

From: [Dr. Awesome Vet](#)
To: [District Office, DVMOs](#)
Cc:
Subject: Preliminary Discussion - Regained Consciousness - Est 0000 - 2/28/24
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:41:54 AM
Attachments:

I just got off the phone with CSI Fabulous who is at M0000 today for slaughter. She observed an animal rendered unconscious at knocking, but during the sticking procedure the animal tried righting itself, made vocalization, and was blinking. They did not knock it a second time, sounds like it was quickly unconscious from bleeding out. The knock box is tagged, and attached is CSI Fabulous' NR description of the incident.

They are not robust.

Thank you,

Dr. Awesome, DVM

she/her/hers

Frontline Supervisor

Circuit 0000 Nowhere, ST

Specific District

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At approximately 1012 hours on 2/28/24 while observing the knocking and stunning of bovine carcass #4 I observed the knocking of the animal with a captive bolt device, one knock was issued the animal dropped and the eyes of the animal rolled, no blinking was observed. The animal was dropped from the knock box to the slaughter floor and then shackled. The animal was raised to be bled, while the animal was being stuck, I observed that the animal blinked, and then the animal vocalized, potentially induced by pain, as the carotid artery was being cut. Mr. Plant Person stated he saw the animal stiffen and tried to right itself as he was sticking the animal. I did not observe the righting reflex as Mr. Person stated he observed the righting reflex. I only saw the animal stiffen, the multiple blinks of the eyes, I heard a rasping breath, and heard the multiple vocalization. I did not observe any eye tracking.

The animal bled out and there were no other actions made to render the animal unconscious.

I spoke with Mr. Plant Person, Supervisor, and Not Named, plant manager, about the regaining consciousness of an animal, stating that if this happens again, they will need to immediately knock the animal again to render the animal unconscious even if the animal is shackled and hanging.

At 1018 hours, I emailed my immediate supervisor, Dr. Great Vet, and my Front-Line Supervisor, Dr. Awesome Vet of the situation. After being instructed by Dr. Vet a USDA Reject tag has been placed on the knock box not permitting any further use until further investigation from the District Office.

I have been presented with the establishments humane handling binder. There is an annual training and certification requirement for captive bolt application- beef. The captive bolt operator training last recorded was 8/17/22.

The humane handling program states that there will be an annual review of animal handling materials for beef, pork, and lamb. After reviewing the materials, the trainee's will take a quiz highlighting main points for handling livestock. If NDSU management feels employees could use additional training some may be provided.

A monthly facilities review is conducted to ensure all livestock holding areas and alleyways are obstruction and hazard free. The last documented record is dated 7/12/2021.

The program does not mention a plan for ensuring stunning devices are in working order.

On an annual basis, a third-party animal handling audit will be completed to ensure all practices meet proper handling techniques. There is not a completed Beef Animal Handling Audit form to review.

The head was examined, skinned, and the brain removed. The placement of the captive bolt device seemed to be accurate as it was between the eyes and in the accurate location to the brain. The research team that is present for this slaughter date removed the skull cap to remove the brain. The member of the team stated that the knock didn't go into the brain as there was no exit hole into the brain. The placement of the bolt should have accurately penetrated the brain.