

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: 5/26/2022 TO: 5/26/2022

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)
8.0

10b. SPEED (Heads/ Hour)
3.0

10c. ANIMALS OBSERVED
5.0

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. You Yourself, Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV) and Ms. They Themselves, Consumer Safety Inspector, CSI)
Correlation with Dr Yourself 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 October 5, 2020, 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 October 10, 2020 through May 22, 2022 was reviewed. One noncompliance record (NR) and no memorandum of interview (MOI) associated with livestock humane handling were documented during that time period. A NR was documented on May 27, 2021, for an ineffective first stun attempt of a sow (firearm), followed by and immediate effective second stun (hand-held captive bolt). 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. There was a loose board along the side of the unloading ramp and a piece of upturned metal at the ramp entrance. We also observed a piece of wire hanging on the side of the unloading chute. 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. During the exit meeting we correlated on maintaining good footing throughout the live animal unloading and holding area.

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 the outer drive alley. The hogs had arrived the day before slaughter and the buckets had been tipped over and refilled so the pen floor was covered with liquid debris and manure. No animals had been held for more than 24 hours so feed was not required.

All the animals had arrived the previous day, so truck unloading was not observed. 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. A plastic rattle paddle (cracked and separated along the edges) and two battery-operated electric prods were observed in the pen area, but the implements were not used during today's visit. A wooden board was used to move the animals 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. One hog would not move into the head restraint, so the establishment owner stunned the hog within the chute, while a second employee used a board to hold the hog in place. All animals observed were effectively stunned and remained in a state of surgical anesthesia 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 May 26, 2022. 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 water availability for the hogs and the wet condition of the pen floors causing some of the animals to skid. We talked about the hog stunned without head restraint and I acknowledged the employees patience. I provided establishment management the opportunity to comment on the findings of the visit and ask questions. No other issues concerning humane handling were discussed and the meeting was concluded.