Lessons Learned in Swine Transportation

Jason McAlister, Animal Welfare Manager, Triumph Foods
Desk 816-396-2735    Cell 816-646-4005
jmcalister@triumphfoods.com
Transportation Losses: The Real Cost

The bottom line is lost profit!

- DOA’s (Dead on Arrival)
- Weak pigs (Non-amb) that need to be euthanized

Lose/Lose Situation:
- Harvest facilities are slowed down
- Truck unloads are slowed down
- Wait times increase

Slow downs can result in more injuries, overheating, stress: Welfare Disaster!
So who is responsible? Who gets the Blame? Let the fighting begin!!!!!!

- Load out crew says it’s the transporter
- Transporter says it’s the load out crew/the harvest facility
- Harvest Facility says it’s the:
  - transporter and loading crew
  - herd health
  - weather and and and and and and

- Who loses? We all lose
So What's The Solution?
So What's The Solution?

No magic answers

- We all need to look at our OWN processes no matter what part we play in the transportation of pigs to market.
  - Producers
  - Transporters
  - Harvest companies
What can **YOU** do to help?
Producers, transporters and plant

- Investigate what is really going on in the process **YOU** control.
- Look at **YOUR** training program.
  - Do **YOU** have one?
  - Is it being followed?

The best training program in the world is simply words on paper if it is not being followed.
What can **YOU** do to help?

Producers, transporters and plant

- Do **YOU** audit your process?
- How often do **YOU** audit it? Is it enough?
- Do **YOU** track and trend your audit findings?
What can **YOU** do to help?  
Producers, Transporters and Plant

- Are **YOUR** facilities up to date?
- **MONEY**: Baling wire cannot fix everything!
- Are you riding along with **YOUR** drivers?
- Do you **know** **YOUR** drivers?
What can **YOU** do to help?

Producers, Transporters and Plant

- **Surprises** are great!
- Show up at the site and **watch** the loading process.
- Have **YOU** ever been to the harvest plant with a **driver**?
- **Harvest facility personnel:** because of **biosecurity** unscheduled visits may be a problem but unscheduled audits of trucks arriving are not, do them often.
The toughest slide of all ready for it?

Communication
Enough About you Let's Get Down to What I Did

- Standing in my glass tower

- Wait I am the animal welfare expert for my company

- Long story short I had to find out for myself.
Cold weather.
THE NIGHT RIDE

- I rode 92 miles in an empty pot belly trailer rolling down the interstate at 70 MPH.

- I took wind speed measurements in all compartments at both floor and vent level.

- I took floor temp measurements in all compartments.

- We adjusted panels and plugs and took same measurements again in several different patterns.

- Plug and panel placement is critical.
What are the major takeaways from this ride?

- Plug placement is critical!!!
- Condensation is the enemy.
What are the major takea way's from this ride?

- In a properly prepared trailer there is nothing that I find injuring pigs.
- Less than 50% of hogs sat down the whole 4.5 hour trip.
- Pigs experience motion sickness.
- Floor temps. 
- The noise in the trailer is extremely loud.
The RIDE

- Video removed to be sent via e-mail
Recommendations for Your Transportation Program.

- Get out of the one size fits all mindset.
- Clean dry trucks in the winter.
- Load out crews need to be evaluating.
- Proper education.
Recommendations for Transportation Programs.

- In summer time weather the temp inside of a truck sitting still can quickly rise to a deadly level within just a few minutes.

- The difference in a truck stopped and a watered moving truck can be 20°.

- Keep your trucks moving.

- Fans are not always the answer.

- Over watering is just as deadly as not watering.

- Audit trucks often are you paying for extra transport?
So what happens when we don’t handle our business ?????

YOU WILL END UP ON VIDEO BECAUSE THEY ARE WATCHING YOU, IF YOU DON’T BELIEVE THEY ARE YOUR ONLY FOOLING YOURSELF
We are in this together

There can be no competition when it comes to the humane care of our livestock.
CONTACT ME: LETS HELP EACH OTHER

The Humane Way
Helping You Help Them

Jason McAlister
20 Plus years of hands on learning

Phone 816-646-4005
Animalwelfare1st@gmail.com

1501 Jules Street
Saint Joseph MO 64501

Seeking Committee member's send requests to animalwelfare1st@gmail.com