One Team, One Purpose

Food Safety and Inspection Service
Protecting Public Health and Preventing Foodborne Illness
FSIS Humane Handling Policy Updates

North American Meat Institute
Animal Care & Handling Conference
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Proposed Rule: Veal Calves

Requirements for the Disposition of Non-ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves
Published 13 May 2015

FSIS is proposing to amend its regulations on ante-mortem inspection to remove a provision that permits establishments to set apart and hold for treatment veal calves that are unable to rise from a recumbent position and walk because they are tired or cold.

Under the proposed rule, non-ambulatory disabled veal calves that are offered for slaughter will be condemned and promptly euthanized.
Prohibiting the slaughter of all non-ambulatory disabled veal calves will improve compliance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 (HMSA) and the humane slaughter implementing regulations.

It will also improve the Agency's inspection efficiency by eliminating the time that FSIS inspection program personnel (IPP) spend re-inspecting non-ambulatory disabled veal calves.

FSIS is also proposing to clarify in the regulations that all non-ambulatory disabled cattle must be promptly disposed of after they have been condemned.
Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves and Other Non-Ambulatory Disabled Livestock at Slaughter; Published 7 February 2011 Petition for Rulemaking

FSIS requested comments on two petitions (HSUS & Farm Sanctuary) for rulemaking submitted to the Agency that raise issues associated with the disposition of non-ambulatory disabled veal calves and other non-ambulatory disabled livestock at slaughter.
Proposed Rule: Veal Calves

- FSIS is assessing currently the comments
- Goal is to publish Agency response by March 2016
- Agency response is pending a thorough review of the comments.
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted an audit 5-22 February 2013 on FSIS food safety system overseeing meat & poultry products intended for export.

FSIS continues to engage with CFIA making progress to resolve CFIA questions on FSIS HH policies.
Humane Handling & Animal Welfare issues being addressed

- Frequency of FSIS ante-mortem inspections of poultry
- Stunning of poultry prior to slaughter
- FSIS inspection actions regarding dead on arrival (DOA) poultry
- FSIS humane handling of non-ambulatory swine
FSIS regards the inhumane handling of livestock on the premises of the official establishment as a violation of 21 U.S.C. 610(b) and the mishandling or mistreatment of poultry during transportation or on the premises of the official establishment as a violation of 21 U.S.C. 458 (Prohibited Acts).
Livestock and poultry transporter (hauler) policy initiative

FSIS is considering taking enforcement actions against individual livestock and poultry owners, transporters or haulers when they are responsible for inhumane handling of livestock or violations of good commercial practices (GCP) for poultry.
FSIS believes these actions will further improve the welfare of livestock and poultry transported and handled in connection with slaughter.

FSIS already has policies in place to address owners, transporters, or haulers contracted or employed by Federal establishments.
Livestock and poultry transporter (hauler) policy initiative

Language on this policy will be incorporated into a revised version of the, *FSIS Compliance Guide for the Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock*

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulatory-compliance/humane-handling

FSIS likely to include this enforcement approach as well in a Federal Register Notice to ensure stakeholders are aware.
Notice 07-15, Instructions for writing poultry good commercial practices noncompliance records and memorandum of interview letters for poultry mistreatment


Update as directive to outline instructions to IPP on verifying GCPs, including directions on which observations warrant documenting an MOI.
Directives 6100.3, *Antemortem and Postmortem Poultry Inspection* will be revised, removing all references to GCP.

Questions?

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