U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE	1. CASE NUMBER		PAGE 2	
REPORT OF HUMANE HANDLING	05.13.HH011 2. EST. NUMBER	3. EST. ID	1 OF 2	
VERIFICATION VISIT	M527	5137		
4a. EST. NAME				
Rancho Feeding Corp.				
4b. EST. ADDRESS/P.O. BOX				
1522 Petaluma Blvd. North				
4c. CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE Petaluma, CA 94952				
5a. NAME OF DVMS (last, first)	5b. NAME OF PHV (last, first)	5c. NAME OF IIC (last, first - if n	not PHV)	
, ,				
6. DATES(S) OF VISIT (MM/DD/YY)	(b) (7)(C) 7. CIRCUIT VISITED (4-digit no.)	8. PLANT SIZE		
6. DATES(S) OF VISIT (MINI/DD/TT)	7. CIRCUIT VISITED (4-aigit no.)	6. PLANT SIZE	_	
FROM: 01/28/13 TO: 01/28/13	0531	Large X Smal	II Very Small	
9. SPECIES SLAUGHTERED (Check all species obse	rved)	10a. VOLUME SPEED (Head/D	Pay)	
Bovine Caprine	Ovine	(b) (4)		
		10b. (Head/Hour)		
Porcine Equine	Other (specify):	(b) (4)		
		(b) (4)		
- \				
O(4)				
12. REASON FOR VISIT (Check all that apply) District Office Direction	Egregious Violation Re	ligious Exemption		
District Office Direction Routine Assessment Repeti ive Non-Compliance	Data Driven Visit Sp. Suspicion of Violations	ecial Correlation/Other (specify):	ior")	
District Office Direction Routine Assessment Repeti ive Non-Compliance	Data Driven Visit Sp. Suspicion of Violations See dated September 9, 2004 - "Systematic Apple	ecial Correlation/Other (specify):	ter")	
District Office Direction Routine Assessment Repeti ive Non-Compliance 13. SYSTEMATIC APPROACH (Federal Register Notice DOES THE ESTABLISHMENT USE A SYSTEMATION OF THE STABLISHMENT	Data Driven Visit Sp. Suspicion of Violations See dated September 9, 2004 - "Systematic Apple	ecial Correlation/Other (specify):	er")	
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District Office Direction Routine Assessment Repeti ive Non-Compliance 13. SYSTEMATIC APPROACH (Federal Register Notice DOES THE ESTABLISHMENT USE A SYSTEMATION OF THE EST	Data Driven Visit Sp. Suspicion of Violations See dated September 9, 2004 - "Systematic Applic APPROACH TO HUMANE HANDLING (all	ecial Correlation/Other (specify): proach to Humane Handling and Slaught four elements*)?		
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* 1. Initial assessment performed; 2. Facilities' design and handling practices minimize excitement, discomfort and injury to livestock; 3. Periodic evaluations performed on handling methods and, if applicable, stunning methods; 4. Handling practices and facilities modified when necessary)

FSIS FORM 6000-	31 (8/21/2012)			
CASE NUMBER 05.13.HH011				PAGE 2 OF 2
EST. NAME Rancho Feeding	g Corp.			
14. RECOMMENDA	TIONS (Check only one):	_		
X No Action	NR by IIC	Suspension/Withdrawal	Other (specify):	
FOR ALL RESPO	ONSES, OTHER THAN "NO ACT	ION", CHECK ALL CATEGORIES	S BELOW THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE AB	BOVE RECOMMENDATION:
	Inclement Weather	Ante-mortem	Slips/Falls	Facilities
	Truck Unloading	Suspect/Disabled	Stunning Effectiveness	<u> </u>
	Water/Feed	Prod Use	Return to Consciousness	
	PORT - See attached. (Include the rative section for each category):	=	dicated order. Note: the heading for each cate	egory should be entered on a separate
Systematic Approa	on(s) for Recommendation:			
Correlated With	1:	21		
Dr.(b) (7)(C)	, SPHV/IIC;(b) (6	0)	; Mr. Babe Amaral, Owner	
Entry Meeting: A short entry me harvest.	eeting was held with (b) (6) to inform of the	routine nature of this visit and t	to specifically see hog
Summary of Da	ta Assessment Prior to \	Visit:		
There has been	XX noncompliance rep	orts (NRs) issued for hui	mane handling since the last DV	MS visit on 2/15/12.
verification. The hours. The HA stunning effecti during ante mo 6.3%, Food and spent more of ti specifically to in humane handling accounting for the specification.	te average amount of HATS data from the previous data from the previous data from the previous data from the old water Availability 7.4% ime on HATS activities the crease the time spent was of livestock remaine the variability; bob veal	AT time spent at this factous six months showed insciousness on the rail (ther HAT categories we can the the VMO, which is a verifying humane handly requires more HATS tiles.	•	was approximately 5.7 s spent on verifying ing humane handling er 5.5%, truck unloading d Falls 12%. The nonVMO nonVMO employee day spent on verifying the ribution of slaughter classes
			previous to this visit: dairy cattl 5.4%), heavy calves (1.4%), mark	

