also visited additional land owned by Cottonwood on which several hundred cattle were pastured. This pasture had adequate feed and was similar in quality to the pasture on neighboring operations that we visited.

At the time of our visit, (b) (5)

On September 12, 2012, the NOP issued a Notice of Noncompliance to QCS for failing to ensure Cottonwood met USDA organic regulations concerning access to pasture under 7 CFR.237(c)(1) and (2), 7 CFR 240 (a) and 7 CFR 205.240(b). QCS has yet to respond. Attorneys for Cottonwood have informed us that the cattle in the feedlot were trucked to pasture in August, after our visit.

Commented [Miles1]: Check date.

Aurora Dairy

Aurora Dairy is certified by QAI. A women from QAI met us at the dairy and accompanied us during the visit. Aurora Dairy has been certified since 2007 for livestock and crops (although it cultivates only pasture). It manages approximately (b) (4)

Aurora Dairy continues to meet the pasture access and DMI requirements despite the drought, likely due to available irrigation and good management. In CY11, its cattle had an average DMI (b) percent. This year, its dry cows are achieving (b) percent and lactating cows are achieving (b) percent.

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4)

Native Pasture Dairy

Martin Sanchez, NMDA met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Native Pasture Dairy manages (b) (4)

Native Pasture Dairy easily meets the access requirements, recently pasturing animals for ove (b) days in a year. It was unable to provide its DMI calculations however, but estimated them to be around (b) percent. Management stated that NMDA did not request the numbers during the last inspection. It is worth noting that our visits to operations in New Mexico raised general concerns about (b) (5)

Like most dairies we visited, Native Pasture Dairy uses (b) (4), (b) (5)

Lake Ridge, LLC

Martin Sanchez, NMDA met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. At the time of our visit, Lake Ridge was raising (b) (4) heifers on land outside of Portales. Management said they had reduced the number of cattle raised owing to drought conditions. Our observations confirmed that drought had severely affected the pasture. That being said, the heifers at Lake Ridge had been moved to a part of the pasture with adequate feed value.

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Redland Dairy

TDA supervisor xxxx xxx met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Redland Dairy manages approximately (b) cattle, including (b) heifers. (b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Hilltop Dairy and Boehning Dairy Farm

TDA supervisor xxxx xxx met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. These two large dairies, owned jointly, are situated next to each other near Earth, Texas. Together, the operations have (b) cows and (b) heifers, with (b) cows milking at the time of our visit. Both are certified for livestock

and processing (milk and feed). The properties include significant amounts of dryland pasture, irrigated pasture and organic crops (corn, sorghum and alfalfa raised for feed).

(b) (4)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Idalou Chicken Ranch

This operation is certified by CCOF for livestock, processing (feed) and crops. Interestingly, the crops are organic pecans raised on land surrounding the facility. Idalou Chicken Ranch's OSP states that they have about (b) (4) birds and plans to increase to (b) (4). During our visit, management was (b) (4)

[Redacted]

During our visit (b) (4)

[Redacted]

Summary Findings

- For the most part, dairy and heifer replacement operations in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico are meeting the requirements of the pasture rule, despite the drought.
- Five out of 6 Texas ruminant operations met the 30% DMI from pasture requirements in 2011 despite the drought and the granting of the temporary variance in 2011. These operations also

appeared to meet the 30% DMI from pasture requirement in 2012 during the second year of the drought.

- (b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: McEvoy, Miles - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Subject: Texas trip

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Did you get the message from Rita and Scott regarding our schedule? Both ate out today and Monday. There were 2 farms where we left messages but did not confirm the new times. We also need to notify Brett baker at NMDA and Mary at TDA about the schedule change.
Please let them know. Thanks.

**Texas and New Mexico Livestock Operations
NOP Trip Report**

Between July 24 and July 27, 2012, Miles McEvoy and Matthew Michael of the NOP (we) visited nine organic livestock operations in Texas and Eastern New Mexico. The purposes of the trip were both surveillance and outreach. Specifically during the trip, we planned to assess compliance with the pasture rule, observe drought conditions and their impact on organic operations and discuss with operators and certifiers various issues pertinent to organic production and compliance.

We visited six dairy farms, two replacement heifer operations and one egg producer. Five certifying agents certified the operations and representatives from each, with the exception of California Certified Organic Farmers, accompanied us on our visits.

Name	Location	Type of Operation	Certifier
Natural Prairie Dairy	Channing, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Cottonwood Cattle	Dalhart, TX	Heifer Replacement	Quality Certification Services
Aurora Dairy	Stratford, TX	Dairy	Quality Assurance International
Native Pastures Dairy	Clovis, NM	Dairy	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Lake Ridge LLC	Portales, NM	Heifer Replacement	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Redland Dairy	Farwell, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Hilltop Dairy	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Boehning Dairy Farm	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Idalou Egg Ranch	Idalou, TX	Egg Production	California Certified Organic Farmers

Our observations at each operation follow, along with a summary of general findings.

Natural Prairie Dairy

Natural Prairie was first certified as an organic dairy operation in 2005. It is certified for livestock, handling and crops. It currently manages approximately (b) cattle organically and grow corn, wheat and alfalfa. Agrivision, the management company that runs Natural Prairie, also runs conventional dairies elsewhere in Texas.

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out information]

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Cottonwood Cattle

Cottonwood is a heifer replacement operation certified for livestock production by Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida. It manages significant amounts of pasture around Dalhart, Texas, and a feed lot where approximately (b) (4) cattle are held. (b) (4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4) [Redacted]

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The NOP has issued a Notice of Noncompliance to QCS for failing to ensure Cottonwood meet USDA organic regulations concerning access to pasture under 7 CFR.237(c)(1) and (2), 7 CFR 240 (a) and 7 CFR 205.240(b). QCS has yet to respond. Attorneys for Cottonwood have informed us that the cattle in the feedlot were trucked to pasture in August, after our visit.

