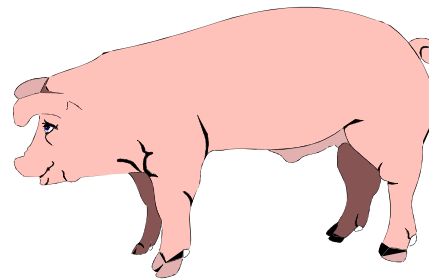


# Stunning Pigs with a B&D Stunner



**Erika L. Voogd**  
**Voogd Consulting, Inc.**

**2013**

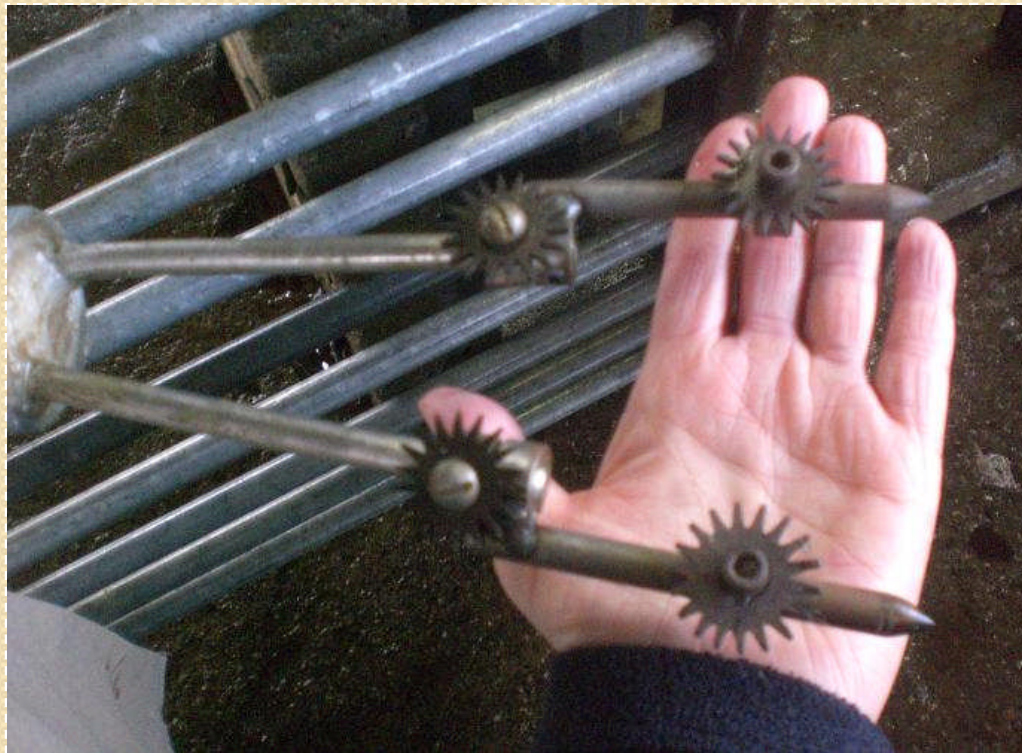
**For pigs larger than 200 pounds,  
extend wand tips to assure  
correct stun wand contact**



