



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Food Safety and Inspection Service

Protecting Public Health and Preventing Foodborne Illness



North American Meat Institute
2019 Animal Care & Handling Conference
Pre-Conference Workshop
Stunning, Sensibility, and Euthanasia

October 16, 2019
Kansas City, MO

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Food Safety and Inspection Service

Food Safety and Inspection Service: One Team, One Purpose

**We work
together**
to accomplish
our mission of
**protecting
public health.**



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Humane Handling Enforcement - Stunning

- ❖ HH Stunning Failure
- ❖ HH Corrective Actions
- ❖ Consciousness/Sensibility

Stunning Failure (When received at DO):

- IPP notify DO of HH noncompliance
- If egregious as outlined in FSIS Directive 6900.2 Revision 2:
 - IPP send DO the MOI documenting observations.
 - DO confirms egregious noncompliance per the Directive then an enforcement action of either an NOIE or a NOS is issued

Directive 6900.2 Revision 2 outlines failures

Corrective Actions:

- An initial assessment of incident/determine the cause.
- Immediate corrective actions taken.
- Preventive measures to prevent reoccurrence.
- Any training of employees and materials used.
- Type of monitoring activity for stunning, documentation/records.

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Systematic Approach vs. Robust Systematic Approach

	Systematic Approach	VS	Robust Systematic Approach
Assessment	✓		✓
Design Facilities and Practices	✓		✓
Periodic Evaluation	✓		✓
Modify as needed	✓		✓
Written Procedures	✗		✓
Written Records	✗		✓
FSIS Review	✗		✓

Unconscious: Not awake or aware;

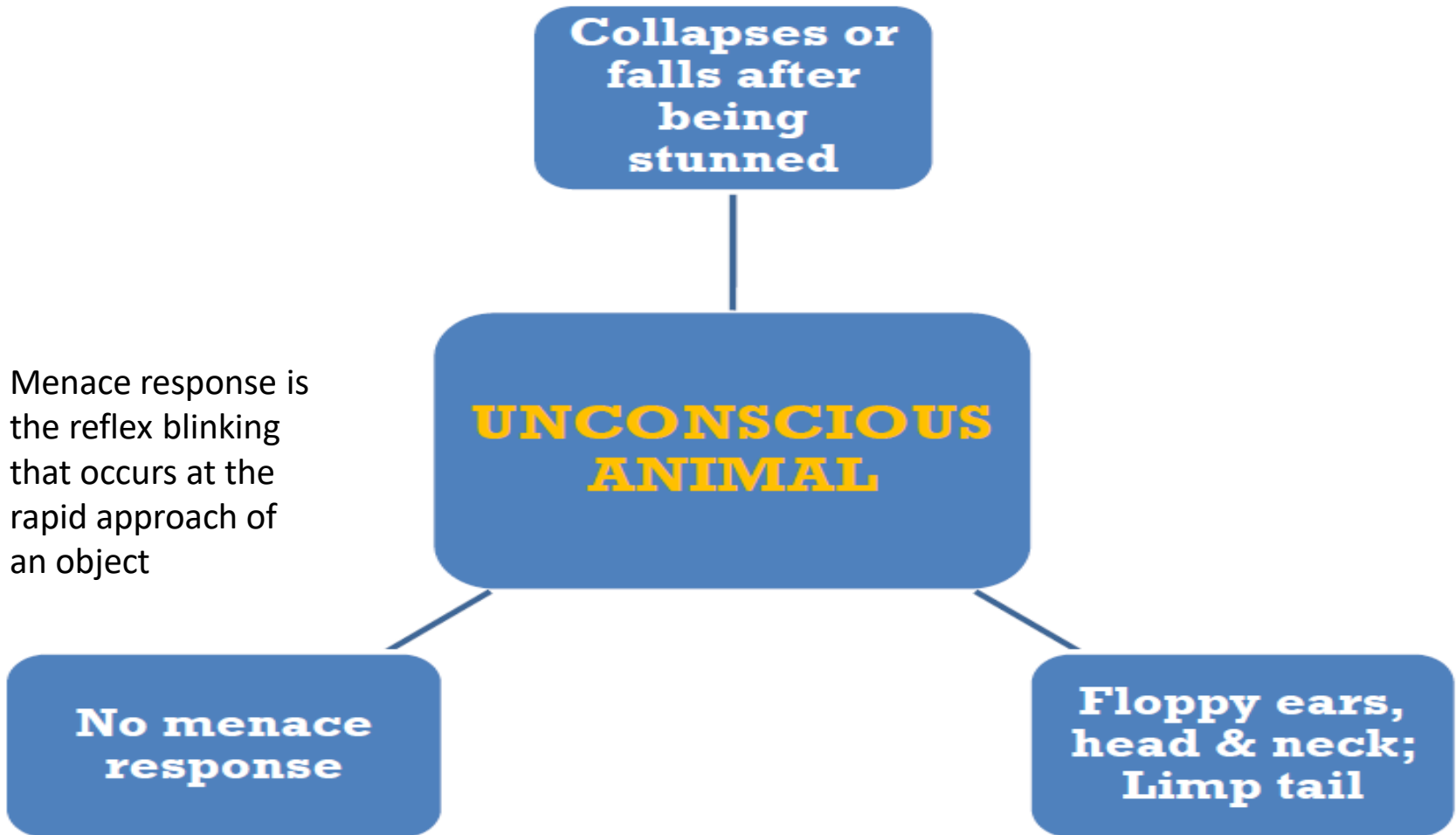
- **Not able to respond to stimuli;**
- **Not able to respond to environment**

Unconscious = Insensible

Effective Stun: Successfully making an animal unconscious throughout shackling, sticking, and bleeding.

Ineffective or Failed Stunning: A stunning attempt that makes contact with the animal but does not make the animal unconscious.

Signs of an Unconscious Animal



Signs of an Unconscious Animal

An unconscious animal may display the following signs:

- Rhythmic breathing
- Eye reflex in response to mechanical (touch) stimulus
- Spontaneous natural eye blinks without touching the eye or eye area (in isolated cases)

Signs of a Conscious Animal

**Stands intentionally
after stunning
attempt**

**CONSCIOUS
ANIMAL**

**Eye tracking &
reacts to
surroundings**

**Righting
reflex+/-
Vocalization**

Examples of Enforcement

Missed Stunning Attempt followed by Effective Stun:

- The animal is stunned with a minimum of excitement and discomfort **No Action** at the discretion of the IPP
- The Missed Stunning Attempt causes excessive excitement and discomfort to the animal **NR** at the discretion of the IPP

Ineffective or Failed Stunning Attempt:

- With Immediate Corrective Action (one second stun) that makes the animal unconscious
 - ✓ **NR**
- No Immediate Corrective Action or Delayed Corrective Action
- The animal remains sensible after multiple stunning attempts
- Back-up methods fail
- Animal returns to consciousness before fully bled out/dead
 - ✓ **Egregious Inhumane Event - Suspension or NOIE**

Contact



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