



Prairie Packing
1200 Texas Avenue
Comanche, Ok 73529

November 20, 2025

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

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

After reading Docket No. FSIS-2025-0145, concerning the overtime and holiday inspections fees for small establishments, we at Prairie Packing believe this would be just the boost to the smaller end of the industry's needs. We are a small processing plant that tends to meet the needs of rural Oklahoma. We deal mainly with the customer that brings two to four animals a year. Reducing overtime and holiday pay would help the bottom line of every small plant in business. Keeping all of the small plants in business is crucial to rural America, whether it be for processing purposes or the jobs that we bring to the communities we serve.

As a rural processing plant, we rely on the business of individuals in the community and surrounding communities. Small families only need so much processed each year. Eliminating overtime and holiday pay would help ease the pressure of day-to-day expenses. We could also work on some of the holidays, which would ensure our employees got the much-needed boost in pay in those weeks, while compensating the inspector as well. Small items like this reinstatement means that small businesses will continue to serve our communities.



There are many examples of how this pay dispersal would help our individual plant. One of those beings, we do not allow any overtime, if at all possible, right now since it costs the plant extra. We start shutting down processing early to make sure that the inspector will be able to leave in time. Not only does that limit our production, but it also takes away pay from our employees. That is the same for holiday pay. Our employees could work on some specific holidays and make double and get any custom work done. We have no concrete numbers to apply for this because we have not allowed staff to do overtime due to this restraint. The help that would be provided by approving this would have a ripple effect. Our inspector wouldn't have to worry about pay (overtime, or lack of), our employees would be able to earn more, and then they would spend more in the community.

All in all, this would be an amazing lift in morale and production for all involved with the smaller plants. It would ease a bit of the week-to-week budget and worry that each small business must abide by to stay in business.

Sincerely,

J. Ryan Walden

Plant Manager