

District	EstNbr	EstName	MOINbr	Date	Task Code	TaskName	Status	MOI Agenda
50	M10026	Hillsdale County Meats	RMN14130 22419G	19FEB2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>Meeting Attendees: (b)(6) Based on review of your approach to humane handling on 2/19/19, I have determined that your establishment has a robust systematic approach to humane handling. First, I found you had performed an assessment of your animal handling program. This was evidenced by a Humane Handling Standard Operating Procedure which described methods for the following: the unloading of livestock, the holding of livestock, the movement of livestock, the stunning of livestock, the maintenance of stunning equipment, and the implementation of corrective actions when less than ideal humane handling practices occur. Second, I discovered you had designed facilities and implemented practices that minimize excitement, discomfort, and accidental injury to livestock. During my evaluation, I observed livestock holding, handling, and stunning methods to be conducted in a manner that minimized excitement, discomfort, and injury to the livestock. Third, I identified that you perform periodic evaluation of handling and stunning methods. Daily and monthly humane handling monitoring records showed establishment personnel have routinely monitored the condition of the facilities, the condition of equipment, the handling of livestock, the stunning of livestock, and the return to consciousness of stunned livestock. In addition, you had records of training of employees on humane handling procedures. These monitoring and training activities helped to ensure facility conditions, equipment conditions, and employee handling practices did not result in injury to livestock. Fourth, I determined you adjust handling practices and facilities to ensure that they minimize excitement, discomfort, and accidental injury when a less than ideal practice or part of the facility is identified. This is evidence</p>

**Table: MOIs in Response to FOIA2019-258**

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								<p>by the records you maintain, my observation that facilities are maintained to minimize injury to livestock, and my observation that livestock are handled to minimize excitement, discomfort and injury. These findings support that you have a robust systematic approach to humane handling. A possible vulnerability in your Humane Handling approach may be documentation of training records. Under current procedure, employees' humane handling training is documented only after all training (including ante-mortem handling, driving, prodding and stunning) is complete and signed off on by supervisor. Though possibly trained in some aspects of humane handling, it may not necessarily be documented as such while waiting for completion of training in other areas of humane handling.</p>

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25	M1620	Quality Pork Processors	QMO5211 035814G	14MAR2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>On 03/14/2019 at 610 a.m. while I was performing ante mortem inspection I observed a barn employee starting to move hogs in pen 313. As he started from left to right with his paddle tapping the hogs, they were getting up slow. The middle hog he tapped tried to get up but laid back down and the rest of the hogs started walking down the pen. The employee, for the second time, paddled the hog a little more aggressively to get up and the hog got half way up on all four legs, his legs started to shake and laid back down. The employee, instead of moving the rest of the pen, he was concentrating on getting that one pig to move. Before he could try getting that hog to move for the third time, I stopped him and told him to leave is for the slow pen. I informed the <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">(b)(6)</span> about this barn employee's inability to recognize slow moving hogs.</p>

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25	M17D	Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp.	WLJ46150 11529G	29JAN2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>HATS Category IV – Handling During Ante-mortem Inspection At 0900 hours, while performing ante-mortem inspection on the “West Local Pen”, I observed a gutter plate that was dislodged that was a tripping hazard. The west portion of the gutter plate in the west farmer’s unloading chute was not sitting flush with the floor. There was an accumulation of bedding between the gutter plate and the ground that was causing the gutter plate to be elevated approximately 2 inches off the floor. Approximately 2 feet of this gutter plate was elevated in this fashion. A trucker was getting ready to unload hogs from the chute. I was with (b)(6) at the time of my finding and explained the above observations to her. She called (b)(6) (b)(6) who came out to fix the gutter plate. He removed the gutter plate and scraped the hard, impacted bedding from the floor and from the backside of the gutter plate. After the debris was removed, he gutter plate was able to sit flush with the floor, eliminating the trip hazard. The establishment also bolted the gutter plate to the ground to prevent it from coming away from the floor and accumulating debris.</p>

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25	M17D	Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp.	WLJ02220 23112G	12FEB2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>At approximately 0034 hours on 2/9/2019 (towards the end of 2nd shift starting on 2/8/19), I observed the following humane handling concerns. As I entered the East side of the barn by the designated dead hog area, I looked South down the skid loader alleyway adjacent to the 4th unloading chute on the east side. I observed two hogs. One hog was standing along the southern most door of this alleyway. The other hog was laying alongside the east wall in an accumulation of snow approximately 18 inches wide, 30 inches long, and 1 inch deep. The hogs did not appear to be in distress. This snow entered the barn through a 2 inch by 12 inch gap of the bottom edge of the East wall. These two hogs were designated by the establishment as cripple/non-ambulatory because they became stressed during unloading and were unable to walk to the holding pens. Establishment employees placed them here to await being picked up by the hog barn bobcat/tractor to be taken to the designated cripple/non-ambulatory pen. The floor of the alleyway is a solid exposed cement floor with no bedding or pine shavings. The ambient temperature at the time was approximately 2 degrees Fahrenheit. The establishment's hog barn is currently not heated and maintains a temperature similar to that of the environment outside the building. I notified (b)(6) of my findings.</p> <p>The hogs were immediately taken to the designated cripple/non-ambulatory pen. Humane handling concerns of this incident include the following: If this alleyway is being used to house any class of hog, access to water would need to be provided at all times. The floor with the snow accumulation can pose for a slippery surface for hogs attempting to ambulate. Exposure to the weather elements, snow in this case, could lead to the hogs becoming hypothermic, distressed, and/or develop frostbite.</p>