Aurora Dairy

Aurora Dairy has been certified since 2007 for livestock and crops (although it cultivates only pasture). It manages approximately (b) (4)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

(b) (4) [Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted list item]

Native Pasture Dairy

Native Pasture Dairy manages about (b) cattle, approximately (b) of which were milk cows at the time of our visit. The operation is certified for livestock and handling (the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) requires organic milk producers to be certified for handling). A related operation with the same ownership, Highland Farms, grows organic feed for Native Pasture Dairy.

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Lake Ridge, LLC

At the time of our visit, Lake Ridge was raising about (b) heifers on land outside of Portales. Management said they had reduced the number of cattle raised owing to drought conditions. Our observations confirmed that drought had severely affected the pasture. That being said, the heifers at Lake Ridge had been moved to a part of the pasture with adequate feed value.

(b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

Redland Dairy

Redland Dairy manages approximately (b) cattle, including (b) heifers. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

Hilltop Dairy and Boehning Dairy Farm

These two large dairies, owned jointly, are situated next to each other near Earth, Texas. Together, the operations have (b) cows and (b) heifers, with (b) cows milking at the time of our visit. Both are certified for livestock and processing (milk and feed). The properties include significant amounts of dryland pasture, irrigated pasture and organic crops (corn, sorghum and alfalfa raised for feed). (Miles – I don't have acreage in my notes)

(b) (4)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Idalou Chicken Ranch

This operation is certified by CCOF for livestock, processing (feed) and crops. Interestingly, the crops are organic pecans raised on land surrounding the facility. Idalou Chicken Ranch's OSP states that has about (b) (4) birds and plans to increase to (b) (4). During our visit, (b) (4).

During our visit, (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

Summary Findings

- For the most part, dairy and heifer replacement operations in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico are meeting the requirements of the pasture rule, despite the drought.
- (b) (5)
[Redacted]

- (b) (5) [Redacted]

- █ [Redacted]

- █ [Redacted]



From: [Bailey, Melissa - AMS](#)
To: [Updike, Scott - AMS](#)
Subject: Trip report examples
Date: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:26:33 PM
Attachments: [12_09_2010_Iowa_Finish_Feeding_Trip_Report.docx](#)
[Ohio assessment-ebr.docx](#)

Here are two examples – the one from Iowa I did, the Ohio one still had a few edits in it – Mark Keating did that one when he was here.

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Cottonwood Cattle

Cottonwood is a heifer replacement operation certified for livestock production by Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida. It manages significant amounts of pasture around Dalhart, Texas, and a feed lot where approximately (b) (4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

In CY11, Cottonwood operated under a temporary variance granted to operations in Texas, owing to the drought. As a result off the variance, Cottonwood met neither the pasture access nor the DMI requirements in CY11. Additionally, fires damaged approximately 12,000 acres of Cottonwood’s land and fencing in April, May and June of 2011. We visited this pasture and confirmed that it had little or no feed value as a result of the drought and the fires. We also visited additional land owned by Cottonwood on which several hundred cattle were pastured. This pasture seemed to adequate feed value and was similar in quality to the pasture on neighboring operations that we visited.

At the time of our visit, (b) (4) [Redacted]

The NOP has issued a Notice of Noncompliance to QCS for failing to ensure Cottonwood meet USDA organic regulations concerning access to pasture under 7 CFR.237(c)(1) and (2), 7 CFR 240 (a) and 7 CFR 205.240(b). QCS has yet to respond. Attorneys for Cottonwood have informed us that the cattle in the feedlot were trucked to pasture in August, after our visit.

Aurora Dairy

Aurora Dairy has been certified since 2007 for livestock and crops (although it cultivates only pasture). It manages approximately (b) (4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4)
- [Redacted text block]

Native Pasture Dairy

Native Pasture Dairy manages about (b) cattle, approximately (b) of which were milk cows at the time of our visit. The operation is certified for livestock and handling (the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) requires organic milk producers to be certified for handling). A related operation with the same ownership, Highland Farms, grows organic feed for Native Pasture Dairy.

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Lake Ridge, LLC

At the time of our visit, Lake Ridge was raising about (b) heifers on land outside of Portales. Management said they had reduced the number of cattle raised owing to drought conditions. Our observations confirmed that drought had severely affected the pasture. That being said, the heifers at Lake Ridge had been moved to a part of the pasture with adequate feed value.

(b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

Redland Dairy

Redland Dairy manages approximately (b) cattle, including (b) heifers. Its cattle are both transitioned and organic from the last third of gestation. It pastures the cattle on four irrigated circles.

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

Hilltop Dairy and Boehning Dairy Farm

These two large dairies, owned jointly, are situated next to each other near Earth, Texas. Together, the operations have (b) cows and (b) heifers, with (b) cows milking at the time of our visit. Both are certified for livestock and processing (milk and feed). The properties include significant amounts of dryland pasture, irrigated pasture and organic crops (corn, sorghum and alfalfa raised for feed). (Miles – I don't have acreage in my notes)

(b) (5), (b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Idalou Chicken Ranch

This operation is certified by CCOF for livestock, processing (feed) and crops. Interestingly, the crops are organic pecans raised on land surrounding the facility. Idalou Chicken Ranch’s OSP states that has about (b) (4) birds and plans to increase to (b) (4). During our visit, management was still building housing for chicks and it seemed that the operation was well short of full capacity.

During our visit, (b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

Summary Findings

- For the most part, dairy and heifer replacement operations in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico are meeting the requirements of the pasture rule, despite the drought.

- (b) (5)

- (b) (5) [Redacted]

- █ [Redacted]

- █ [Redacted]



Schurkamp, Lynnea - AMS

From: Michael, Matthew - AMS
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Bakker, Brett (bbakker@nmda.nmsu.edu)
Subject: trip schedule

Hi Brett:

Here is the revised schedule for the New Mexico portion of our trip.

July 25	Native Pastures – Dairy	NMDA	Clovis, NM	10:00 – 1:00	(b) (6)
July 25	Lake Ridge LLC - Heifers	NMDA	Portales, NM	2:00 – 5:30	Kit Pettigrew 575.760.6430

Have a nice weekend.