**Extended tips with extra star wheels. Stainless steel star wheels (spurs) conduct better than carbon steel**

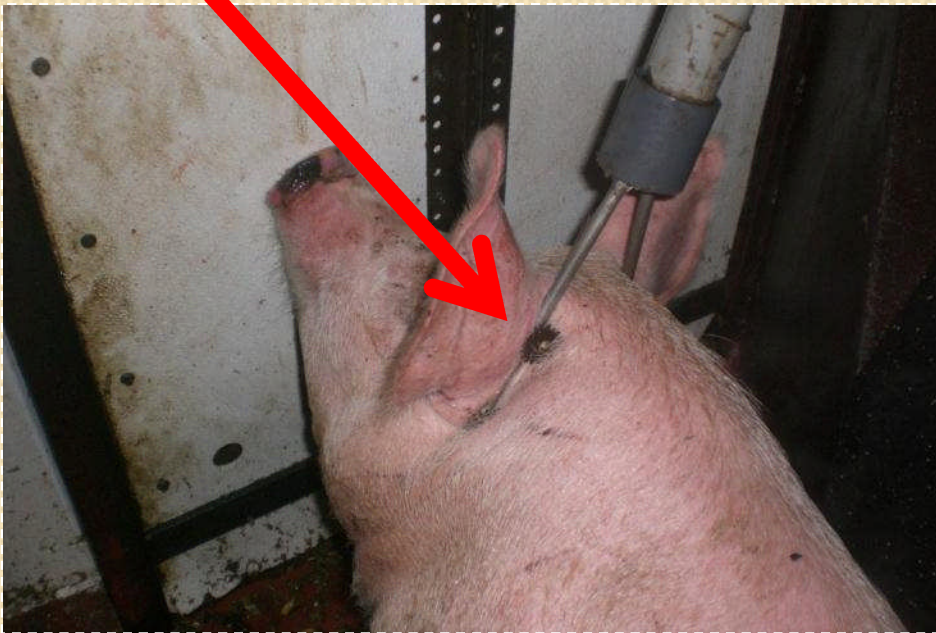


# **Wand extensions and star wheels (spurs) are now available from Best and Donovan**

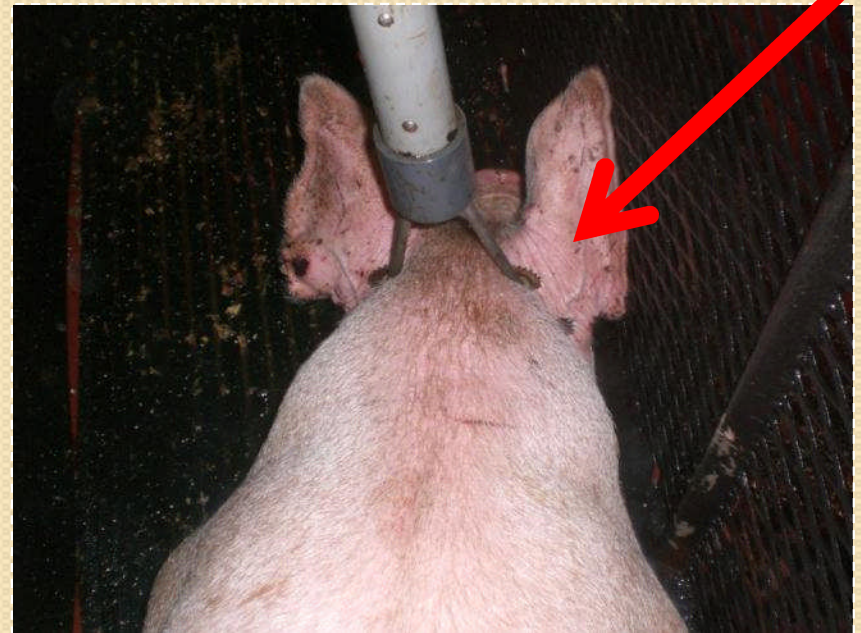


**Wand extensions, Part # 9600017 and additional stainless steel star wheels (spurs) Part # 9603900 are available from Best and Donovan**

# **The extended wand tips and extra star wheels (spurs) assure correct stun wand contact with brain**



**Locate wand as close to the ear as possible, in the thin crevice. Note that this wand has two sets of star wheels for small and large pigs**



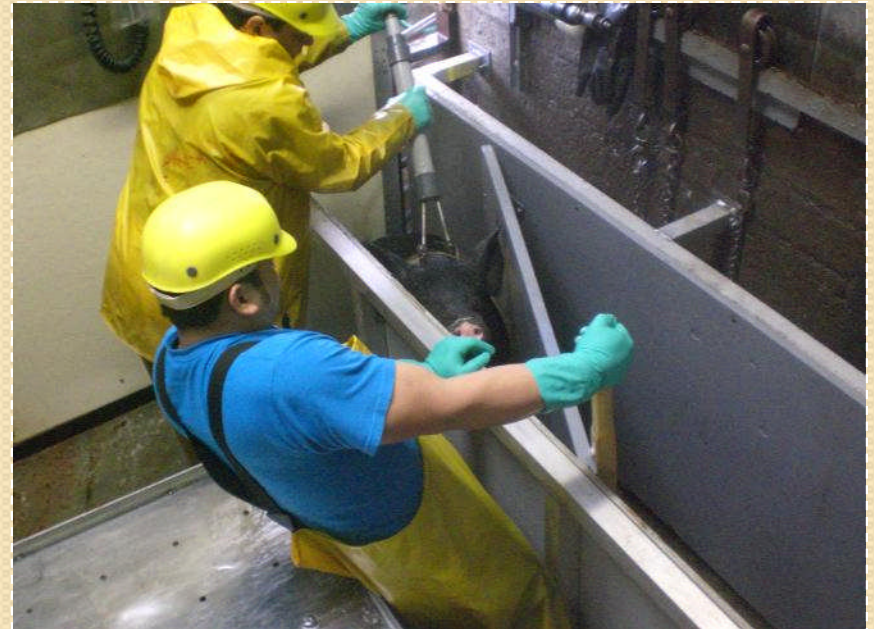
**Longer, wider wand tips help to facilitate secure contact on the head of larger pigs**



