

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 Establishment, LLC

4b. ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS/ P.O. BOX

123 4th St.

4c. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

Nowhere, ND 00000

5a. NAME OF DVMS

Awesome DVMO

5b. NAME OF PHV

You Yourself

5c. NAME OF IIC

They Themselves

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

FROM: 10/3/2023 TO: 10/3/2023

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)
19.0

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
- 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

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 Establishment, LLC personnel: Mr. Joe Jonas, Establishment Owner
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel: Dr. Great Vet, Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV) and Mr. They Themselves, Consumer Safety Inspector, CSI
Correlation with Dr Great Vet was conducted separately, offsite and included pre-assessment findings and review of appropriate sections of regulations 9 CFR 313, Federal Register Notice (FRN), September 2004 – Systematic Approach to Humane Handling; FSIS Directives 6000.1, 6090.1, 6100.1, 6100.4, 6600.1, 6900.2, 10,800.1-4; 9 CFR 500 (Rules of Practice); FMIA, HMSA of 1978, and various FSIS Notices.

Summary of Data Assessment Prior to Visit:

Establishment M0000, Pretend Establishment, LLC is a very small livestock slaughter and processing facility that slaughters bovine and swine approximately two days per week on one shift. The establishment also slaughters livestock under a custom exemption. Prior to this humane handling verification visit the report from the previous humane handling verification visit conducted on May 26, 2022, was reviewed. No new or on-going humane handling issues were identified during the previous verification visit. The Public Health Information System (PHIS) data associated with the verification of the Livestock Humane Handling task for the time period from June 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 was reviewed. No noncompliance records (NR) and no memorandum of interview (MOI) associated with livestock humane handling were documented during that time period. No enforcement actions for egregious humane handling noncompliance had been implemented since the last DVMS visit.

Systematic Approach Comments:

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

Summary of Reason(s) for Recommendation:

The recommendation of no action was based on the finding that the establishment was in compliance with the applicable parts of the humane handling regulations (9 CFR 313) at the time of this visit and that no new or ongoing humane handling issues were identified by this verification.

Findings Narrative Report:

Entry Meeting:

No formal meeting was conducted with establishment management prior to beginning the humane handling verification visit. A brief entrance meeting was held with FSIS personnel where I explained the purpose for this visit and what areas I would be reviewing to determine compliance with the humane handling regulations. I asked if they had any questions on the visit and provided the opportunity to address any concerns.

Findings:

The livestock pens, driveways, and unloading area were maintained in generally good repair. The plywood along the sides of the unloading ramp was worn and uneven with broken edges but no evidence of animal injury. The floors of the outer drive alley and indoor holding pens were constructed of poured concrete with a smooth finish. The outdoor unloading chute and alleyway to the barn contained scattered areas of manure. There was manure and liquid material throughout the indoor holding areas as well. The establishment has started construction on a new facility, which will include a new live animal area and slaughter floor.

The livestock pens and driveways were arranged so that sharp corners and direction reversal of driven animals was minimized. A separate U.S. Suspect pen is identified. All holding pens are indoors and protected from the environment. No equipment for moving disabled animals was observed. Water was available, in a white bucket set on the floor in a middle pen. No animals had been held for more than 24 hours so feed was not required.

The hogs arrived on a livestock trailer and had to step up several inches to exit onto the unloading ramp. The hogs were difficult to unload and the producer and establishment employees used sort boards, hand taps and nudging to eventually get the animals unloaded. An electric prod was used during truck unloading of beef. No animals were moved faster than a normal walking pace and animals were moved with a minimum of excitement and discomfort. No animals were observed to slip or fall, although some skidding occurred when rounding the corner in the outer drive alley. An electric prod was used as the primary handling implement used to move cattle, although it did not appear to be energized each time it was used. A wooden board was used to move the hogs to the restraining area. No pipes, sharp or pointed objects, and other items which would cause injury or pain to animals were used to drive livestock during this visit.

This establishment uses a hand-held, cartridge fired, penetrating type captive bolt stunner. The animals were adequately restrained for application of the stunning blow and the operator appeared to be well trained and skilled in the use of the stunning equipment. A metal divider board and head notch restraint were used to help restrain hogs within the cattle sized restrainer. The cattle were placed in a head restraint using a cable cinch system. One of the horizontal pipes on the restrainer had broken apart, but remained in place, albeit separated. All animals observed were effectively stunned and remained unconscious throughout the shackling, sticking, and bleeding process. The establishment has a .38 caliber pistol available as the backup device for cattle stunning and/or as the primary stunning method for large sows and sows with abnormal heads. The pistol was not observed in use during today's visit.

Exit Meeting:

An exit meeting was conducted with Mr. Jonas on October 3, 2023. I presented the findings of the humane handling verification visit that the establishment was in compliance with the applicable humane handling regulatory requirements (9 CFR 313) and that the establishment has not developed a humane handling program that meets the criteria for a Systematic Approach as described in the FRN of September 9th, 2004, for a Systematic Approach to Humane Handling of Livestock for Slaughter. We talked about the wet condition of the pen floors causing some of the animals to skid. I provided establishment management the opportunity to comment on the findings of the visit and ask questions. Mr. Jonas talked about his plans on building a new facility. No other issues concerning humane handling were discussed and the meeting was concluded.