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25	M17D	Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp.	WLJ14130 34404G	04MAR2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>HATS Category IV – Handling During Antemortem Inspection This MOI is to document the conversation I had with (b)(6) on 2/28/2019 at 1205 hours following an observation of pen disrepair in the barns while performing antemortem inspection. While performing antemortem inspection in the barn, I observed a broken gutter plate in pen 811. The gutter plate runs the length of the northwest wall of pen 811. The gutter plate is approximately 16 inches wide and 7 feet long. An approximately 3-foot section of the gutter plate had “buckled” in the middle - the gutter plate had fractured in the center along its longitudinal axis and collapsed into the pit. The fracture left a 3-inch gap between the 2 broken portions of the gutter plate. Straw and fecal material were densely packed into the pit and overflowed into the pen, filling the 3-inch gap in the gutter plate. The straw/fecal debris was so densely packed in the pit that it supported the broken gutter plate and prevented hogs from getting their feet stuck or falling into the pit. I informed (b)(6) that I would be issuing an MOI for my finding. I stated that this pen disrepair could have led to a situation that caused harm to the animals, but at this time there was no evidence the hogs could get hurt. The barn employees are trained to check the pens every time they are filled. They should have identified the broken gutter plate at an earlier time. It is unclear how long the gutter plate was broken, but it was clear that the gutter plate had deteriorated over a long period of time as it was worn and thin.</p>

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50	M19185	Spectrum Preferred Meats, Inc	ASE391002 5608G	08FEB2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>At approximately 9:40am on 02/08/19 while performing a Livestock Humane Handling review and observation task, I observed a driver unloading his truck and went outside to check the state of the trailer and animals due to dropping temperatures and inclement weather. The name on the tractor indicated he was a driver from "Bayler" and I observed at least 75% of his trailer was blocked off which is within the parameters of the vendor agreement of the establishment. I also observed a minimal amount of bedding which was concerning. While unloading two groups of hogs were sent down the ramp off the truck where an est. employee applied a tattoo; the first group with 23 and the second with 25. The driver seemed to be attempting to move the hogs faster than they were able to go in consideration of the temperature which was approximately 12 above without the wind chill. He also seemed, in his manner and speech, to be more aggressive than necessary while driving the animals. When the hogs were on the scale, I thanked him for blocking up his trailer properly. He replied that he knew how biting the wind would be and that he knew he needed to address the bedding. He said "it's almost gone 'cause it's been in there three days...". I left the livestock area to ask FSQA (b)(6) and (b)(6) to accompany me to the barn. While the three of us watched the remainder of the animals being unloaded, the driver changed his speech to a lower volume, decreased the use and aggressive manner in using the paddle and unloaded two additional groups on the ramp directly off his trailer; one group contained seven hogs and the other contained nine. (b)(6) advised she would have (b)(6) contact the trucking company regarding the bedding as the trailers are to be sprayed out and new bedding</p>

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								<p>applied after each use. The obvious changes made to the manner in which the animals were unloaded and handled by the driver suggests knowledge that he was not operating in the best interest of humane handling. (b)(6) reminded (b)(6) livestock personnel must insist and enforce proper handling at all times even without USDA presence at the time of unloading.</p>



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50	M19185	Spectrum Preferred Meats, Inc	ASE241602 0819G	19FEB2019	04C02	Livestock Humane Handling	Finalized	<p>At approximately 14:25pm I went to the barn to perform a Livestock Humane Handling review and observation task and observed a truck being unloaded. As a group of 14 hogs were unloaded, I noticed several stepping down into a space between the trailer and the dock. I was inside talking to (b)(6) as I proceeded higher onto the tattoo ramp toward the dock door and asked about the gap. At that moment (b)(6) (b)(6), who was on the trailer assisting with the unloading, reached that same door from the outside. He instructed the driver to move his trailer due to a gap without any knowledge of the conversation I was having with (b)(6) (b)(6) and I went outside a man-door right by the dock and he showed me a rubber guard on the back of the trailer. That will result in a gap due to the guard, but there was an additional gap increasing from the middle and growing to approximately 1.5" at the outside edge caused by the trailer being unevenly backed up in relation to the dock. (b)(6) and (b)(6) said this was a result of the trailer sliding on the ice and many thousands of pounds of livestock being moved. The driver adjusted his trailer and continued to unload. I left the dock and returned to the USDA office to speak with (b)(6). She and I returned to the unloading area at approximately 14:45pm. We observed the trailer was still not backed up straight into the dock resulting in the same type and size gap observed and described above. (b)(6) told (b)(6) the gap caused by the misalignment wasn't ok. He repeated that the trailer had slipped due to ice and the shifting weight. He relayed to (b)(6) that the trailer needed to be moved then (b)(6) relayed that to the driver. When the driver objected, (b)(6) reply was "It don't matter. They want it moved, you move it." (b)(6) was reminded this was a regulation, not a personal request or preference</p>

