

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
950 22nd Street North
Suite 1050
Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: (205)731-1534 FAX: (111)222-3333



Citation and Notification of Penalty

To:
Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
and its successors
121 Somerville Road North East
Decatur, AL 35601

Inspection Number: 315981480
Inspection Date(s): 11/08/2011-03/20/2012
Issuance Date: 04/05/2012

Inspection Site:
800 Market Street North East
Decatur, AL 35601

The violation(s) described in this Citation and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

This Citation and Notification of Penalty (this Citation) describes violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The penalty(ies) listed herein is (are) based on these violations. You must abate the violations referred to in this Citation by the dates listed and pay the penalties proposed, unless within 15 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays) from your receipt of this Citation and Notification of Penalty you mail a notice of contest to the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above. Please refer to the enclosed booklet (OSHA 3000) which outlines your rights and responsibilities and which should be read in conjunction with this form. Issuance of this Citation does not constitute a finding that a violation of the Act has occurred unless there is a failure to contest as provided for in the Act or, if contested, unless this Citation is affirmed by the Review Commission or a court.

Posting - The law requires that a copy of this Citation and Notification of Penalty be posted immediately in a prominent place at or near the location of the violation(s) cited herein, or , if it is not practicable because of the nature of the employer's operations, where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. This Citation must remain posted until the violation(s) cited herein has (have) been abated, or for 3 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays), whichever is longer.

Informal Conference - An informal conference is not required. However, if you wish to have such a conference you may request one with the Area Director during the 15 working day contest period. During such an informal conference you may present any evidence or views which you believe would support an adjustment to the citation(s) and/or penalty(ies).

If you are considering a request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you must take care to schedule it early enough to allow time to contest after the informal conference, should you decide to do so. Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to contest must be

submitted to the Area Director within 15 working days of your receipt of this Citation. The running of this contest period is not interrupted by an informal conference.

If you decide to request an informal conference, please complete, remove and post the page 5 Notice to Employees next to this Citation and Notification of Penalty as soon as the time, date, and place of the informal conference have been determined. Be sure to bring to the conference any and all supporting documentation of existing conditions as well as any abatement steps taken thus far. If conditions warrant, we can enter into an informal settlement agreement which amicably resolves this matter without litigation or contest.

Right to Contest - You have the right to contest this Citation and Notification of Penalty. You may contest all citation items or only individual items. You may also contest proposed penalties and/or abatement dates without contesting the underlying violations. Unless you inform the Area Director in writing that you intend to contest the citation(s) and/or proposed penalty(ies) within 15 working days after receipt, the citation(s) and the proposed penalty(ies) will become a final order of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and may not be reviewed by any court or agency.

Penalty Payment - Penalties are due within 15 working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. (See the enclosed booklet and the additional information provided related to the Debt Collection Act of 1982.) Make your check or money order payable to "DOL-OSHA". Please indicate the Inspection Number on the remittance.

OSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than the full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Notification of Corrective Action - For each violation which you do not contest, you are required by 29 CFR 1903.19 to submit an Abatement Certification to the Area Director of the OSHA office issuing the citation and identified above. The certification must be sent by you within 10 calendar days of the abatement date indicated on the citation. For **Willful** and **Repeat** violations, documents (examples: photos, copies of receipts, training records, etc.) demonstrating that abatement is complete must accompany the certification. Where the citation is classified as **Serious** and the citations states that abatement documentation is required, documents such as those described above are required to be submitted along with the abatement certificate. If the citation indicates that the violation was corrected during the inspection, no abatement certification is required for that item.

All abatement verification documents must contain the following information: 1) Your name and address; 2) the inspection number (found on the front page); 3) the citation and citation item number(s) to which the submission relates; 4) a statement that the information is accurate; 5) the signature of the employer or employer's authorized representative; 6) the date the hazard was corrected; 7) a brief statement of how the hazard was corrected; and 8) a statement that affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.

The law also requires a copy of all abatement verification documents, required by 29 CFR 1903.19 to be sent to OSHA, also be posted at the location where the violation appeared and the corrective action took place.

Employer Discrimination Unlawful - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above.

Employer Rights and Responsibilities - The enclosed booklet (OSHA 3000) outlines additional employer rights and responsibilities and should be read in conjunction with this notification.

Notice to Employees - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above and postmarked within 15 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays) of the receipt by the employer of this Citation and Notification of Penalty.

