

Kasie Maxwell

From: Tara Firma Farms <farmigo.tarafirmafarms@farmigo-csa-hr.appspotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Kasie Maxwell
Cc: jeff@sfrac.com
Subject: Rancho Update #3

This is important and you are the solution. Here is the latest we know:

- As many of you have undoubtedly heard, Ranch Veal Corp. in Petaluma has recalled 8.7 million pounds of beef- basically all the beef it processed in 2013.

- I am 100% confident that every pound of meat we sold you was of the highest quality and is in no way part of the USDA inquiry.

- This recall appears to be the result of missing paperwork. Let me explain this part a bit further: Part of Rancho's business is slaughtering old dairy cows. When one of those cows is brought in and appears to be sick or diseased, it is either sent back to the ranch it came from or destroyed. With that process there is paperwork to be done. Because that paperwork was apparently not done, or done improperly, the USDA cannot track where those cows went. So they have recalled an entire years worth of all beef *even though all other cattle have correct paperwork.*

The beef in question is beef carcass and offal, as I have mentioned before. The complete list includes:

- -"Beef Carcasses" (wholesale and custom sales only)
- 2 per box "Beef (Market) Heads" (retail only)
- 4-gallons per box "Beef Blood" (wholesale only)
- 20-lb. boxes of "Beef Oxtail"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Cheeks"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Lips"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Omasum"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Tripas"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Mountain Oysters"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Sweet Breads"
- 30- and 60-lb. boxes of "Beef Liver"
- 30- and 60-lb. boxes of "Beef Tripe"
- 30- and 60-lb. boxes of "Beef Tongue"
- 30- and 60-lb. boxes of "Veal Cuts"
- 40-lb. boxes of "Veal Bones"
- 50-lb. boxes of "Beef Feet"
- 50-lb. boxes of "Beef Hearts"
- 60-lb. boxes of "Veal Trim"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Book Tripe"
- 50-lb. boxes of "Beef Feet"
- 20-lb. boxes of "Beef Oxtail"
- 50-lb. boxes of "Beef Hearts"
- 60 and 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Liver"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Cheeks"
- 60-lb. boxes of "Beef Tripe"
- 30-lb. boxes of "Beef Tongue"

So how can I be so confident that the beef from Tara Firma is safe?

o Our animals are custom slaughtered. They go in every Thursday morning. The dairy cows go in on a different day. They are never comingled.

- o Each animal has a unique tag that stays with them all through the entire process.
- o After the kill, our cows are shipped to Golden Gate Meat Co. in Santa Rosa to be butchered.
- o I know with 100% certainty that our animals were healthy and I know with 100% certainty that they had all of the appropriate paperwork, approvals and stamps. No missing paperwork, process or procedure.
- o Rancho is required to have a USDA inspector to on the premises at all times, along with a veterinarian to inspect each animal.
- o Golden Gate has a USDA inspector also.
- o Our animals don't co-mingle with any others and have all the correct paperwork.

If you believe otherwise, bring back the meat you have left and I will refund you, no questions asked. Please do keep it frozen.

For the rest of you, I am warning you (sorry if that is too strong but) if we as a community do not act, we will lose this slaughter house and many small farms including Tara Firma.

Rancho is NOT a government funded, Big Ag slaughterhouse. This is a small, family-run, local business just like your Tara Firma. We CHOOSE to have our animals processed there because we know the owners, the managers and the workers. We can and have gone in and watch our animals being processed in the cleanest, most humane way possible. If they are allowed to open back up, we will continue to trust our animals with them.

I am asking you to call our local leaders to ask them to stand up. Common Sense is the answer here, not FUD (creating Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt). They have been so silent it begs the question as to their value when they are needed most.

David Rabbit – Supervisor for our District (2) – you have to communicate with David through his website: supervisors.sonoma-county.org

Jared Huffman – U.S. Congressman: He only responds to his constituents, but here is a direct link to his contact form: <https://huffman.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Your Marin Supervisors: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/contact-us>

Please ask them to start communicating and investigating. Please ask them to do their jobs. Common sense has to prevail or we, Tara Firma Farms, will not.

Thanks for your time, support, and continued trust.

Tara F. Smith
Tara Firma Farms
3796 I Street, Ext.
Petaluma, CA 94952