

April 18, 2022

The Honorable Brian Keedy
Sullivan County Prosecuting Attorney

Dear Mr. Keedy:

I'm writing to follow up on and renew my March 1, 2022, request that your office (and a law-enforcement agency, as you deem appropriate) investigate and file applicable criminal charges against the Smithfield Fresh Meats Corp. workers responsible for kicking and beating pigs at its slaughterhouse located at 22123 Highway 5 near Milan.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has documented a third such incident in a report that the agency recently made available to the public. (See the attached table. You can find the latest information in its original format by clicking [here](#) and searching for this slaughterhouse's establishment number, M320M, then scrolling to the dates below and then scrolling right.)

According to the latest report, on November 26, 2021, an FSIS inspector saw a "truck driver deliberately contact the face of a hog multiple times with a paddle. The hog was flinching and closing its eyes with each contact." The federal agent "then observed the same truck driver using the end of the paddle several times to jab at the sides and bellies of three separate hogs in the trailer. These hogs were vocalizing and running away from the jabs."

This follows similar incidents on July 21, 2021, when an FSIS inspector saw a worker approach a pig, who was sitting, and kick the animal "hard on the side" near his or her abdomen, causing the pig to cry out, and on September 23, 2021, when a federal official saw a worker striking pigs with a hard plastic paddle, including on the head.

This conduct may violate MO Rev Stat § 578.012. Please note that FSIS' action—which is clearly insufficient—carries no criminal or civil penalties and does not preempt criminal liability under state law for acts of cruelty to animals. For more details on FSIS' findings, please contact District Manager Jeffery Barham at 479-770-0912 or Jeffery.Barham@usda.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and for the important work that you do.

Sincerely,
Daniel Paden
Vice President of Evidence Analysis