Matthew Michael
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division
USDA National Organic Program
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959
Washington, DC 20250-0268
Phone: (202) 260-8657
matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov

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20881 Native Pastures	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	383 Livestock
20950 Lake Ridge LLC	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	385 Livestock
20954 Nature's Way Manage	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	327 Livestock
25288 Aurora Organic Farms	Quality Assurance International	C0054291- Livestock
25026 Cottonwood Cattle Co	Quality Certification Services	1033L Livestock
25068 Boehning Dairy Farm (Texas Department of Agriculture	460435 Livestock
25069 Hilltop Dairy, Ll	Texas Department of Agriculture	595994 Livestock
25089 Redland Dairy, Ll.	Texas Department of Agriculture	507263 Livestock
25001 Natural Prairie Dairy F	Texas Department of Agriculture	440222 Livestock

Schaap	Arthur	650 Curry Rd O Clovis	New Mexic	88101 United Stat	(b) (6)
Lake Ridge	Kit & Ann F	408 Hwy 1: PO Portales	New Mexic	88116 United Stat	(b) (6)
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	42547 US Hwy Portales	New Mexic	88130 United Stat	(b) (6)
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	5490 County R Stratford	Texas	79084 United Stat	(b) (6)
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	13125 FM P.O Dalhart	Texas	79022 United Stat	(b) (6)
Boehning	Brian	690 Cr 45 Earth	Texas	79031 United Stat	8.07E+09
Boehning	Brian	690 Country R Earth	Texas	79031 United Stat	8.07E+09
Price	Travis	711 Cr 4 Farwell	Texas	79325 United Stat	5.76E+09
(b) (6)	(b) (6)	10250 Us F P.O Channing	Texas	79018 United Stat	8.06E+09

(b) (6) dairy cattle

(b) (6) -{ grahamtitk transitioned dairy heifers

(b) (6) jlcane@yuc dairy cattle

447 Dairy, Livestock, Pasture, Livestock Forage

(b) (6) bornemeie Cattle

boehningd DAIRY CATTLE, BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

DAIRY CATTLE

DAIRY CATTLE

DEJONGC@DAIRY CATTLE

Texas and New Mexico Livestock Operations National Organic Program (NOP) Trip Report

(b) (4)



Between July 24 and July 27, 2012, NOP Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy and NOP Compliance and Enforcement Director Matthew Michael visited nine organic livestock operations in the Texas panhandle and Eastern New Mexico. The purpose of the tour was to assess the implementation of the pasture rule by accredited certifying agents and organic ruminant operations; and evaluate the 2012 drought and effects of the temporary variances issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. While touring organic poultry, beef and dairy farms, other issues were evaluate including how organic dairy farms are sourcing replacement heifers; how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and outdoor access for poultry.

We visited six dairy farms, two replacement heifer operations and one egg producer. Five certifying agents certified the operations and representatives from each, with the exception of CCOF, accompanied us on our visits.

Name	Location	Type of Operation	Certifier
Natural Prairie Dairy	Channing, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Cottonwood Cattle	Dalhart, TX	Heifer Replacement	Quality Certification Services
Aurora Dairy	Stratford, TX	Dairy	Quality Assurance International
Native Pastures Dairy	Clovis, NM	Dairy	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Lake Ridge LLC	Portales, NM	Heifer Replacement	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Redland Dairy	Farwell, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Hilltop Dairy	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Boehning Dairy Farm	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Idalou Egg Ranch	Idalou, TX	Egg Production	CCOF

Our observations at each operation follow, along with a summary of general findings.

Natural Prairie Dairy

Natural Prairie is certified by TDA. TDA supervisor (b) (6) met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Natural Prairie was first certified as an organic dairy operation in 2005. It is certified for livestock, handling and crops. It currently manages approximately (b) (4) cattle organically and produces organic corn, wheat and alfalfa. Agrivision, the management company that runs Natural Prairie, also runs conventional dairies elsewhere in Texas.

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out information]

(b) (4)



Natural Prairie has acquired about (b) (4) cattle since its certification, both conventional and organic and mostly from Central California. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Cottonwood Cattle

Cottonwood is a heifer replacement operation certified for livestock production by Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida. Ramkrishnan Balasubramanian, QCS Certification Director, accompanied us during the visit. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