**It is best to restrain the pig,  
during stunning to prevent stun  
wand slips or pig falling**



**Insulated swing gate and wall to  
restrain the animal during stun**



**Restraining the pig during stun  
can assure an effective stun.  
Wooden gate is non-conductive**

**Truck rubber mats on floor and wall. Coated metal gate.**



**Plastic lining in stun box area to insulate electrical current**



**Insulate the stun box to prevent grounding during stun**



**Turn on the stunner. Press the stunner button to test wand**



**Observe wand for electrical shorts. Service if necessary**

**At startup: Inspect and test the wand, prior to use**

# Select the Correct Voltage for the size and weight of the pig



**Model 'ES' Stunner settings**

Hog Weight (lbs.)	Voltage
100 to 250	360
250 to 350	400
350 to 500	420
500 to 650	460
650 to 800	520
800 to 1200	580

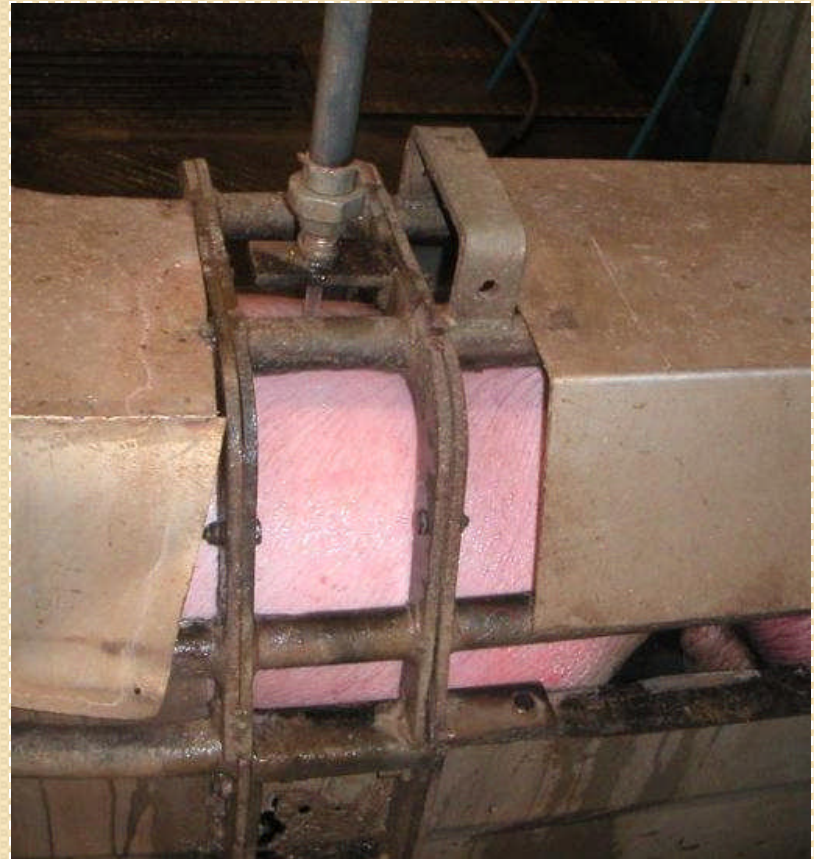
**Best and Donovan  
recommended voltages**



