Food Safety and Inspection Service
Protecting Public Health and Preventing Foodborne Illness
North American Meat Institute
Animal Care & Handling Conference

October 17-18, 2018
Kansas City, MO

Dr. Quita Bowman Blackwell
National Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Food Safety and Inspection Service: 
Mission in Action

We are the public health agency in the USDA and is responsible for ensuring that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

Our Authority
Through a series of Acts, Congress empowers FSIS to inspect all meat, poultry, and processed egg products in interstate commerce.

- Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), 1906
- Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA), 1946
- Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), 1957
- Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA), 1958
- Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA), 1970
Food Safety and Inspection Service:
One Team, One Purpose

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

More than 9,600 employees strong

- skilled
- diverse
- highly trained
- committed
- motivated
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Overview

- HH in FSIS Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- HH in FY 2019 & 2020 Annual Plans
- Small and Very Small Plant Outreach
- HH Policy Updates
- Enforcement Update
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Strategic Plan 2017-2021: HH goals

Goal 2
• Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches

Outcome 2.1
• Explore and Adopt Innovative Approaches

Objective 2.1.2
• Increase Adoption of Humane Handling Best Practices

HH Measure
• Percent of slaughter establishments compliant with all livestock restraint and/or stunning requirements
Increase Adoption of Humane Handling Best Practices

A major reason for FSIS humane handling enforcement actions is the ineffective restraint and/or stunning of livestock. Establishments often employ a “one size fits all” approach to stunning and restraint, even though the establishment may be slaughtering several amenable species of varying sizes.

FSIS plans to develop and implement an education and outreach campaign, targeting small and very small establishments, to ensure more consistent application of humane handling best practices and compliance with humane handling regulatory requirements.

FSIS may develop this campaign in partnership with other stakeholders including industry associations.
OUTCOME 2.1: IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY AND HUMANE HANDLING PRACTICES THROUGH ADOPTION OF INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

RESULT 9 Increase Adoption of Humane Handling Best Practices

2019 Annual Plan Measures:

**Outreach Plan Development:** By the end of Q4 FY 2019 the Agency will develop a targeted small and very small plant humane handling (HH) outreach plan to be fully implemented in FY 2020.

**DVMS Visits:** By the end of Q4 FY 2019 the Agency DVMS’s will have visited 70% of all eligible slaughter establishments (12-month period).
The DVMS Enhanced Outreach Objective:

❖ Improve HH compliance through enhanced outreach via site visits and other outreach events, particularly for small and very small slaughter plants.

❖ Increased adoption/application of consistent and effective best practices producing more compliance with HH regulatory requirements.

❖ Provide one-on-one opportunity to highlight prevention of multiple stun events that result in FSIS enforcement actions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DVMS Verification Visit</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>DVMS Outreach Visit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular DVMS Verification Visit conducted to assess the current state of plant’s HH system or program (regulatory) at time of visit to meet the HMSA.</td>
<td></td>
<td>DVMS Enhanced Outreach Visit is voluntary (non-regulatory) provide support, understanding and clarification of HH requirements specific to the small and very small plant being visited.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enhanced Outreach Visits by DVMSs are voluntary (non-regulated) and focus on:

- Communications with establishment management;
- Proper stunning and restraint of animals;
- Sufficient humane handling facilities;
- Humane handling enforcement actions; and
- Robust systematic approach (RSA).
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Result 9: Humane Handling

PHV Task to Assess RSA in Livestock Plants 2018

As of September 30, 2018

- No Written Plan: 207 (32%)
- Written Not Robust: 58 (9%)
- Robust: 372 (58%)
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Result 9: Humane Handling

PHV Task to Assess RSA in Livestock Plants 2019

- **No Written Plan**: 191 (30%)
- **Written Not Robust**: 64 (10%)
- **Robust**: 376 (60%)

As of September 30, 2019
Policy:

• **FSIS Directive 6910.1 DVMS Work Methods** - is in early stages of being revised.

• **FSIS Directive 6900.2 Rev. 2 Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock** - is being Revised/Updated; FSIS notice on robust verification by PHVs will be incorporated into that revisions.

• **FSIS Notice 09-18 Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves** - will be incorporated into the FSIS 6100.1 Rev. 2 Ante-mortem Inspection of Livestock.
Enforcement Actions: January – September 2017

Very Small plants
• NOS/ROS: 46 (67%)
• NOIE: 8 (40%)

Small Plants
• NOS/ROS: 13 (19%)
• NOIE: 7 (35%)

Large Plants
• NOS/ROS: 10 (14%)
• NOIE: 5 (25%)
Enforcement Actions: January – September 2018

Very Small Plants
- NOS/ROS: 53 (66%)
- NOIE: 12 (60%)

Small Plants
- NOS/ROS: 21 (26%)
- NOIE: 7 (36%)

Large Plants
- NOS/ROS: 6 (8%)
- NOIE: 1 (5%)
Enforcement Actions: January – September 2019

Very Small Plants
- NOS/ROS: 34 (70%)
- NOIE: 10 (48%)

Small Plants
- NOS/ROS: 14 (29%)
- NOIE: 9 (43%)

Large Plants
- NOS/ROS: 1 (1%)
- NOIE: 2 (9%)
Finalize FY 2020 SP and AP Measures

Continue to monitor PHV RSA Task – over time, assess what changes are seen

DVMS Enhanced Outreach Program – Voluntary
  - Final Approval of DVMS Enhanced Outreach Plan
  - Calendar Year 2020 Implementation
Dr. Quita Bowman Blackwell
National Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Office of Field Operations
Food Safety and Inspection Service

202-205-0081
202-260-4138 (fax)
quita.bowmanblackwell@usda.gov