

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection
Service

**REPORT OF HUMANE HANDLING
VERIFICATION VISIT**

1. CASE NUMBER:
ABC0000000000YZ

2. EST. NUMBER:
M0000+P0000

3. EST. ID:
0000

4a. ESTABLISHMENT NAME:

Pretend Meat Market, Inc.

4b. ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS/ P.O. BOX

555 Hwy Ave East

4c. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

Pretendplace, MN 00000

5a. NAME OF DVMS

Great DVMO

5b. NAME OF PHV

Great Veterinarian

5c. NAME OF IIC

Great Inspector

6. DATE(S) OF VISIT (MM/DD/YY)

FROM: 3/31/2023 TO: 3/31/2023

7. CIRCUIT VISITED (4-
digit no.)

0000

8. PLANT SIZE

Large Small Very Small

9. SPECIES SLAUGHTERED

Cattle

Goat

Sheep

Swine

Other

10a. VOLUME (Heads/ Day)
17.0

10b. SPEED (Heads/ Hour)
3.0

10c. ANIMALS OBSERVED
6.0

11. STUNNING METHOD

12. REASON FOR VISIT

- Electric - head only
- Bolt-pneumatic
- Bolt-hand held
- Rifle/shotgun
- Pistol
- None - Ritual Slaughter
- Electric-head/thorax
- Controlled Atmosphere

- District Office Direction
- Routine Visit
- Repetitive Non-Compliance
- Data-Driven Visit
- Suspicion of Violations
- Special Correlation/Other Outreach
- Egregious Violation
- Religious Exemption

13. SYSTEMATIC APPROACH USED?

- Yes
 No
 IMPLEMENTATION NOT ASSESSED PER THIS DATE

IF NO, CHECK ITEMS BELOW THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED; NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THE FOUR STEPS OF THE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

- 1. Initial assessment performed.
- 2. Facilities design and handling practices minimize excitement, discomfort, and injury to livestock.
- 3. Periodic evaluations performed on handling methods and, if applicable, stunning methods.
- 4. Handling practices and facilities modified when necessary.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- No Action
 NR by IIC
 NOIE
 Suspension/Withdrawal
 Other Outreach

FOR ALL RESPONSES, OTHER THAN "NO ACTION". CHECK ALL CATEGORIES BELOW THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION:

- Inclement Weather
- Truck Unloading
- Water/Feed
- Ante-mortem
- Suspect/Disabled
- Prod Use
- Slips/Falls
- Stunning Effectiveness
- Return to Consciousness
- Facilities

15. NARRATIVE REPORT

Correlated With:

Pretend Meat Market Inc. personnel: Mr. Pretend Person, Establishment Owner,
Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel: Dr. Great Veterinarian, Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV) and Mr. Great Inspector, Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI)/Inspector in Charge (IIC)
Correlation with Dr. GV was held separately and included: pre-assessment findings, along with review of appropriate sections of regulations 9 CFR 313; Federal Register Notice, September 2004, Systematic Approach to Humane Handling; FSIS Directives 6000.1, 6100.1, 6100.4, 6900.2, 10,800.1-4; 9 CFR 500 (Rules of Practice); Federal Meat Inspection Act; Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 and various FSIS Notices.

Summary of Data Assessment Prior to Visit:

Establishment M0000 is a very small slaughter and processing establishment that slaughters porcine approximately two days per week on one shift. The establishment also slaughters livestock under a custom exemption. The Public Health Information System (PHIS) data concerning verification of the livestock humane handling task was reviewed for the period March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. There were no noncompliance records (NR) and no memorandum of interview (MOI) associated with livestock humane handling documented during that time period. No enforcement actions for egregious humane handling noncompliance had been implemented.

Systematic Approach Comments:

The establishment does not have a Systematic Approach to Humane Handling of Livestock for Slaughter as defined by the Federal Register Notice Federal Volume 69, No. 174, Thursday, September 9th, 2004 [Docket No. 04-013N]; Humane Handling and Slaughter and the Merits of a Systematic Approach to Meet Such Requirements.

Summary of Reason(s) for Recommendation: The purpose of the outreach visit was to discuss the federal Humane Handling regulations and provide information on humane handling of livestock. At the time of this visit the establishment was in compliance with the applicable parts of the Humane Handling regulations (9 CFR 313).

Findings Narrative Report:

Pre-Visit Discussion with Establishment management:

On March 29, 2023, I called Mr. Pretend Person to discuss the possibility of conducting a humane handling outreach visit at M0000. The purpose of the visit would be to have an open dialogue on general humane handling areas of concern, along with a more focused discussion on topics of interest and information sharing pertinent to this establishment. Mr. Person confirmed that he would like a visit and that March 31, 2023, would be a slaughter day. I provided an electronic copy of the humane handling outreach packet to Mr. Pretend Person after the outreach visit on March 31, 2023.