This establishment does not have a video camera system.

Systematic Approach Comments:

Rancho Feeding Corp. has a robust systematic approach to humane handling with written protocols that addresses the three of the four steps listed in the Federal Register Notice 04-013N; 2) Facilities' design and handling practices minimize excitement, discomfort and injury to livestock. 3) Periodic evaluations performed on handling methods and, if applicable,

Continued in 05.13.HH011 Narrative Report

Systematic Approach Comments (continued)

- 1. This facility is over 50 years old and has been adapted over the years to stay in compliance with relevant humane handling regulations.
- 2. The facility design and handling practices minimize excitement, discomfort and injury to the animals especially with the curved high walled single file chute and no use of an electric prod in the holding pens and drive alleys; it used sparingly at the entrance to the knock box for adult cattle only and there is an air-powered vibrating prod available if needed.
- 3. Rancho Feeding has a written animal welfare program that delineates the Humane Handling of Livestock Receiving and Holding Procedure, Livestock Transport ■ Stunning Training, Insensibility Procedure, Procedure for Vehicles.(b) (4) Escaped Animal & Emergency Management Plan Suspect Pens Location and Euthanasia of Non-ambulatory Livestock. New protocols for the electrical stunning of hogs and the movement of hogs have been added to the Animal Welfare Program. Weekly Animal Welfare Audits are performed by plant management/ QC staff and this establishment documents deviation from the Animal Welfare Program in an Animal Welfare Deviation Report and/or Livestock Handling Performance Notification. The audit checklist includes electric prod use, slips and falls, stunning, insensibility, NADC, DOA, and inspection of transport vehicles, equipment and facilities. The self audit lists levels for allowable slips/falls, electric prodding, vocalization, stunning accuracy and sensibility that are more stringent than the AMI guidelines. The establishment also conducts hourly sensibility audits for all species. The most recent 3rd Party audit was performed by (b) (4) on 08/24/2012 on animal welfare and received a 97%, with the only demerits for a lack of a humane handling mission statement. All employees and livestock transporters have mandatory Humane Handling Training with a signed quiz in English and Spanish. Employee training on any or all of the following topics; humane handling, stunning, and animal welfare, is conducted at monthly meetings and employees take a graded quiz in English or Spanish. The plant maintains records of training, truck driver certification and stunner maintenance. All audits, deviation forms and maintenance records were verified for CY2012.
- 4. This establishment has an excellent history of changing animal handling practices when necessary – in fact adapted the low wood unloading ramp used for hogs during this visit when a suggestion by the DVMS.

Summary of Reasons for Recommendation:

There were no noncompliances observed during this visit.

HATS Category	Percent	Acceptable?	NR issued?
	Compliant		
Inclement Weather	NA	YES	NO
Truck Unloading	100%	YES (4 trucks – 18 market hogs, 2 dairy cattle and 10 steers/heifers)	NO
Water and Food	NA	YES	NO
Antemortem	100%	YES (23 animals)	NO
Suspect and Disabled	100%	YES (facilities adequate)	NO
Prod Use	100%	YES (0/52animals)	NO
Slips and Falls	100%	YES (0/52 animals)	NO
Stunning Effectiveness	100%	YES (13 animals)	NO
Consciousness on Rail	100%	YES (13 animals)	NO
Facilities	100%	YES (facilities adequate)	NO

Findings/ Narrative Report:

HAT CATEGORIES:

I. **Inclement Weather**

Regulations: 9 CFR Sec. 313.1 Livestock pens, driveways and ramps.