**Prior to stunning, be sure the head and heart of each pig is wet**



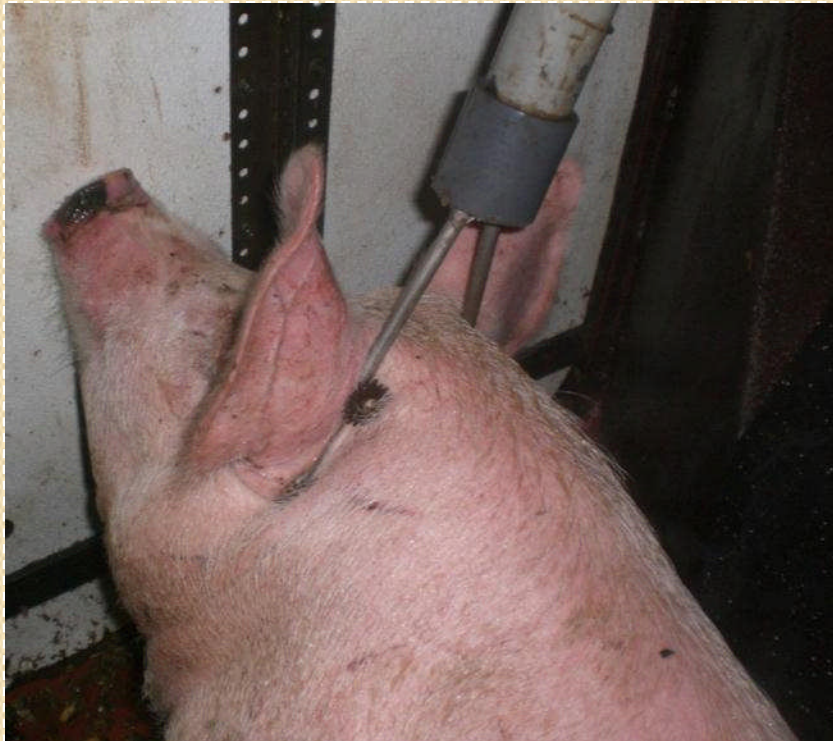
**Automatic shower in holding pen**



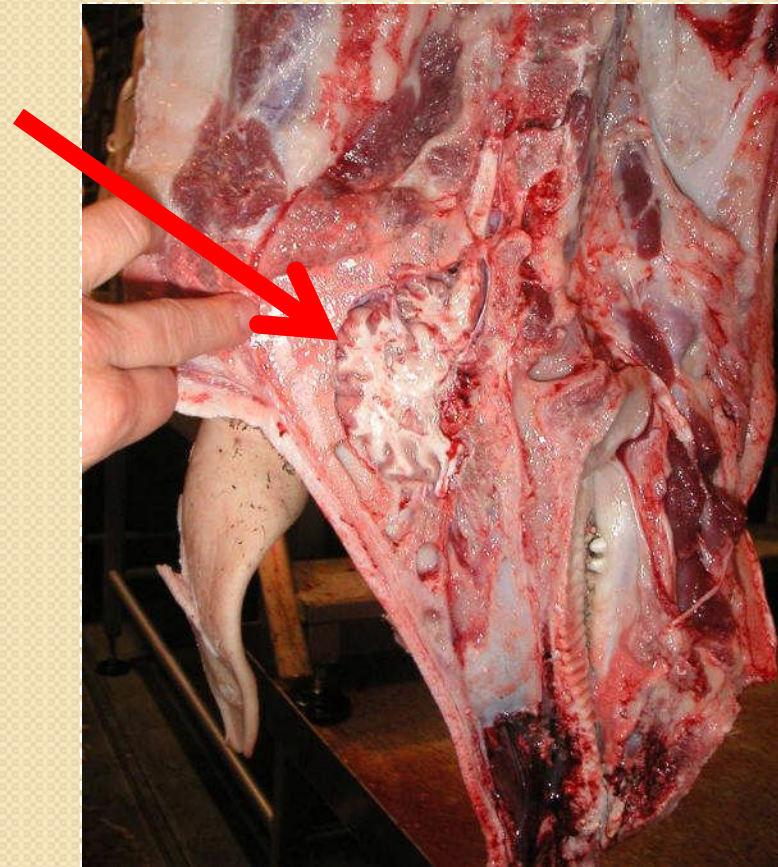
**It is best to wet hogs prior to entry in the stun box area**



# Stun the head for a minimum of 3 seconds



**Place wand as close to the ear as possible**



**Target the pocket of the ear to assure that the brain is stunned**



# Check the eye to assure that the pig is insensible before stunning the heart



**Inspect the eye of the pig, but do not touch it. There should be no natural blinking**



**If the pig is still sensible, re-stun the head before stunning the heart**

# **Stun the heart for a minimum of 3 seconds**



**Stun the heart of the pig**



**Target placement of the wand  
contacts behind the arm pit and  
on the chest**



# Check the eye to assure that the pig is insensible before hoisting and before bleeding



**Inspect the eye of the pig, there should be no natural blinking. You can wave a hand in front of the eye and look for “tracking or movement”.**



**Do not touch the eye, as corneal reflex may still be present on an electrically stunned pig**

# **In electrically stunned pigs, gasping is a sign of a dying brain**



**Agonal gasping occurs when the pig's mouth opens and closes and the head jerks slightly (like a fish out of water)**



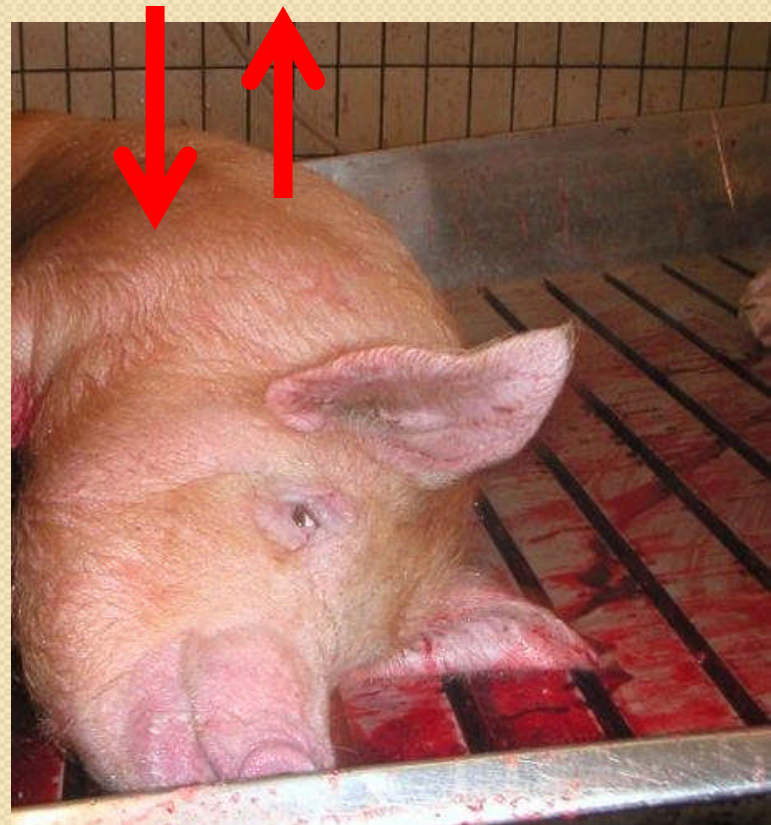
**Rapid seizure blinking and nystagmus (eye vibration) can also occur in electrically stunned animals**