Establishment Observations and Discussion:

Slaughter operations had not yet started when I arrived, so we toured the facility. The animals unload outdoors and directly enter the holding pen area. The holding pen is one large pen area with a smooth concrete floor. We talked about maintaining good traction for the hogs throughout the slaughter day. We correlated on maintaining the facility free of sharp and protruding objects that could possibly cause animal injury. Water was available for the hogs in the holding pen area. We discussed the various types of handling implements available, including a rattle paddle, plastic divider board and hand-held electric prod. Seventeen hogs were observed during truck unloading and ante-mortem inspection. The hogs were unloaded using a portable ramp, constructed of a white glass board type material with horizontal cleats. The hogs did skid as they walked down the ramp and a couple hogs lost footing when their legs slid off the side of the ramp. The hogs were moved through a ninety-degree left hand turn and into the portable hog restrainer without incident. The hogs were stunned using electricity in a two step head/thorax procedure. We talked about having a back-up device readily available. All hogs observed were stunned effectively on the initial stun attempt and remained in a state of surgical anesthesia though shackling, sticking and bleeding.

Exit Meeting:

During the slaughter operation Mr. Pretend Person and I talked about several topics noted below. I was not able to connect with Mr. Pretend Person for an exit meeting, but I followed up with a brief email summary of the visit and an electronic copy of the humane handling resource packet.

- 9 CFR Regulations 313.1 and 313.2 - truck unloading, live animal holding areas, movement of animals from holding pens to the restrainer and the importance of good footing, ensuring facilities are free from sharp edges and unnecessary openings, appropriate use of alternative implements to move animals with minimum excitement and water availability at all times while animals are awaiting slaughter.
- 9 CFR Regulations 313.30 - We talked about the importance of having a calm animal presented for stunning, adequate restraint, electrical stunning, equipment maintenance and importance of having a backup stunning device readily available.
- We talked about HH-MOI's, HH-NR's and enforcement actions. I mentioned that the Humane Handling outreach packet has example NR's, one for each HATS category, located at the end of the document.
- This establishment does not employ a humane handling program that meets the criteria described in the Federal Register Notice from September 9, 2004, for a systematic approach to handling of livestock for slaughter. We briefly talked about a robust systematic approach and resource material, pertinent to a written program, contained in the outreach packet.

A humane handling outreach packet provided electronically to establishment management included the following:

- FSIS Resources
- 1978 Humane Methods of Slaughter Act
- 2004 FRN Vol. 69, No. 174 Merits of a Systematic Approach
- 2020 FSIS Directive 6900.2 Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock
- 2013 FSIS Compliance Guide for a Systematic Approach to the Humane Handling of Livestock
- 2015 Humane Handling of Livestock and Poultry Guidebook
- 2017 FSIS PHV Refresher Training: Consciousness and Stunning
- Humane Handling Enforcement Action link
- Small Plant Help Desk link and phone number
- Humane Handling Ombudsman contact information
- Listing of example NRs for HATS categories
- North American Meat Institute Resources (resources and link provided)
- 2016 Jennifer Woods - Firearm Stunning Beef and Sheep
- 2016 Jennifer Woods – Firearm Stunning Hogs
- 2019 Seaboard, AFG – Developing a RSA to Humane Handling
- Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) (resources and link provided)
- 2006 – Stun-to-Stick Times – Electrical Stunning
- 2016 – Firearms
- 2016 - Humane Handling of Livestock
- 2018 – Safety and Maintenance of Electrical Stunning Equipment
- 2018 – Safety and Maintenance of Firearms
- 2018 – Head Restraint Equipment
- Temple Grandin, Colorado State University Resources (resources and link provided)
- 2016 - Electrical Stunning of Red Meat Animals (Woods)
- 2017 – Cattle and Sheep Handling ABCs of Cattle, 3rd Edition
- 2017 – Electrical and CO2 Stunning, Handling and Determining Insensibility in Pigs and Sheep
- 2018 – Proper Cattle Restraint for Stunning
- 2019 – Sensibility in Cattle, Pigs and Sheep
- 2020 – Electrical Stunning of Pigs and Sheep
- 2010 FSIS Firearm Physics, David R. Thompson, DVMS, DDM
- 2010 Observations on Stunning Placement in Cattle, JK Shearer, DVM, MS, Iowa State University
- 2019 Captive Bolt Guns and Electrical Stunners, Bunzl