(c) U.S. Suspects (as defined in Sec. 301.2) and dying, diseased, and disabled livestock (as defined in Sec. 301.2(y)) shall be provided with a covered pen sufficient, in the opinion of the inspector, to protect them from the adverse climatic conditions of the locale while awaiting disposition by the inspector.

Observations:

The pens that house the cattle off the official premises are uncovered; however there are covered pens on premise that are used to shelter the animals from the elements during inclement weather. In good weather, bob veal are kept in uncovered pens, but were moved to covered pens as it became windy and foggy. This establishment is located in an area that rarely receives strong storms or very hot weather.

Determination:

There are no concerns regarding inclement weather at this establishment.

II. Truck Unloading

Regulations: 9 CFR 3Sec. 313.2 Handling of livestock. (a) Driving of livestock from the unloading ramps to the holding pens and from the holding pens to the stunning area shall be done with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals. Livestock shall not be forced to move faster than a normal walking speed.

9 CFR Sec. 313.1 Livestock pens, driveways and ramps.

(a) Livestock pens, driveways and ramps shall be maintained in good repair. They shall be free from sharp or protruding objects which may, in the opinion of the inspector, cause injury or pain to the animals. Loose boards, splintered or broken planking, and unnecessary openings where the head, feet, or legs of an animal may be injured shall be repaired. (b) Floors of livestock pens, ramps, and driveways shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide good footing for livestock. Slip resistant or waffled floor surfaces, cleated ramps and the use of sand, as appropriate, during winter months are examples of acceptable construction and maintenance.

Observations:

Eighteen (18) market hogs were observed during unloading from two trailers during this visit. The establishment has a wide wooden ramp/pallet to provide a step for unloading hogs as these animals find it harder to negotiate a 12-16" step down than cattle. The DVMS suggested that this not be used for cattle as the animals showed a tendency to try and jump over the side edge of this structure and there was some potential for slips and falls. The plant manager agreed and also stated that they would widen the platform for hogs so as to reach the full width of the trailer door to discourage this behavior in pigs as well. Two (2) dairy cows and a load of ten (10) steers and heifers arrived in two single level trailers - all drivers have been certified and hauling for the establishment for at least 8 years. The cattle exited the trailer in an unexcited fashion with only voice encouragement from the driver. The pigs required the occasional use of the rattle paddle and guidance with a plastic "pig board" during unloading.

Determination:

The minor concern regarding truck unloading at this establishment was addressed immediately by the management.

III. Food and Water Availability

Regulations: 9 CFR Sec. 313.2 Handling of livestock.

(e) Animals shall have access to water in all holding pens and, if held longer than 24 hours, access to feed.

Observations:

All animals in designated holding pens, on and off premise, had access to fresh water. Animals held over 24 hours (adult cattle only are held over 24 hours) are fed hay, this confirmed in discussion with In-plant personnel and animals in the adjacent but "off premises" yards were observed eating hay. Bob veal are provided with both a water trough and a nipple bucket, although no bob veal calves were observed during this visit.

Determination:

There were no concerns at this establishment at this time regarding food and water availability.

IV. Antemortem

Regulations: Sec. 313.2 Handling of livestock.

(a) Driving of livestock from the unloading ramps to the holding pens and from the holding pens to the stunning area shall be done with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals. Livestock shall not be forced to move faster than a normal walking speed. (b) Electric prods, canvas slappers, or other implements employed to drive animals shall be used as little as possible in order to minimize excitement and injury. Any use of such implements which, in the opinion of the inspector, is excessive, is prohibited. Electrical prods attached to AC house current shall be reduced by a transformer to the lowest effective voltage not to exceed 50 volts AC. (c) Pipes, sharp or pointed objects, and other items which, in the opinion of the inspector, would cause injury or unnecessary pain to the animal shall not be used to drive livestock. (d) Disabled livestock and other animals unable to move. (1) Disabled animals and other animals unable to move shall be separated from normal ambulatory animals and placed in the covered pen provided for in Sec. 313.1 (c). (2) The dragging of disabled animals and other animals unable to move, while conscious, is prohibited. Stunned animals may, however, be dragged. (3) Disabled animals and other animals unable to move may be moved, while conscious, on equipment suitable for such purposes; e.g., stone boats. (e) Animals shall have access to water in all holding pens and, if held longer than 24 hours, access to feed. There shall be sufficient room in the holding pen for animals held overnight to lie down.