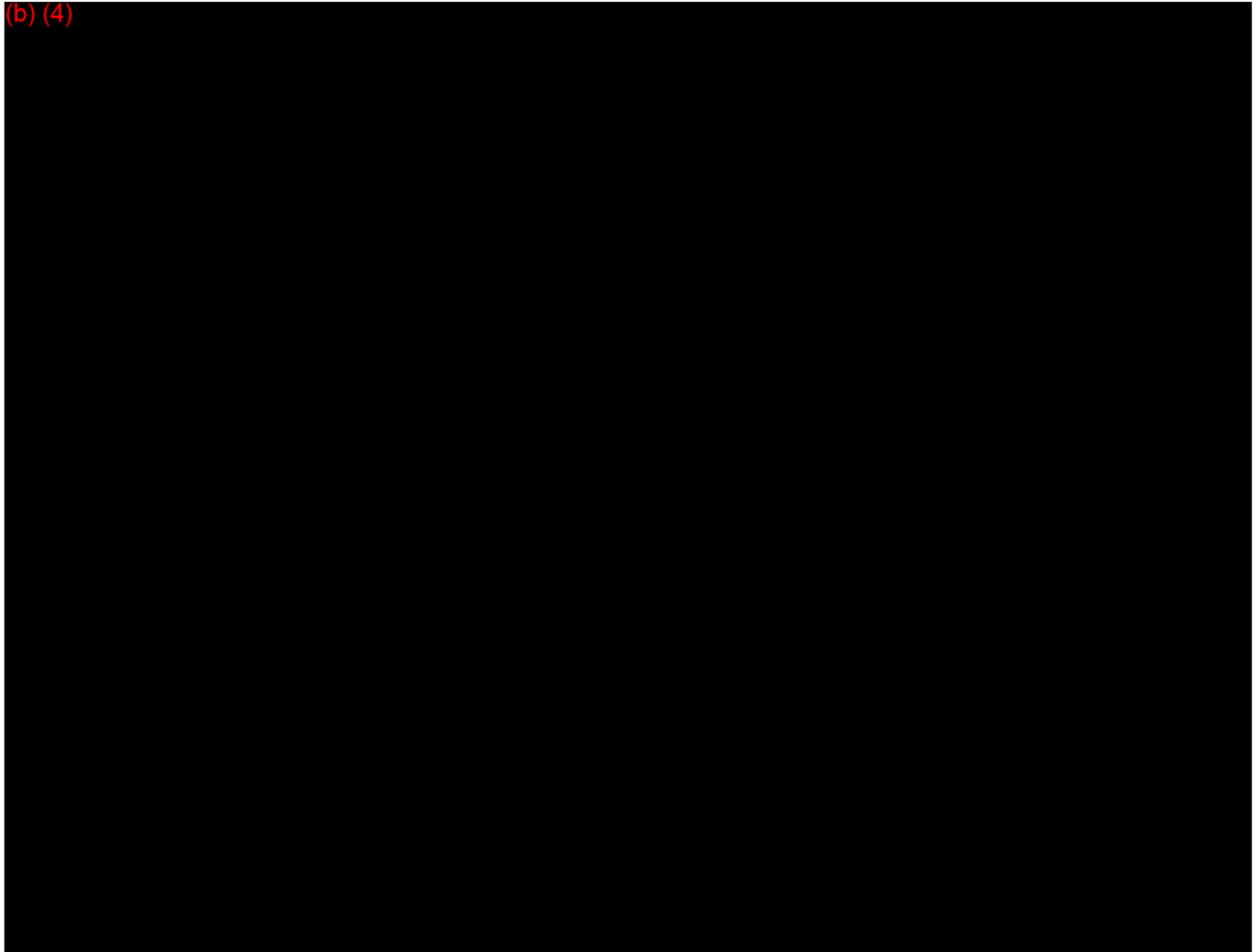
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

This land is currently irrigated and being used to grow crops and not for pasture which may be a violation of 205.240.

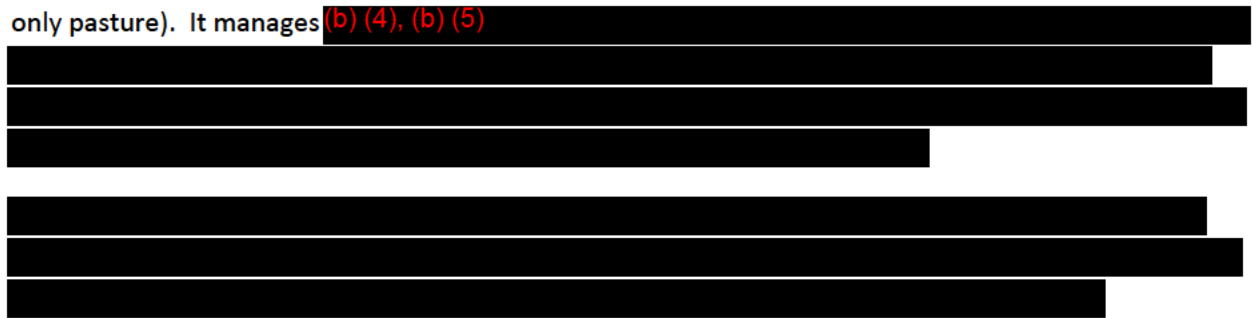
(b) (4)



On September 12, 2012 the NOP issued a Notice of Noncompliance to QCS for failing to ensure Cottonwood met USDA organic regulations concerning access to pasture under 7 CFR.237(c)(1) and (2), 7 CFR 240 (a) and 7 CFR 205.240(b). QCS has yet to respond. Attorneys for Cottonwood have informed us that the cattle in the feedlot were trucked to pasture in August, after our visit.

Aurora Dairy

Aurora Dairy is certified by QAI. A representative from QAI met us at the dairy and accompanied us during the visit. Aurora Dairy has been certified since 2007 for livestock and crops (although it cultivates only pasture). It manages (b) (4), (b) (5)



(b) (4), (b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)
[Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4)
[Redacted list item]

Native Pasture Dairy

Martin Sanchez, NMDA, met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Native Pasture Dairy manages about (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)

Lake Ridge, LLC

Martin Sanchez, NMDA, met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. At the time of our visit, Lake Ridge was raising about (b) heifers on land outside of Portales. Management said they had reduced the number of cattle raised owing to drought conditions. Our observations confirmed that drought had severely affected the pasture. That being said, the heifers at Lake Ridge had been moved to a part of the pasture with adequate feed value.

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Redland Dairy

TDA supervisor (b) (6) met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Redland Dairy manages approximately (b) (6) cattle, including (b) (6) heifers. Its cattle are both transitioned and organic from the last third of gestation. (b) (4)

(b) (4), (b) (5)

