“ABC’S OF PIGS FOR NOVICES AND FIRST TIME ATTENDEES”

2015 NAMI Animal Care and Handling Conference
Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide:
A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare

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American Meat Institute Animal Welfare Committee

Certified and Accredited by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization
USDA’s agency to ensure livestock are handled & slaughtered humanely in accordance with current federal laws
Humane Slaughter Act of 1978
Code of Federal Regulation, Title 9, Section 313
WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- Immediate control action by FSIS
  - Plant shutdown
  - Plant suspension
- Humane Handling Enforcement List
- Undercover video
- Brand reputation
- Punishable by law

Humane Handling Enforcement Actions

Listed below (by date of publication and establishment) are official enforcement actions FSIS has taken against establishments that have been found in violation of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. This page contains official notifications of enforcement actions and restarts when the establishment has demonstrated regulatory compliance. (All documents are provided in PDF format.) Letters will be available for a period of approximately 1 year.
ALL livestock are herding animals

Herding animals have the natural instinct to follow the leader

Eliminate visual distractions

Gentle curves > sharp corners

Reduce noise

Non-slip flooring

Calm, quiet handlers

Be aware of airflow

Use lighting to handlers’ advantage
  • Move livestock from dark to light
  • No lights shined in eyes
EXAMPLES OF DISTRACTIONS
• Animal’s personal space
  • Size of zone is determined by wildness vs. tameness
  • Tame livestock have no flight zone

• Handlers should work on the edge of flight zone
  • Enter flight zone to encourage livestock to move
  • Exit flight zone to encourage livestock to stop

• Fight or flight
  • Animals become upset when a handler is in their personal space
- Pig's shoulder
  - Livestock will move forward if a handler stands behind the shoulder
  - Livestock will move backward if a handler stands in front of the shoulder
• Pigs will often move forward without prodding when a handler moves past the point of balance in the opposite direction of animal.
NEVER use a driving aid or prod on a sensitive area of the animal
USE OF DRIVING AIDS

- Used to encourage and guide
- Never strike in the face
- Use the broad side of the paddle
- Use the paddle as a shaker
- Do not raise the driving aid above your shoulder
- Try to make minimal contact with any driving aid directly to the pig
- Youtube video: Proper use of Driving Tools-Temple Grandin
PADDLES AND FLAGS
USING AN ELECTRIC PROD

- Tool of LAST resort
- All other efforts to encourage pig movement should be exhausted
- Placement: Ham or loin area (NO sensitive areas—it will be considered egregious)
GROUP SIZE & PIG FLOW

- Move in small groups…
  - A small group is defined as a group that prevents piling and crowding
  - Keep control of the lead pigs
“GOOD ANIMAL HANDLING REQUIRES MORE WALKING”

Temple Grandin
TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES

- Condition of Trailer
- Stocking Density
- Trailer Set-up
- Temperature Management (Hot or Cold)
- TQA certified livestock haulers
- Emergency Plans
UNLOADING AREA AND RAMPS IN GOOD REPAIR

- No broken cleats, holes, or gaps that can injure livestock or cause legs to get stuck
- Small groups
- Make sure pigs clear back end of trailer to prevent piling
BARN HOLDING & HANDLING
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- Facilities & equipment should be in good repair to prevent injuries to animals
- Non-slip surfacing
- Enough space so each pig can stand or lay down
- If pigs are held 24 hours we must provide feed
- Pigs should NEVER be held without access to water per USDA regulations.
HANDLING DISABLED ANIMALS

- Injured
- Fatigued
- Temporarily non-ambulatory, need rest
- Ambulatory pigs driven over fatigued pigs
- No Electric prods
- No Dragging of live animals
IF THE PIG CAN’T BE MOVED RIGHT AWAY
PROTECT IT
STUNNING PRACTICES
Restrainer system
- Make both sides are running at the same speed

Correct Placement
- Forehead
- Side of the head
- Top of the head
- Hollow behind the ear
- Never on the neck (below level of ear)

Hot Wand
- Electrodes energized before touching animal
- Very short squawk
CARBON DIOXIDE STUNNING

- Commonly used in swine to induce death or to result in a state of surgical anesthesia.
- Concentration of CO$_2$ should be at least 90% and not less than 80%.
- Concentration and dwell time should be taken into consideration.
- Do not overload gondolas.
YOU CAN’T MANAGE WHAT YOU DON’T MEASURE

- Build a Systematic Approach for Animal Handling
  - USDA FSIS Regulations
  - NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines
  - Write Standard Operating Procedures
  - Implement Corrective Actions
- Evaluate with the NAMI Animal Handling Audit Forms
THANK YOU

Ann McDonald
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