Observations:

Antemortem Inspection was observed for twenty three (23) market hogs. Animals were handled gently in a slow quiet manner using only flight zone and a pig board.

Determination:

There are no concerns with the humane treatment of livestock during antemortem activities at this establishment at this time.

V. Suspect and Disabled

Regulations: 9 CFR Sec. 313.1 Livestock pens, driveways and ramps. (c) U.S. Suspects (as defined in Sec. 301.2 (xxx)) and dying, diseased, and disabled livestock (as defined in Sec. 301.2(y)) shall be provided with a covered pen sufficient, in the opinion of the inspector, to protect them from the adverse climatic conditions of the locale while awaiting disposition by the inspector.

Observations:

There are two labeled designated U.S. Suspect pens that meet all regulatory requirements. There were no disabled animals observed during this visit.

Determination:

There are no concerns at this time at this establishment regarding the humane treatment of suspect and disabled animals.

VI. Slips and Falls

Regulations: 9 CFR 3Sec. 313.2 Handling of livestock.

(a) Driving of livestock from the unloading ramps to the holding pens and from the holding pens to the stunning area shall be done with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals. Livestock shall not be forced to move faster than a normal walking speed. (b) Floors of livestock pens, ramps, and driveways shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide good footing for livestock. Slip resistant or waffled floor surfaces, cleated ramps and the use of sand, as appropriate, during winter months are examples of acceptable construction and maintenance.

Observations:

No animal was observed to slip or fall during truck unloading or movement through the drive alleys or single file chute. The footing is grooved concrete with rebar treads through the holding area.

Determination:

There is no concern regarding slips and falls at his establishment at this time.

VII. Prod Use

Regulations: 9 CFR Sec. 313.2 Handling of livestock.

(b) Electric prods, canvas slappers, or other implements employed to drive animals shall be used as little as possible in order to minimize excitement and injury. Any use of such

implements which, in the opinion of the inspector, is excessive, is prohibited. Electrical prods attached to AC house current shall be reduced by a transformer to the lowest effective voltage not to exceed 50 volts AC. (c) Pipes, sharp or pointed objects, and other items which, in the opinion of the inspector, would cause injury or unnecessary pain to the animal shall not be used to drive livestock.

Observations:

Employees at Rancho Feeding Corp moved swine with a combination of pig board, rattle paddle and flight zone. No prods of any type were observed during this visit.

Determination:

There are no concerns regarding prod at this establishment at this time.

VIII. Stunning Effectiveness

Regulations: Sec. 313.15 Mechanical; captive bolt.

(3) Immediately after the stunning blow is delivered the animals shall be in a state of complete unconsciousness and remain in this condition throughout shackling, sticking and bleeding.(b) Facilities and procedures--(1) General requirements for stunning facilities; operator. (i) Acceptable captive bolt stunning instruments may be either skull penetrating or nonpenetrating. The latter type is also described as a concussion or mushroom type stunner. Penetrating instruments on detonation deliver bolts of varying diameters and lengths through the skull and into the brain. Unconsciousness is produced immediately by physical brain destruction and a combination of changes in intracranial pressure and acceleration concussion. Nonpenetrating or mushroom stunners on detonation deliver a bolt with a flattened circular head against the external surface of the animal's head over the brain. Diameter of the striking surface of the stunner may vary as conditions require. Unconsciousness is produced immediately by a combination of acceleration concussion and changes in intracranial pressures. A combination instrument utilizing both penetrating and nonpenetrating principles is acceptable. Energizing of instruments may be accomplished by detonation of measured charges of gunpowder or accurately controlled compressed air. Captive bolts shall be of such size and design that, when properly positioned and activated, immediate unconsciousness is produced. (ii) To assure uniform unconsciousness with every blow, compressed air devices must be equipped to deliver the necessary constant air pressure and must have accurate, constantly operating air pressure gauges. Gauges must be easily read and conveniently located for use by the stunning operator and the inspector. For purposes of protecting employees, inspectors, and others, it is desirable that any stunning device be equipped with safety features to prevent injuries from accidental discharge. Stunning instruments must be maintained in good repair. (iii) The stunning area shall be so designed and constructed as to limit the free movements of animals sufficiently to allow the operator to locate the stunning blow with a high degree of accuracy. All chutes, alleys, gates and