Inspection Activity Data - You should be aware that OSHA publishes information on its inspection and citation activity on the Internet under the provisions of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act. The information related to these alleged violations will be posted when our system indicates that you have received this citation. You are encouraged to review the information concerning your establishment at WWW.OSHA.GOV. If you have any dispute with the accuracy of the information displayed, please contact this office.

ABATEMENT CERTIFICATION

Roberto Sanchez, Area Director
U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA
950 22nd Street North
Suite 1050
Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: (205)731-1534

Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
121 Somerville Road North East
Decatur, AL 35601

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____
by _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____
by _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____
by _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____
by _____.

The hazard referenced in Inspection Number _____ for the violation identified as
Citation _____ and Item _____ was corrected on _____
by _____.

I attest that the information contained in this document is accurate and that the affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement activities described in this certification.

Signature

Typed or Printed Name



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with OSHA to discuss the citation(s) issued on 04/05/2012. The conference will be held at the OSHA office located at 950 22nd Street North, Suite 1050, Birmingham, AL, 35203 on _____ at _____. Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601

Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.95(g)(1): An audiometric testing program was not established and maintained for all employees whose noise exposure equaled or exceeded an 8 hour time weighted average of 85 dBA:

- (a) On or about 11/9/11 - Feed Mill, Packing Area, one employee working in the dry line was exposed to continuous noise at 106.3 % of the allowable 8-hour time-weighted average sound level of 90 dBA, or an equivalent sound level of approximately 90.4 dBA. Sampling was performed for 480 minutes during the day shift on 11/09/11.
- (b) On or about 11/9/11 - Feed Mill, Packing Area, one employee working in the dry line was exposed to continuous noise at 87.3 % of the allowable 8-hour time-weighted average sound level of 90 dBA, or an equivalent sound level of approximately 89 dBA. Sampling was performed for 480 minutes during the day shift on 11/09/11.
- (c) On or about 12/1/11 - Feed Mill, the run back man was exposed to continuous noise at 83.5 % of the allowable 8-hour time-weighted average sound level of 90 dBA, or an equivalent sound level of approximately 89 dBA. Sampling was performed for 475 minutes during the day shift on 12/01/11. Zero exposure was assumed for the unsampled period of time of 5 minutes.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	05/09/2012
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 3600.00



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601

The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for illness.

Citation 1 Item 2a Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1000(c): Employees were exposed to Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated, listed in Table Z-3, in excess of 15 mg/m³ as an 8-hour time-weighted average concentration:

- (a) On or about 12/1/11 - Feed Mill, one employee helping in the clean up and loading/unloading of trucks was exposed to a nuisance dust concentration of 23.7 mg/m³ based upon an 8-hour time-weighted average. The exposure was 1.6 times the OSHA permissible exposure limit of 15 mg/m³. The sampling was performed for 475 minutes during the day shift on 12/01/11. Zero exposure was assumed for the unsampled period of time of 5 minutes.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	Corrected During Inspection
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 5400.00



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601

Citation 1 Item 2b Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1000(e): Feasible administrative or engineering controls were not determined and implemented to reduce employee exposures:

- (a) On or about 12/1/11 - Feed Mill, one employee helping in the clean up and loading/unloading of trucks was exposed to a nuisance dust concentration of 23.7 mg/m³ based upon an 8-hour time-weighted average. The exposure was 1.6 times the OSHA permissible exposure limit of 15 mg/m³. The sampling was performed for 475 minutes during the day shift on 12/01/11. Zero exposure was assumed for the unsampled period of time of 5 minutes.

General methods of abatement include, but are not limited to:

1. Make the use of respiratory protection mandatory during cleaning operations, such as sweeping floors, and during the loading/unloading of trucks.
2. Maintain an effective housekeeping program for dust.
3. Provide local exhaust ventilation in enclosed areas.

ABATEMENT SCHEDULE:

STEP 1: Effective respiratory protection shall be provided and used by exposed employees as an interim protective measure until feasible engineering and/or administrative controls can be implemented, or whenever such controls fail to reduce employee exposure to within the permissible exposure limits.

STEP 2: Submit to the area director a written, detailed plan of abatement outlining a schedule for the implementation of engineering and/or administrative measures to control employee exposure to hazardous substances as referenced in this citation. This plan shall include, at a minimum, target dates for the following actions which must be consistent with the abatement dates required by this citation:

- (1) Evaluation of engineering/administrative control options;

See pages 1 through 5 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601

- (2) Selection of optimum control methods and completion of design;
- (3) Procurement, installation and operation of selected control measures; and
- (4) Testing and acceptable or modification/redesign of controls.

