

Good Morning

My name is Arthur Bisson, and I am representing our family-owned business, L&P Bisson & Sons, Inc Topsham, Me. We have been in business for 93 years.

Over the years we have had problems getting an inspector due to the weather. If it's snowing, the State closes down and we have no inspector for when we are slaughtering. One time this past year it was just raining, and the State closed down. It is very frustrating and difficult for us. We are considered essential.

We could have 30 pigs scheduled or 12 beef scheduled for one day and due to the weather, and the State decides to close down, we can't have an inspector, it makes it very difficult. Inspectors are not available at the drop of a hat. What are we to do with these 30 pigs or 12 beef? Because we are already booked for the year, it's not easy to try to re-book 30 pigs or 12 beef. Because we can't always have an inspector, That would mean we would have to call the customer to pick up their animals for another date which could be quite a while because we already have other animals booked. It's not only hard on us but the customer also. It could possibly mean losing that customer because we could not come through for them. How long do you think we could stay in business if they decided to go somewhere else?

The State needs to reconsider this issue and make the inspectors available to the slaughterhouses even though the weather is stormy.