restraining mechanisms between and including holding pens and stunning areas shall be free from pain-producing features such as exposed bolt ends, loose boards, splintered or broken planking, and protruding sharp metal of any kind. There shall be no unnecessary holes or other openings where feet or legs of animals may be injured. Overhead drop gates shall be suitably covered on the bottom edge to prevent injury on contact with animals. Roughened or cleated cement shall be used as flooring in chutes leading to stunning areas to reduce falls of animals. Chutes, alleys, and stunning areas shall be so designed that they will comfortably accommodate the kinds of animals to be stunned.(iv) The stunning operation is an exacting procedure and requires a well-trained and experienced operator. He must be able to accurately place the stunning instrument to produce immediate unconsciousness. He must use the correct detonating charge with regard to kind, breed, size, age, and sex of the animal to produce the desired results.(2) Special requirements and prohibitions. (i) Choice of instrument and force required to produce immediate unconsciousness varies, depending on kind, breed, size, age, and sex of the animal. Young swine, lambs, and calves usually require less stunning force than mature animals of the same kind. Bulls, rams, and boars usually require skull penetration to produce immediate unconsciousness. Charges suitable for smaller kinds of livestock such as swine or for young animals are not acceptably interchanged for use on larger kinds or older livestock, respectively.

Observations:

Rancho feeding employs a (b) (4) (electrical) set to deliver a stun of at least (b) (4) The establishment utilizes a two phase stun. Thirteen (13) animals were observed during stunning, and all were insensible after the head stun; in every case this was followed by a cardiac stun in an appropriate location. All animals exhibited an appropriate *grand mal* seizure indicating a proper stun. The equipment was well maintained with clean contacts and a readily visible current indicator light.

Determination:

There are no concerns in regards to stunning at this establishment at this time.

IX. Consciousness on the Rail

Regulations: Sec. 313.15 Mechanical; captive bolt.

(3) Immediately after the stunning blow is delivered the animals shall be in a state of complete unconsciousness and remain in this condition throughout shackling, sticking and bleeding.

Observations:

Thirteen (13) animals were assessed for consciousness on the rail. None shows any signs of returning consciousness. After the first seven animals, the DVMS suggested to management that, like they do for cattle, the animals should be assessed for consciousness. Dr(b) (7)(C)

explained that because the animals were still partially in seizure while shackled and hoisted it was not only dangerous for the employee but difficult to differentiate between reflexive nystamus and a true palpebral reflex, that swine be assessed for sensibility before sticking and again before scalding. The plant manager thought this was an excellent suggestion and it was immediately put into effect. After this, the team of employees verified the insensibility of every animal before the stick and again before scalding by assessing palpebral reflexes.

Determination:

There are no concerns in regards to consciousness on the rail at this establishment at this time.

Other Areas of Assessment:

- O Vocalizing vocalization was at a normal level for the species and numbers of animals present with cattle lowing to each other occasionally and setting off a chorus that quickly stopped. No vocalization heard that was due to pain or distress.
- o Pen Stocking Density all animals had free access to water and room to lie down in the pens.

Exit Interview

Present at the early Exit Interview held at approximately 1130 hours were Dr. (b) (7)(C) DVMS, Dr. (b) (7)(C) SPHV/IIC, (b) (6) and Mr. Babe Amaral, Owner. Topics addressed at this meeting included:

HATS evaluation

Dr. (b) (7)(c) reported on her verification activities. She stated that she had seen no noncompliances for humane handling during this visit in the following HATS Categories: I Inclement Weather, II Truck Unloading, III Water and Food Availability, IV Antemortem, V Suspect and Disabled, VI Prod Use, VII Slips and Falls, VIII Stunning Effectiveness and IX Consciousness on the Bleed Rail.