All proposed control measures shall be approved for each particular use by a competent industrial hygienist or other technically qualified person.

Thirty - (30) day progress reports are required during the abatement period.

STEP 3: Abatement shall have been completed by the implementation of feasible engineering and/or administrative controls upon verification of their effectiveness in achieving compliance.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: 07/09/2012



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601

Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Other**

29 CFR 1904.32(a)(1): OSHA 300 Log was not reviewed to verify that the entries were complete and accurate:

- (a) On or about 11/8/11 - Feed Mill, OSHA-300 and OSHA-300A (summary) forms for 2008 and 2009, entries on column (j) were not checked and totaled.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	04/17/2012
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 0.00

Citation 2 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Other**

29 CFR 1904.32(b)(3): The summary of work-related injuries and illnesses (OSHA form 300A or equivalent) was not properly certified:

- (a) On or about 11/8/11 - Feed Mill, Grain Elevator, OSHA Summary (Form 300A) for 2008 to the present were not certified by the highest company executive in the establishment or at the corporate level.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	04/17/2012
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 0.00

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberto Sanchez".

Roberto Sanchez
Area Director

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
950 22nd Street North, Suite 1050
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Phone: (205) 731-1534 FAX: (205)731-0504



INVOICE/ DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601
Issuance Date: 04/05/2012

Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number 315981480

Citation 1, Serious	= \$	9000.00
Citation 2, Other	= \$	0.00
TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTIES	= \$	9000.00

To avoid additional charges, please remit payment promptly to this Area Office for the total amount of the uncontested penalties summarized above. Make your check or money order payable to:
"DOL-OSHA". Please indicate OSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance.

OSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions put on any check or money order for less than the full amount due and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions or conditions do not exist.

If a personal check is issued, it will be converted into an electronic fund transfer (EFT). This means that our bank will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will then usually occur within 24 hours and will be shown on your regular account statement. You will not receive your original check back. The bank will destroy your original check, but will keep a copy of it. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds or closed account, the bank will attempt to make the transfer up to 2 times.


Pursuant to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-365) and regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor (29 CFR Part 20), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is required to assess interest, delinquent charges, and administrative costs for the collection of delinquent penalty debts for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Interest. Interest charges will be assessed at an annual rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on all penalty debt amounts not paid within one month (30 calendar days) of the date on which the debt amount becomes due and payable (penalty due date). The current interest rate is 1%. Interest will accrue from the date on which the penalty amounts (as proposed or adjusted) become a final order of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (that is, 15 working days from your receipt of the Citation and Notification of Penalty), unless you

file a notice of contest. Interest charges will be waived if the full amount owed is paid within 30 calendar days of the final order.

Delinquent Charges. A debt is considered delinquent if it has not been paid within one month (30 calendar days) of the penalty due date or if a satisfactory payment arrangement has not been made. If the debt remains delinquent for more than 90 calendar days, a delinquent charge of six percent (6%) per annum will be assessed accruing from the date that the debt became delinquent.

Administrative Costs. Agencies of the Department of Labor are required to assess additional charges for the recovery of delinquent debts. These additional charges are administrative costs incurred by the Agency in its attempt to collect an unpaid debt. Administrative costs will be assessed for demand letters sent in an attempt to collect the unpaid debt.



Roberto Sanchez
Area Director

4/15/2012

Date

Corrective action, taken by you for each alleged violation should be submitted to this office on or about the abatement dates indicated on the Citation and Notification of Penalty.

If the hazards itemized on this citation(s) are not abated/corrected and a follow-up inspection is conducted, your establishment may receive a Failure to Abate Citation for the uncorrected hazards with subsequent additional monetary penalties of up to thirty (30) times the original penalty amount of the uncorrected hazards.

A work sheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this work sheet should be posted at the worksite with the Citation(s).

CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION WORKSHEET

Company Name: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
Inspection Site: 800 Market Street North East, Decatur, AL 35601
Issuance Date: 04/05/2012

List the specific method of correction for each item on this citation in this package that does not read "Corrected During Inspection" and return this page with the signed Informal Settlement Agreement to: U.S. Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 950 22nd Street North, Suite 1050, Birmingham, AL 35203.

NAME OF COMPANY OFFICIAL

DATE

TITLE

NOTE: 29 USC 666.(g): Whoever knowingly makes any false statements, representation or certification in any application, record, plan or other documents filed or required to be maintained pursuant to the Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than six months or both.

POSTING: A copy of the completed Corrective Action Worksheet should be posted for employee review.