



Audit Report

Beef Animal Welfare

Caviness Beef Packers - Hereford

3255 U.S. Highway 60
Hereford, Texas 79045

Audit Date: November 07, 2024

Auditor: Brent Knedler

Audit criteria are based on the January 2021, NAMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines - Please refer to Guidelines for further explanation of criteria requirements



Audit Summary

Company Name:	Caviness Beef Packers - Hereford	Company ID:	AUCAVHER
Address:	3255 U.S. Highway 60 Hereford, Texas 79045		

Contact Name:	Jorge Aleman
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Audit ID:	AO-009686
Audit Date:	November 07, 2024
Audit Type:	Unannounced
Audit Result:	Passed

Auditor Name:	Brent Knedler
Auditor Phone Number:	303-601-6760
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Beef Animal Welfare

Category	# Points Received	# Possible Points	Percentage (%)
Livestock Receiving	225	225	100.00
Non-Ambulatory	50	50	100.00
Holding and Handling	350	350	100.00
Lead-up and Stunning Area	475	475	100.00
Management Commitment	50	50	100.00
Employee Training	75	75	100.00
Overall Score	1,225	1,225	100.00

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A failure of a Core Criteria or a cumulative score below 90% results in an Automatic Audit Failure.

An Audit Failure requires a re-audit in 60 days.

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Score Summary

	# Cattle in Question	Total Cattle Observed	Percent Acceptable
Electric Prodding (prodded) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100
Vocalization (vocalized)	1	100	99
Slips (slipped) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100
Falls (fell) - Unloading	0	74	100
Falls (fell) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100
Stunning Accuracy (double stun)	0	100	100
Insensibility (sensible)	0	100	100

Audit Outcome

Pass

Comments

The site harvested approximately 2,900 head of cattle daily on two shifts of operations. Line speed was up to 195 head per hour.

1 Livestock Receiving

1	Livestock Receiving	
1.1	Must have written expectations & humane guidelines for transporters.	25
Comment:	Transporters must acknowledge and sign a copy of the Master Cattle Transporter Guide Acknowledgement dated 02/15/2023. Guidelines were based on the BQA Master Cattle Transporter Guide.	
1.2	Animals must be loaded at the proper industry recommended level.	25
Comment:	There was one pot belly commercial livestock trailer, three gooseneck livestock trailers, and one straight trailer observed during unloading. There were no signs of overcrowding.	
1.3	Trailers must be cleaned at least once each week to prevent heavy accumulation of feces. Trailers must have slip resistant floors, and no potential injury points (broken gates, sharp metal edges, etc.).	25

Comment: Trailers were cleaned as often as necessary to avoid accumulation. Trailer floors were stamped steel and observed with no damage or potential injury points.

1.4 Ramps, unloading area, and scales should be slip resistant, $\leq 20^\circ$ slope, with no significant accumulated manure. Record all potential injury points (broken gates, sharp metal edges, etc.) in unloading area. 25

Comment: The commercial trailer dock and the gooseneck trailer dock were constructed of grooved concrete and were level. Sand was added for traction. There was no excessive manure accumulation or damage.

1.5 Determine number of falls for all animals on trailers observed at unloading. Evaluate at the most probable area and observe multiple unloading chutes if possible. Fall is determined if brisket, belly, rump or other part of torso touches floor. Note number of slips, limb other than hoof touches floor, but do not score. 100

Excellent: No falls = 100 pts
 Acceptable: < or =1% falls = 90 pts
 Unacceptable: >1% falls = 0 pts

Comment: No falls or slips were observed during unloading.

1.6 Use of electric prods at unloading should be discouraged by plant. < or = 5% of animals should be electrically prodded. Record what other handling tools are in use. 25

Comment: Electrical prods were not used during unloading.

2 Non-Ambulatory

2 Non-Ambulatory

2.1 A written policy for immobile and fatigued animals must be in place. The facility must also have the tools available for handling immobile and/or fatigued animals on trailers and in unloading area; unless the animal is euthanized prior to movement. Canadian plants are not allowed to move non-ambulatory animals that arrive at the plant or become non-ambulatory during unloading. The animal must be euthanized where it is found. 25

Comment: The Non-Ambulatory and Ante-Mortem Condemned Cattle SOP dated 01/02/2024 contained policies for handling immobile or fatigued animals. If an animal could not rise or walk under its own power, the animal was euthanized, denatured, and disposed to the landfill.