# Signs of Return to Sensibility (Beginning to regain consciousness)



**Eye is focused and pig is  
blinking naturally**

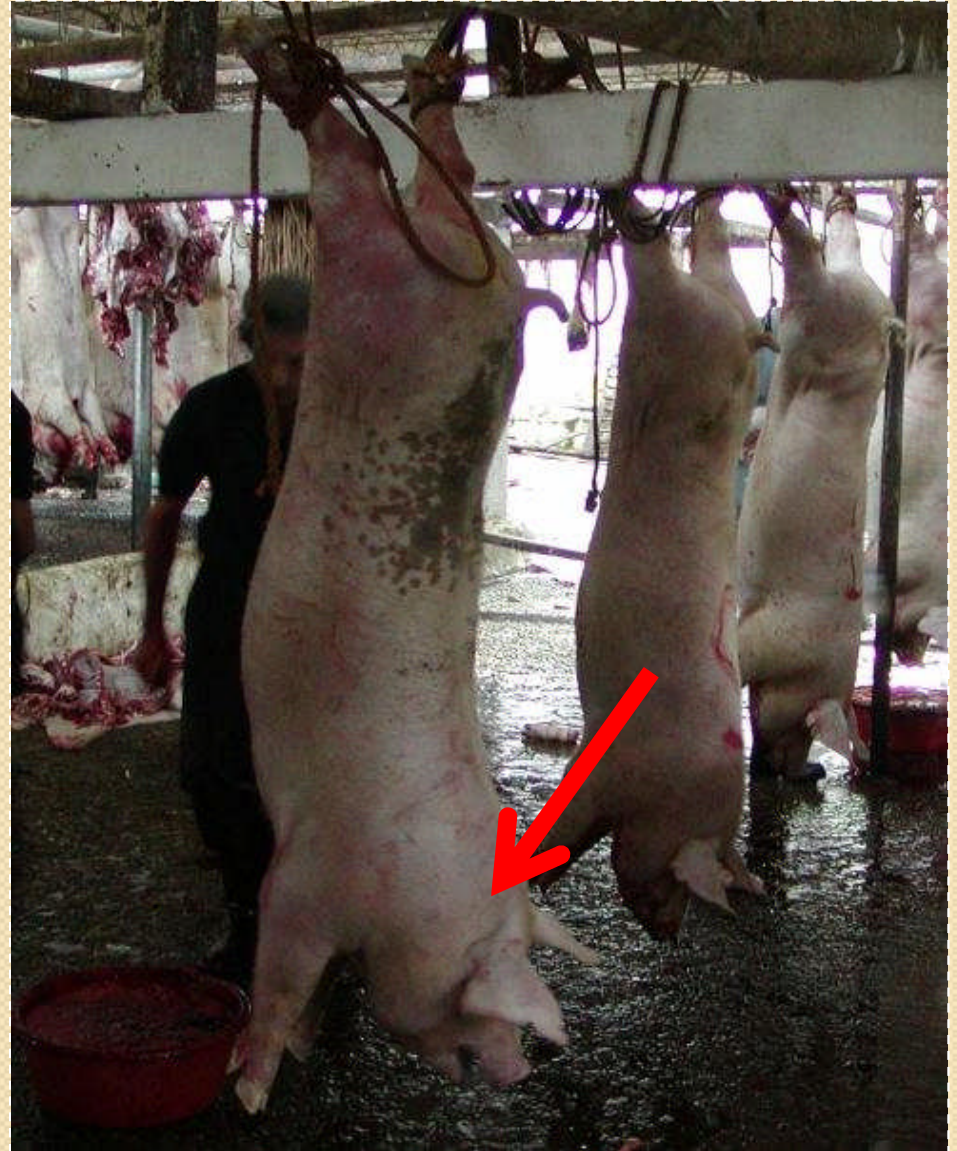


**Rhythmic breathing: Sides are  
moving up and down**

# Signs of Sensibility (Fully Conscious)




**Vocalization**



**Righting Reflex: The pig tries to lift it's head and right itself**



## Order of Events During Return to Sensibility in CO<sub>2</sub> Stunned Pigs



	Average Time
Corneal reflex (touch eye)	42 sec
Rhythmic breathing	68 sec
Excitation	76 sec
Nystagmus (vibrating eye)	86 sec
Spontaneous natural blinking (don't touch)	93 sec
Conscious movement (Righting Reflex)	171 sec
Attempt to stand up	387 sec