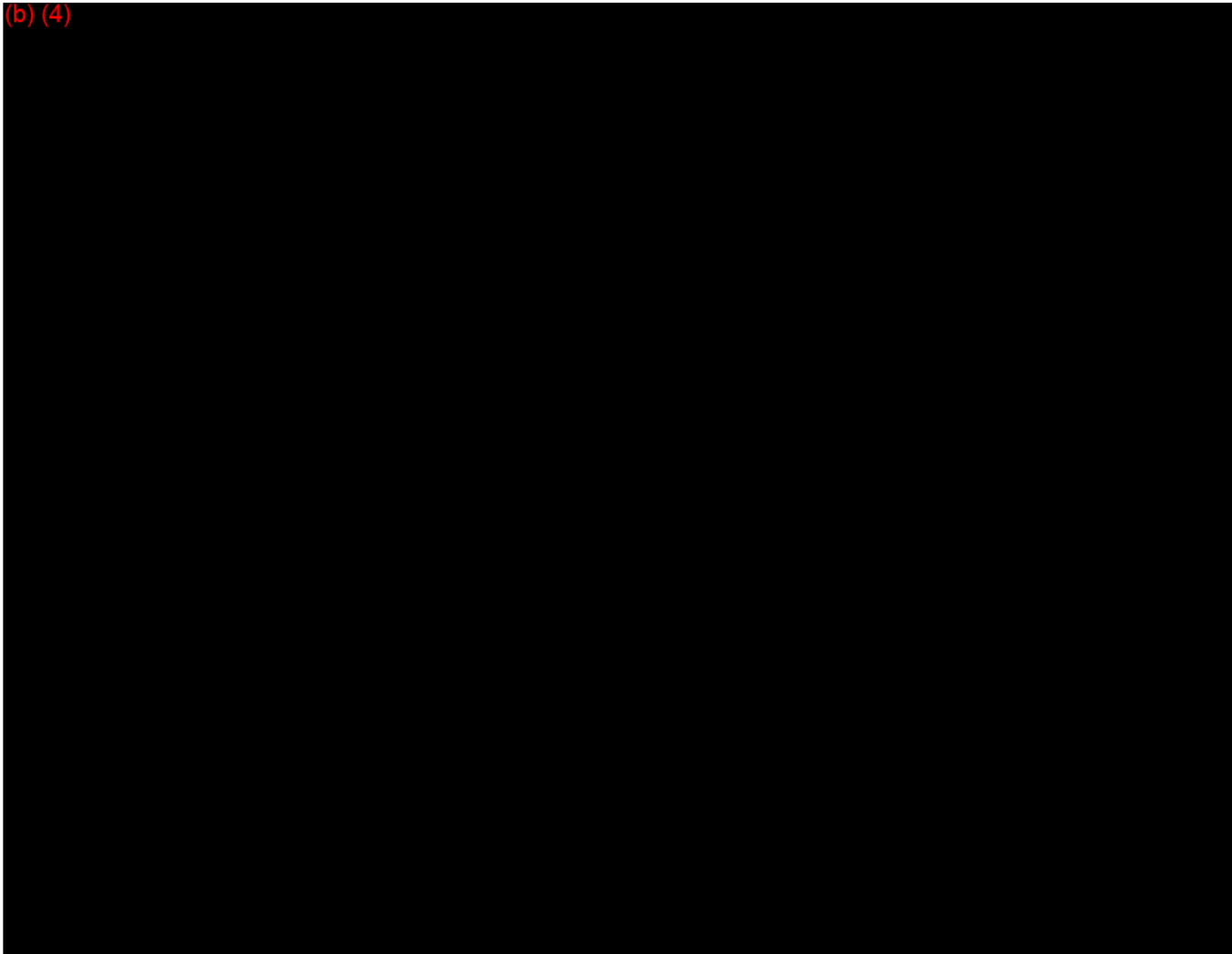
[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)



Hilltop Dairy and Boehning Dairy Farm

TDA supervisor (b) (6) accompanied to the farm and during the visit. These two large dairies, owned jointly, are situated next to each other near Earth, Texas. Together, the operations have (b) (4)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Idalou Chicken Ranch

This operation is certified by CCOF for livestock, processing (feed) and crops. Interestingly, the crops are organic pecans raised on land surrounding the facility. (b) (4), (b) (5)

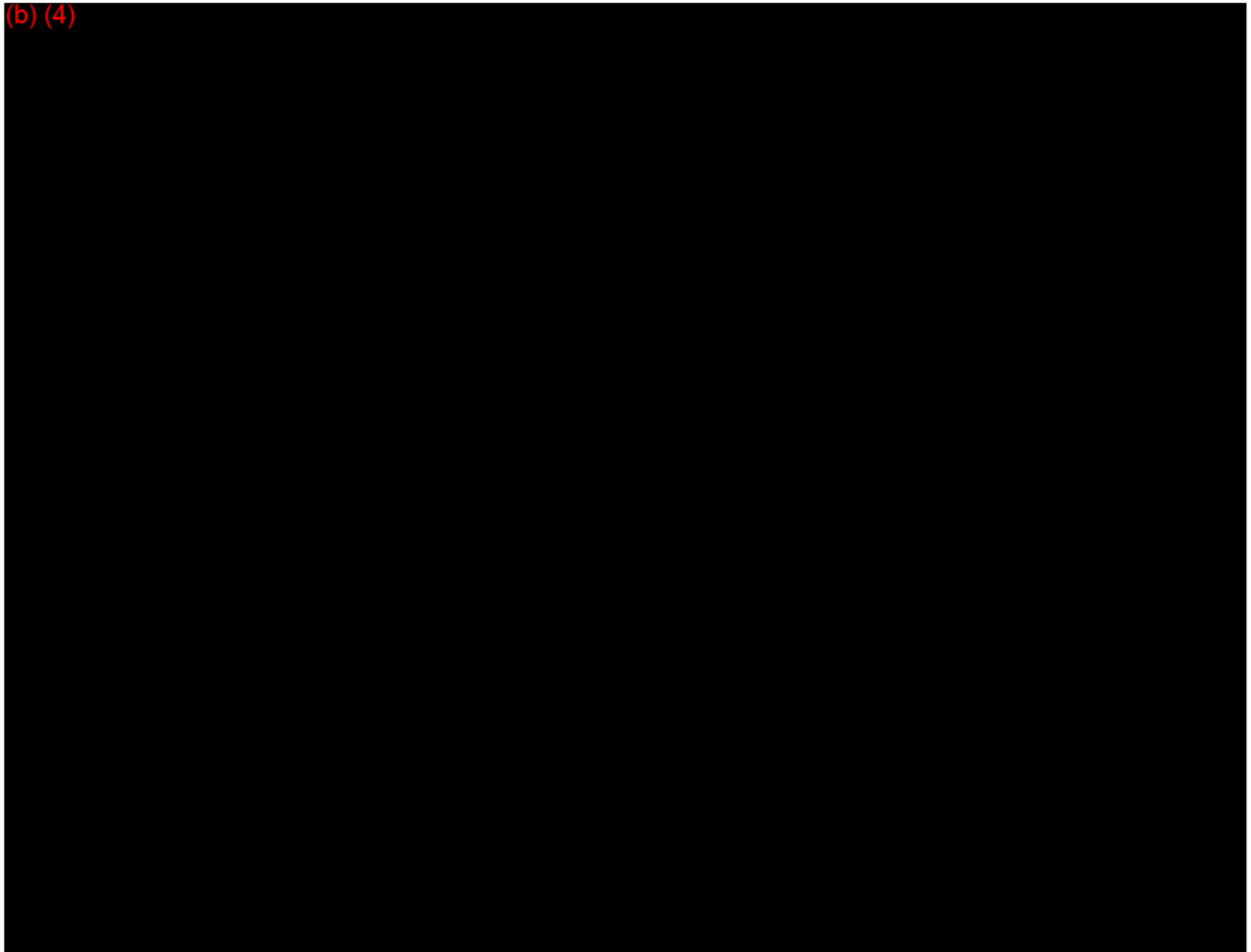
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



