

To Whom it May Concern:

Hello, my name is Wade Payne and I hold the title of plant manager here at Quapaw Food Services Authority and Cypress Valley Meat Company which is a Fed. USDA Inspected slaughter & processing plant. I have been in the beef and pork producing business my entire life and in meat processing for over 20 years now. We harvest and process bison, beef, pork, sheep, & goats and CVMC has another plants in Ark. that offers the same services as we do and a second plant that harvest chickens, turkeys, ducks, & emus. Here at QFSA & CVMC we do everything from harvesting of the livestock, to processing, and further processing of value added products. We capable of receiving 1 or 2 head from a small farm or a large pot load from a larger producer. We are able to help them with their needs of getting product processed and labeled and ready to go to a farmers market, restaurants, grocery stores, on line sales, or bigger shipments going to Whole Foods or Butcher Box.

There is a very significant need for this research since COVID-19. Many people were limited or without meat protein for some time. This opened the eyes to many who where in need of product and those that could help them and supplement their income on a small farm when jobs started disappearing. The smaller producers have a real need for a program like this. So many consumers now days want to know where their product is coming from, how it is raised, what it's been fed, if it has had any antibiotics or hormones, ext.. This is an ideal niche market from the local small producers to help their local consumers as well. It's a win for both consumer and producer and in turn it keeps small plants like ours growing, producing jobs for people, and developing relationships with all involved.

We will commit to participating in and supporting "SARE" in whatever way we can. I believe that our experience with livestock production, meat processing, ag marketing, ag economics, food safety, HACCP training, SQF qualifications, and humane handling procedures will contribute significantly to this project.

Wade Payne

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