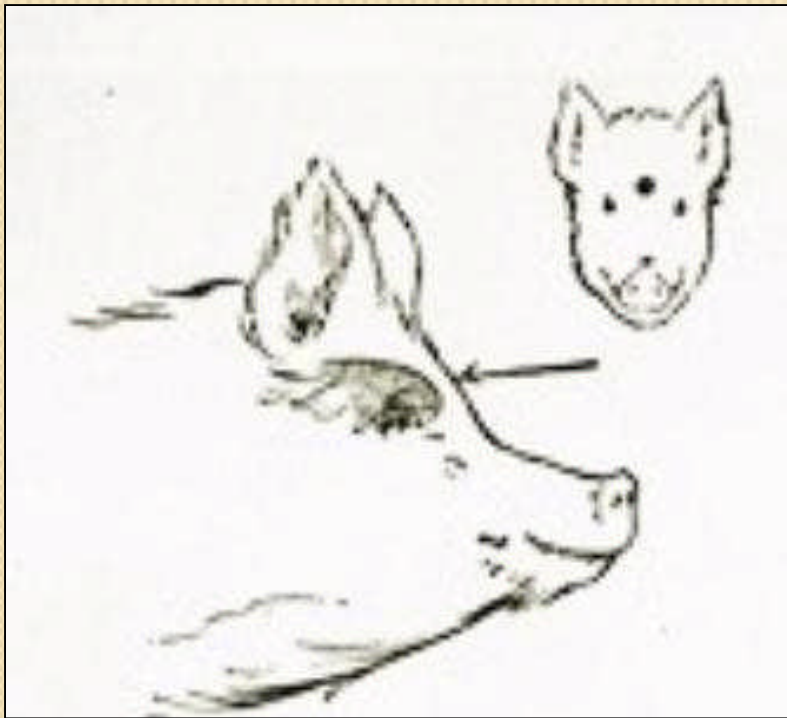
*These events are very variable.*



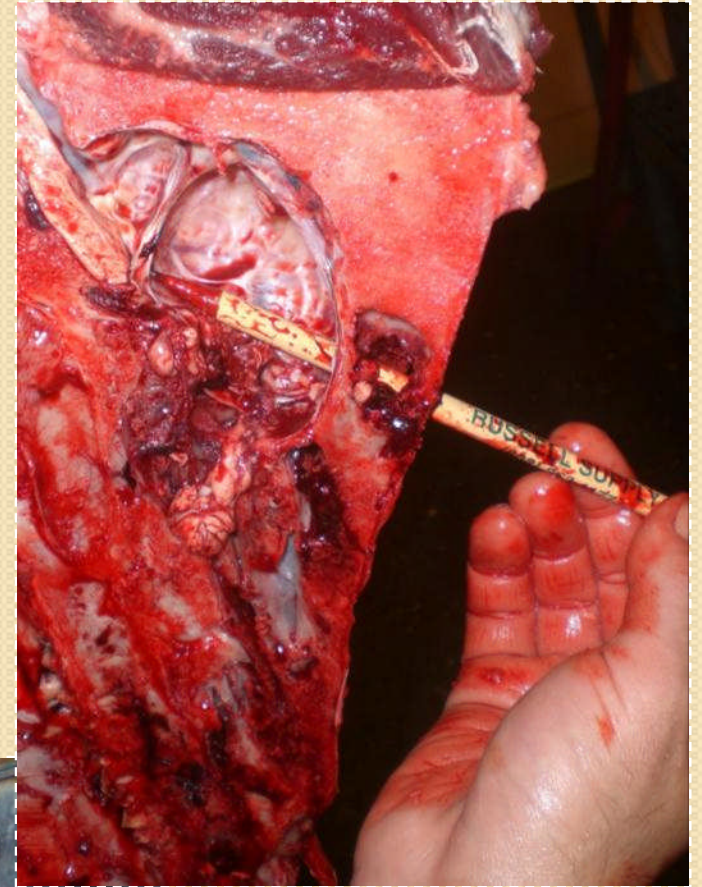
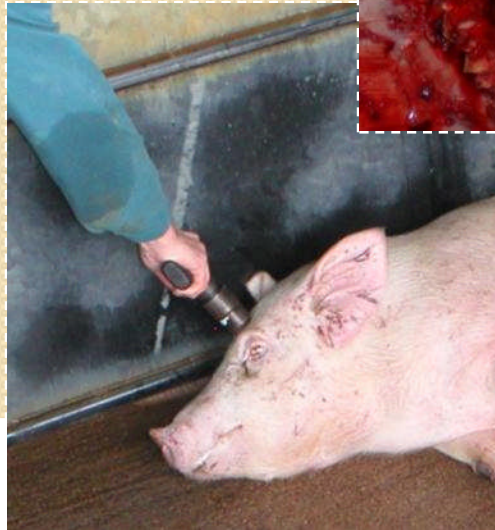
Danish Meat Research Institute, Holst (2001)

