FAQ: NAMI’s Animal Handling Guidelines

Paula Alexander, Tyson Foods
Jason McAlister, Triumph Foods
Jennifer Woods, J. Woods Livestock Services

Moderated by: Tiffany Lee, DVM, Ph.D., NAMI
Current Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit
Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide

- A systematic approach to improvement in animal handling and stunning
- 1991: Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines for Meat Packers (Temple Grandin)
- 1997: Good Management Practices (GMPs) for Animal Handling and Stunning (Temple Grandin)
- 2004: Merged the two documents and included the audit (AW Committee & Temple Grandin)
Changes to the Guidelines

• Organizational changes
  – Moved the section on Emergency Livestock Management Plan from the Transport Guidelines chapter to Chapter 1, General Livestock Handling
  – Moved the section on Proper Design and Use of Restraints to Chapter 3, Humane Handling and Stunning at the Plant
  – Moved text on regulations from the section on non-ambulatory animals to it's own section
  – Appendices
Changes to the Guidelines

• Added a reference to Temple Grandin's video on proper use of livestock driving tools. Use industry- and species-specific livestock transport standards (i.e. BQA, PQA, etc.)

• Added a section on "Non-ambulatory Animals on Trucks" and "Euthanizing Animals on Trucks and in Yards"

• Changed the definition of "non-ambulatory animal"
  – Before: "an animal that is unable to bear weight on two legs or to move without being dragged or carried, regardless of size or age"
  – After: "an animal that cannot or will not rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk."
Changes to the Audit

• Organizational changes
  – Moved the sections on "Auditing Multiple Factors Simultaneously" and “Scoring Small Plants: to the beginning of Chapter 5, Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning at the Plant

  – Rearranged the discussion of the Core Criteria in Chapter 5, Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning at the Plant

  – Moved the audit point for gondola loading from the Effective Stunning Criteria to the Vocalization Criteria

  – Put the secondary items questions into a table to increase ease of use
### Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: Core Criteria

#### Transportation Audit
- Transportation Policy/Preparedness for Receiving Animals
- Set-up and Loading of Trailer
- Timeliness of Arrival/Animal Unloading
- Falls
- Electric Prod Use
- Condition of Animal
- Willful Acts of Abuse/Egregious Acts

#### Slaughter Audit
- Willful Acts of Abuse/Egregious Acts
- Access to Water
- Falls
- Electric Prod Use
- Vocalization/Gondola Loading
- Effective Stunning
- Bleed Rail Insensibility
Changes to the Audit

• Added a sample size discussion to the Slaughter Audit

• Removed the term "Serious Problem“

• Added “Auditor Tip Boxes”

• Removed the audit point that animals in drive alleys must be provided water after 30 minutes and included in the facility's Emergency Livestock Management Plan.
  – Slaughter facilities should make this decision based upon a number of factors, including environmental considerations and animal behavior (outcomes-based measures)
  – More consistent with USDA FSIS policy

Auditor Tip:
Note that shots in the air where the animal is not touched do not count as missed-shots.
Frequently Asked Questions

• Needed a “Frequently Asked Questions” document for both handlers and auditors

• Also had no mechanism by which changes or clarifications could be made to the Guidelines without opening for a complete revision

• Combined the two concepts into a “Frequently Asked Questions” document
  – Provide clarification on ideas and concepts in the Guidelines
  – Also implement changes in policy while not having to completely open up the document
Frequently Asked Questions

• Have already received a number of questions
  – Established a working group to help answer these questions
  – Will incorporate changes in next revision

• Temple Grandin also has an FAQ section on her website as well—pulled from this information too
Questions?