(b) (4)



Birds looking though an opening in a house at the Idalou Chicken Ranch

Summary Findings

- For the most part, dairy and heifer replacement operations in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico are meeting the requirements of the pasture rule, despite the drought.

- (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

- █ [Redacted text block]

- █ [Redacted text block]

- (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Texas and New Mexico Livestock Operations National Organic Program (NOP) Trip Report

(b) (4)



Between July 24 and July 27, 2012, NOP Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy and NOP Compliance and Enforcement Director Matthew Michael visited nine organic livestock operations in the Texas panhandle and Eastern New Mexico. The purpose of the tour was to assess the implementation of the pasture rule by accredited certifying agents and organic ruminant operations; and evaluate the 2012 drought and effects of the temporary variances issued to ruminant livestock producers in 2011. While touring organic poultry, beef and dairy farms, other issues were evaluate including how organic dairy farms are sourcing replacement heifers; how farms and dairy processors coordinate sanitizer use of bulk milk trucks, and outdoor access for poultry.

We visited six dairy farms, two replacement heifer operations and one egg producer. Five certifying agents certified the operations and representatives from each, with the exception of CCOF, accompanied us on our visits.

Name	Location	Type of Operation	Certifier
Natural Prairie Dairy	Channing, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Cottonwood Cattle	Dalhart, TX	Heifer Replacement	Quality Certification Services
Aurora Dairy	Stratford, TX	Dairy	Quality Assurance International
Native Pastures Dairy	Clovis, NM	Dairy	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Lake Ridge LLC	Portales, NM	Heifer Replacement	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Redland Dairy	Farwell, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Hilltop Dairy	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Boehning Dairy Farm	Earth, TX	Dairy	Texas Department of Agriculture
Idalou Egg Ranch	Idalou, TX	Egg Production	CCOF

Our observations at each operation follow, along with a summary of general findings.

Natural Prairie Dairy

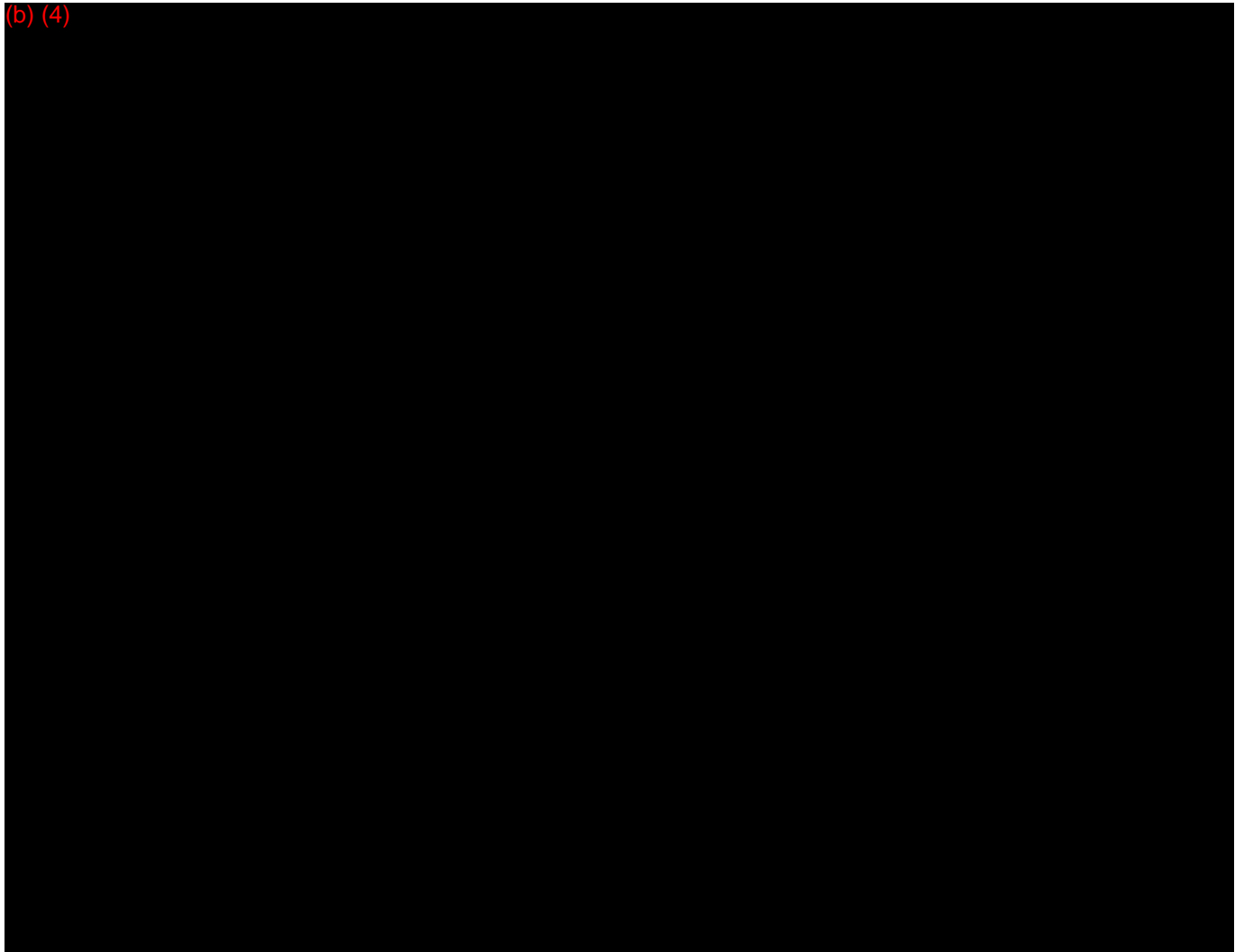
Natural Prairie is certified by TDA. TDA supervisor (b) (6) met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Natural Prairie was first certified as an organic dairy operation in 2005. It is certified for livestock, handling and crops. It currently manages (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4)



