



November 24, 2025

Docket Clerk

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mailstop 3758
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Re: RE: Docket No. FSIS-2025-0145: Overtime and Holiday Inspection Fees for Small and Very Small Establishments.

I am submitting this comment to respectfully urge the USDA to reinstate the previous reduced overtime and holiday inspection rates for federally inspected slaughter establishments. The recent increases in these rates have created significant operational and financial challenges, particularly for small and very small sized establishments that rely on predictable inspection costs to remain viable.

Overtime and holiday inspection hours are not optional for many establishments. Livestock availability, plant capacity, humane handling requirements, and supply-chain expectations often necessitate extended production schedules. The heightened rates have placed a disproportionate burden on smaller processors who lack the pricing flexibility of large corporate facilities. These costs ultimately ripple outward—impacting local farmers, limiting processing access, increasing consumer prices, and jeopardizing rural jobs.

Reinstating reduced rates would:

- Support the economic sustainability of small and mid-sized slaughter plants
- Protect local livestock producers who depend on timely and affordable processing
- Ensure production schedules remain humane, efficient, and compliant
- Help stabilize food supply in rural and agricultural communities
- Maintain fair access to USDA inspection services across establishments of all sizes

Our facility is fully committed to meeting all food-safety, inspection, and humane handling standards. However, the current rate structure threatens our ability to maintain compliant staffing levels and consistent processing schedules.

Potts Family Meats
319 Potts Road Jefferson, GA 30549
Phone: 706-367-5824

Restoring the reduced overtime and holiday rates would provide essential relief and allow us to continue operating responsibly without compromising service to our producers or community.

Thank you for considering this comment and for your attention to the economic realities faced by USDA-inspected establishments. I urge the agency to reinstate the reduced rates and support the long-term stability of America's small and very small establishments.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Koster

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