CO<sub>2</sub> return to sensibility sequence.

# Re-stun (if necessary) before bleeding (captive bolt)



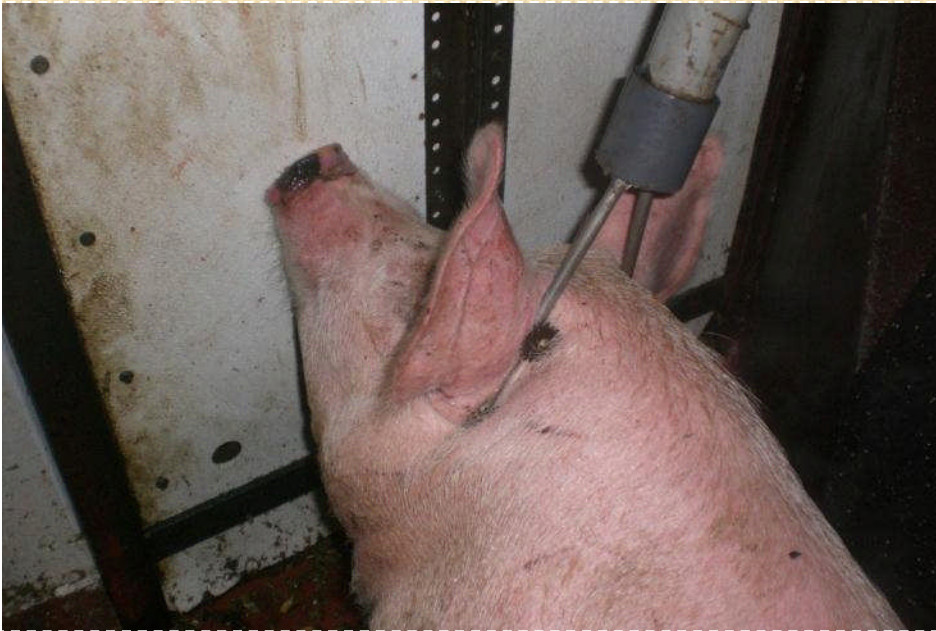
**Correct location for captive bolt  
or free bullet stunning of a pig**