Natural Prairie has acquired about (b) (4) cattle since its certification, both conventional and organic and mostly from Central California. Management acknowledged in conversation that they had

(b) (4), (b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Cottonwood Cattle

Cottonwood is a heifer replacement operation certified for livestock production by Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida. Ramkrishnan Balasubramanian, QCS Certification Director, accompanied us during the visit. It manages (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4)

On September 12, 2012, the NOP issued a Notice of Noncompliance to QCS for failing to ensure Cottonwood met USDA organic regulations concerning access to pasture under 7 CFR.237(c)(1) and (2), 7 CFR 240 (a) and 7 CFR 205.240(b). QCS has yet to respond. Attorneys for Cottonwood have informed us that the cattle in the feedlot were trucked to pasture in August, after our visit.

Aurora Dairy

Aurora Dairy is certified by QAI. Alexis Randolph from QAI met us at the dairy and accompanied us during the visit. Aurora Dairy has been certified since 2007 for livestock and crops (although it cultivates only pasture). It manages (b) (4)

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out information]

(b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

(b) (4) [Redacted text block]

Some additional interesting observations:

- (b) (4) [Redacted list item]

Native Pasture Dairy

Martin Sanchez, NMDA, met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Native Pasture Dairy manages about (b) (4) cattle, approximately (b) (4) cows at the time of our visit. The operation is certified for livestock and handling (the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) requires organic milk producers to be certified for handling). (b) (4)

Native Pasture Dairy easily meets the access requirements, (b) (4), (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)

Lake Ridge, LLC

Martin Sanchez, NMDA, met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. At the time of our visit, Lake Ridge was raising about (b) (4) heifers on land outside of Portales. Management said they had reduced the number of cattle raised owing to drought conditions. Our observations confirmed that drought had severely affected the pasture. That being said, the heifers at Lake Ridge had been moved to a part of the pasture with adequate feed value.

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Redland Dairy

TDA supervisor (b) (6) met us at the farm and accompanied us during the visit. Redland Dairy manages approximately (b) (6) cattle, including (b) (6) heifers. Its cattle are both transitioned and organic from the last third of gestation. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block]

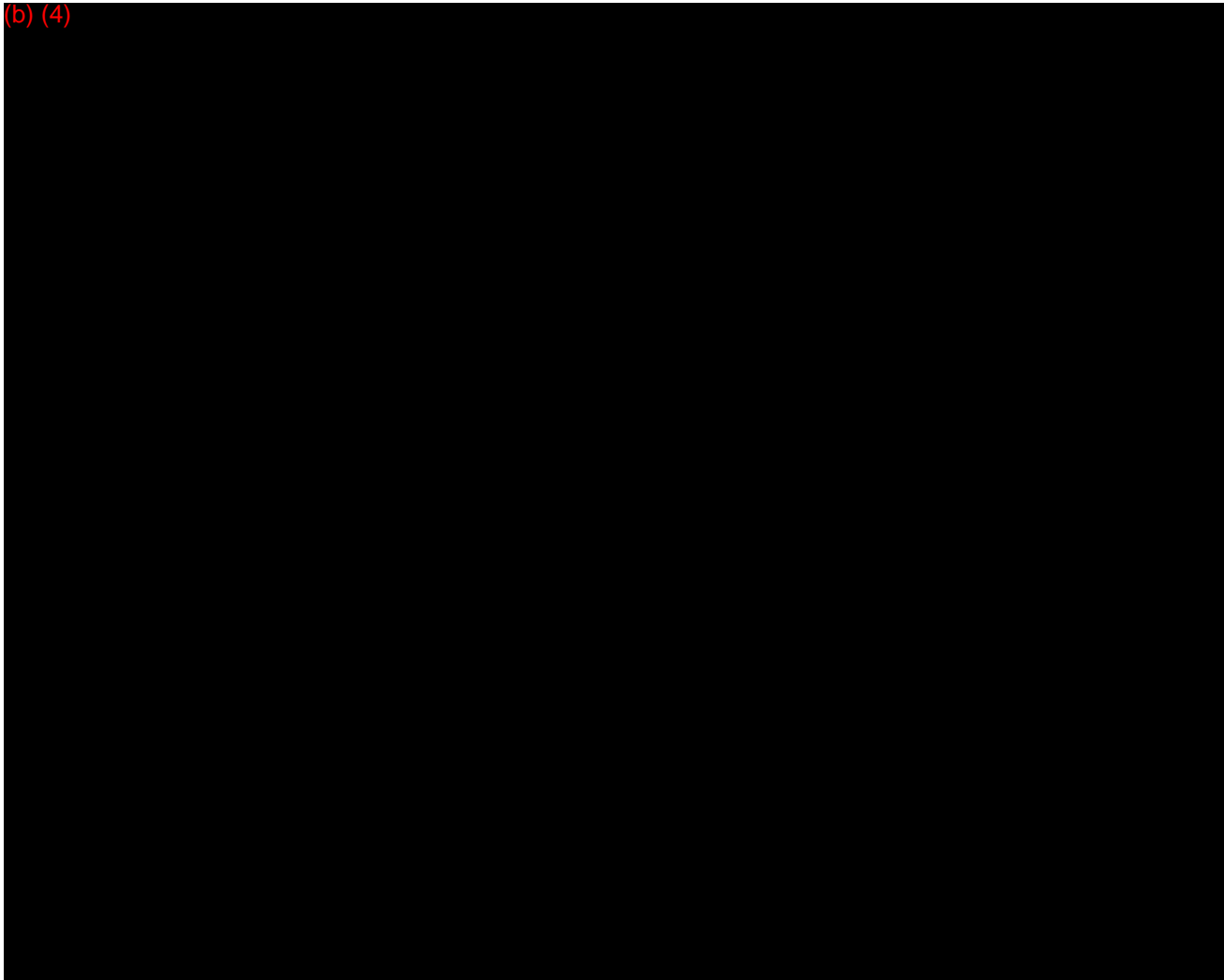
[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