Unloading Ramp for Hogs

Dr. (b) (7)(c) reiterated her discussion on not using this step/ramp for cattle as they tried to bypass it. (b) (6) stated that they would widen the ramp to reach the full width of the

trailer. He also stated that in the fairly immediate future, the establishment had plans to pour a low concrete ramp to secure a more permanent solution to facilitate hog unloading.

Monitoring Sensibility of Hogs

Dr. (b) (7)(C) stated that the employees appeared to take ownership of the task of assessing sensibility in the hogs. (b) (6) and Mr. Amaral stated that they were already used to doing so in cattle and that they had an experienced and well-trained crew.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DATE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE 01/28/2013 HUMANE HANDLING AND SLAUGHTER VERIFICATION TOOL EST. NO. M527 EST. NAME Rancho Feeding Corp. LOCATION DISTRICT CIRCUIT (b) (7)(C) Petaluma, Alameda 0531 SLAUGHTER SPECIES/CODE VOLUME/SPEED PLANT √ s VS SIZE porcine **KEY FOR DATA COLLECTION** X = Acceptable/Not prodded G = Equipment malfunction PA = Poor aim = Fall(s) = Righting reflex ٧ Vocalization M =**Animal movement** S Slip(s) Elec. pod used P = 0 = Other (explain in comments section) SECTIONS SECTIONS SECTIONS SECTIONS F A B C D E A В C D E A B C D E F Α В C D E F X X x 26 Х х X Х X 5 1 76 2 X X X X X X 27 X X 52 X X 77 X Х X х Х 28 53 78 х X X x Х Х Х X Х Х 29 54 79 X X X x x X X x 30 55 80 X X X X x X 31 X X 56 81 7 32 57 82 X x X x x X 8 x X X X x 33 58 83 x X x x x x x x 34 84 9 X X 59 X 10 X X X X X 35 X 60 85 X 11 x x x x x X 36 x x 61 86 х X X х х 37 62 87 12 X Х X 13 x x x 38 63 88 x x x X x X 14 39 64 89 X X 15 65 90 X X 40 х X Х Х 16 41 66 91 x x Х X 17 42 67 92 X X X X 68 18 43 x 93 x X X 19 44 69 94 x X 70 95 20 45 X x x X 21 46 X X 96 X X 47 72 97 22 23 x 48 73 98 X 24 X x 49 x x 74 99 X X x X 50 75 100 25

	SECTIONS EVALUATED	TOTALS	REGULATION	SECTIONS EVALUATED	TOTALS	REGULATION
A.	S/F O - Animals - Slip/Fall (other area)	0	313.1 (b)	E. ST - Stunning Effectiveness	100	313.5 (a) (1) & (3) 313.15 (a) (1) & (3) 313.16 (a) (1) & (3) 313.30 (a) (1) & (3)
B.	PO - Prod use (other area)	0	313.2 (b)	F. Rail - Conscious Animal		313.5 (a) (1) (3)
C.	S/F C - Animals - slip/Fall (stun chute area)	0	313.1 (b)	A THE SECTION OF THE SECTION AND A SECTION OF THE S	100	313.16 (a) (1) (3)
D.	PC - Prod use (stun chute area)	0	313.2 (b)			313.15 (a) (1) (3) 313.30 (a) (1) (3)

- In large establisments, at least 100 animals (per shift if a 2-shift plant) should be observed at each control point. These animals do not have to be observed
 consecutively; the data con be collected at different times.
- In small establishments, whether using a moving chain or a gravity rail system, at least 10% of animals scheduled for slaughter should be observed at each
 control point. These animals do not have to be observed consecutively; the data can be collected at different times.
- In very small establishments, at least 1 animal or 10% of animals scheduled for slaughter (whichever yields the greater number of animals), should be
 observed at each control point. These animals do not have to be observed consecutively; the data can be collected at different times.

COMMENTS (If specific to a particular animal, list observation number before comment)

^{*}At the discretion of the DVMS, a greater number of animals may be observed at selected control points.