**Correct bolt  
location and  
angle to show  
brain destruction**



# Re-stun if necessary before bleeding (electrical)

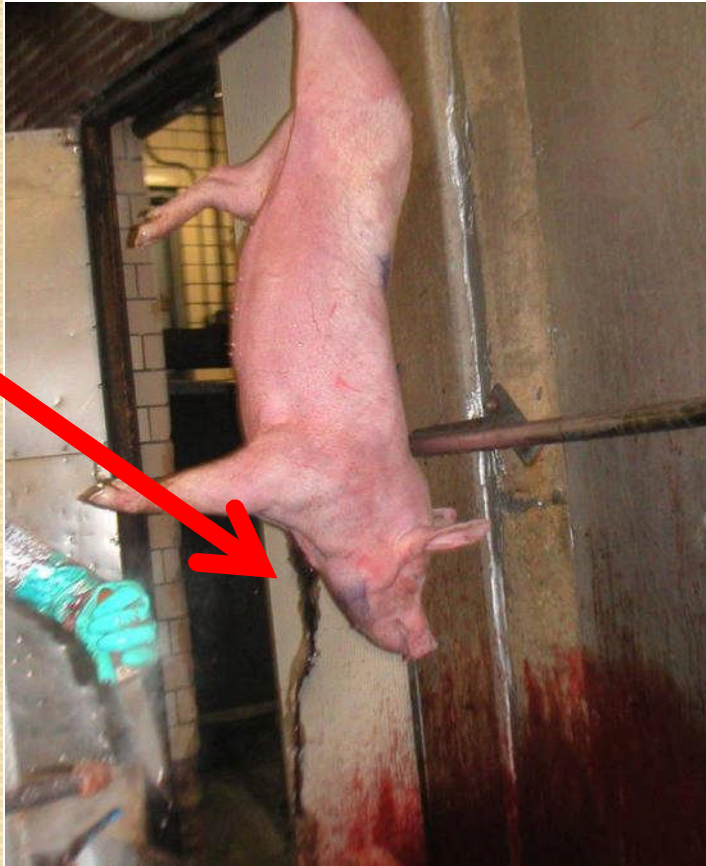


**If the pig is still sensible, re-stun the head first**



**Then re-stun the heart**

# Bleeding should be rapid with a large volume



**Good  
Bleed**

**For head/heart stun, target to bleed the pig within 30 seconds, with a maximum of 60 seconds between stun and bleed**



**Weak bleed**

**If a large volume of blood does not appear, re-stick the pig**



# **Routinely clean the stun wand, approximately every 5 pigs**



**Unplug the stun wand prior to  
cleaning**



**Use a steel brush or a green pad  
to clean the wand**

# **Smoking indicates poor stun wand conductivity, immediately clean the stun wand contacts**



**Smoking indicates poor conductivity**



**Use a steel brush or a green pad to clean the wand**



**After production, clean the stun wand and store the stunner and wand in a clean, dry location away from the plant floor**

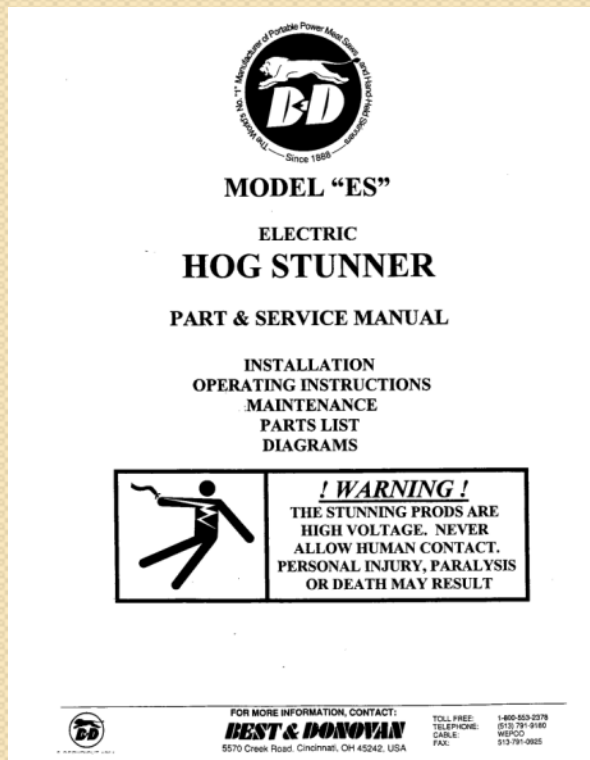


**Do not store the stunner on the plant floor**

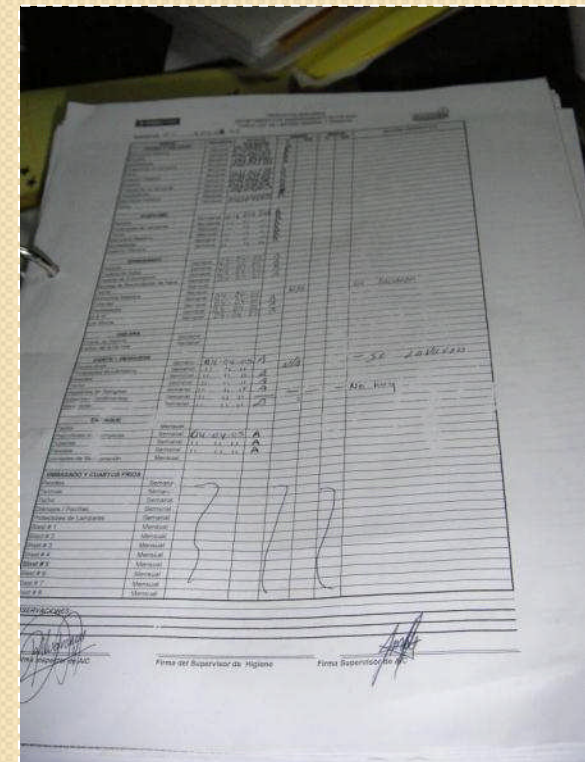


**Store equipment in a dry location when not in use**

# Follow manufacturer's recommendations for equipment maintenance



Manufacturer's  
recommendations



Document equipment cleaning  
and maintenance



**For more information**

**[www.bestanddonovan.com/  
stunner/stunner.htm](http://www.bestanddonovan.com/stunner/stunner.htm)**

**1-800-553-BEST (2378) Ext. 3737**

**Best and Donovan Webpage**

**[www.voogdconsulting.com](http://www.voogdconsulting.com)**

**[www.grandin.com](http://www.grandin.com)**

**Dr. Temple Grandin's Webpage**

**Voogd Consulting, Inc.  
Webpage  
contains information about  
head/heart stunning of pigs**