(b) (4)



Hilltop Dairy and Boehning Dairy Farm

TDA supervisor (b) (6) accompanied to the farm and during the visit. These two large dairies, owned jointly, are situated next to each other near Earth, Texas. Together, the operations have (b) cows and (b) heifers, with (b) (4) at the time of our visit. Both are certified for livestock and processing (milk and feed). The properties include significant amounts of dryland pasture, irrigated pasture and organic crops (corn, sorghum and alfalfa raised for feed).

(b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted text block consisting of multiple lines of blacked-out content]

(b) (4) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Idalou Chicken Ranch

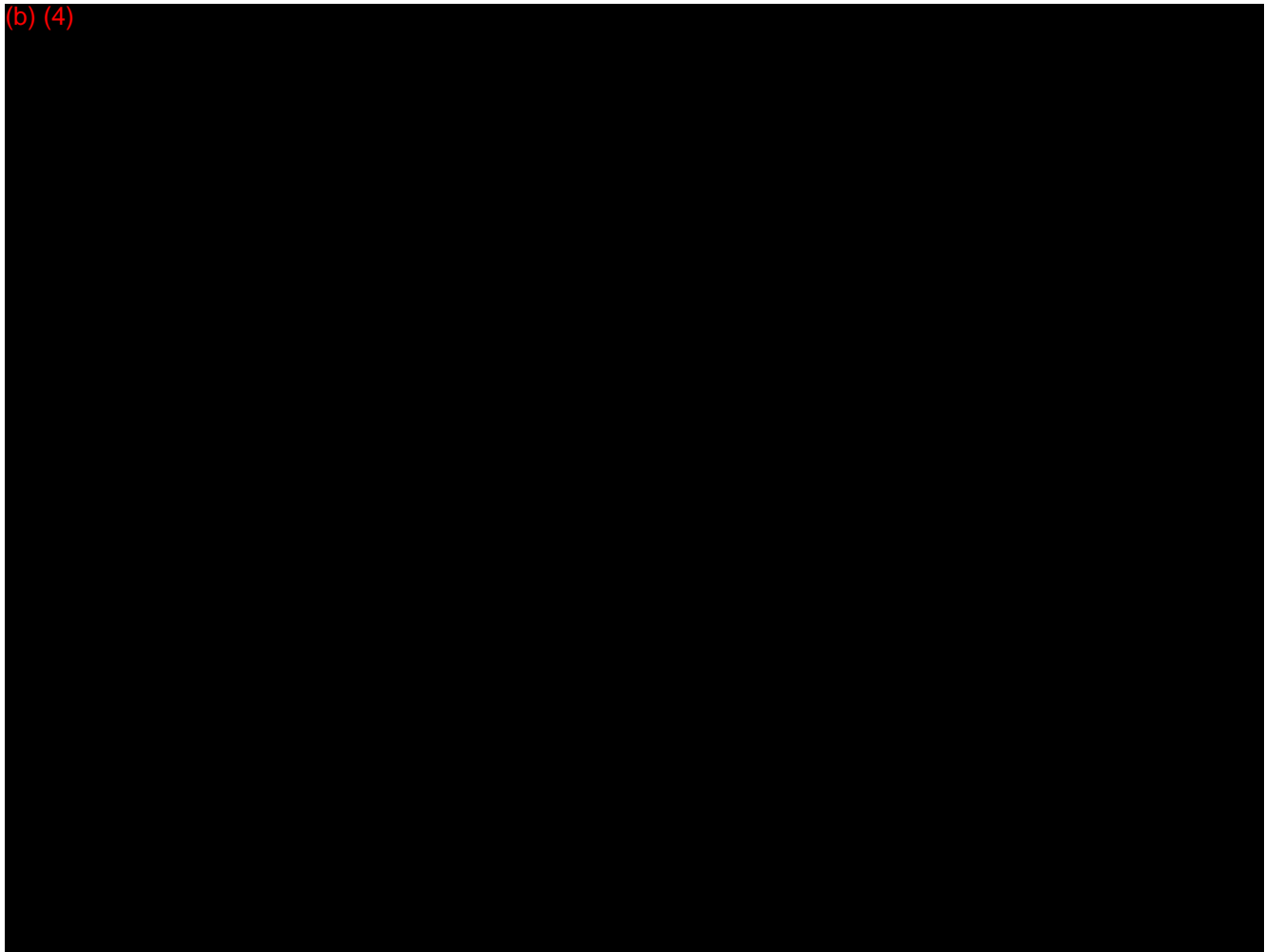
This operation is certified by CCOF for livestock, processing (feed) and crops. Interestingly, the crops are organic pecans raised on land surrounding the facility. (b) (4), (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (4)



Birds looking though an opening in a house at the Idalou Chicken Ranch

Summary Findings

- For the most part, dairy and heifer replacement operations in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico are meeting the requirements of the pasture rule, despite the drought.

- (b) (5) [Redacted text block]

- █ [Redacted text block]

- █ [Redacted text block]

- (b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]