2.2 Staging of dead carcasses should be out of public view. DOAs, animals euthanized in pens, and animals that died after arrival must be tracked. 25

Comment: DOAs were staged behind the pens in a location out of public view.

3 Holding and Handling

3 Holding and Handling

- 3.1** An emergency livestock management plan must be in place for short term and long term breakdowns. Short term disruptions may include minor plant breakdowns, minor weather events, or scheduling errors. 25
 Long term disruptions may include extended plant downtime, snow storm, motor vehicle accident, natural disaster, building damage, fire, tornado, etc. Procedures should include:
 - How feed and water will be provided during long term shutdowns
 - How electricity can be provided through back up generators in the event power is lost
 - How housing will be provided to animals should housing become uninhabitable due to fire or weather conditions such as snow or flood
 - How animals will be evacuated in an emergency such as fire or flood
 - For animals that cannot be returned to the farm of origin, there should be a designated place where animals can be unloaded and provided adequate facilities

Comment: Procedures for managing emergencies were in Inclement Weather and Emergency SOP dated 01/02/2021. The procedure identified alternate offloading and holding locations that could be utilized if the site could not receive or house animals on premises.

- 3.2** Note air temperature, and heat stress index or wind chill index. Observe animals for comfort. Temperature mitigation strategies at the plant should be established when needed for hot and cold conditions. 25

Comment: The ambient air temperature was 42°F with light winds. Animals could be misted with hoses during extreme heat.

- 3.3** Pens, drive alley, circle pens, and other areas where animals walk must have slip resistant floors to minimize the risk of falls. 25
 Record potential injury points (broken gates, sharp metal edges, broken concrete, etc.) and potential animal distractions in alleys and pens (poor design, poor lighting / shadows, out of place objects, noises, debris, etc.)

Comment: Flooring in the pens, drive alley, and crowd pen were grooved concrete. There was no observed damage or potential injury points.

- 3.4** Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 100
 Chain speed >50-99/hr., evaluate 50 animals
 Chain speed < 50/hr., evaluate one hour of production
 Evaluate at the most probable area.
 Fall is determined if brisket, belly, rump or other part of torso touches floor.
 Note number of slips, limb other than hoof touches floor, but do not score.
 Excellent: No falls = 100 pts
 Acceptable: < or = 1% falls = 90 pts
 Unacceptable: >1% falls = 0 pts

Comment: There were no slips or falls observed from the pens to the restrainer.

- 3.5** Driving tools used to move animals must be used in a manner that allows sound or visual cues for movement. Tools should not be used to strike or jab an animal. 25
 Vibrating prods, if used, must have the pointed end worn down and smoothed prior to use on animals. Vibrating prods should be used on the back, rump, or shoulders of the animal and should not be applied to sensitive parts of the animal or used to jab the animal.

Comment: Rattle paddles and flags on sticks were used to drive animals. Tools were used properly.

3.6 If mounting behaviors are observed the animals that chronically mount are removed from the pen. 25

Comment: Chronic mounting was not observed. The site would separate the animals if it were to be observed.

3.7 Holding pens should not appear overcrowded. Crowd pen should be under ¾ full and crowd gate should not be used to forcibly push animals. 25

Comment: Holding pens did not appear overcrowded. The crowd pen was filled to 1/2 to 3/4 capacity. Crowd gates were not used to push animals.

3.8 Animals must have unrestricted access to potable water in pens. Water cannot be frozen. Establishments should include provisions for providing water to animals waiting in drive alleys in their emergency management plan. Animals must have access to feed if held over 24 hours. 100

Comment: Animals in each pen had access to clean water. If there was downtime expected to exceed 30 minutes, water could be provided in portable rubber troughs.

4 Lead-up and Stunning Area

4 Lead-up and Stunning Area

4.1 Floors must be slip resistant and cleaned to minimize the risk of falls. Manure should not be excessive. Record potential injury points (broken gates, sharp metal edges, etc.) and potential animal distractions (poor design, poor lighting / shadows, out of place objects, noises, debris, etc.) in crowd pen, chute, restrainer, knock box area. Rearing or struggling should be minimal. 25

Comment: Floors in the lead up were grooved concrete and were cleaned routinely during each shift. Damage, excessive manure, or potential injury points were not observed.

4.2 Documented records are available for the maintenance and cleaning of euthanasia tools. Captive bolt guns must be cleaned each day of use and documented. Cleaning and preventative maintenance must be performed in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and documented. Equipment and ammunition must be stored in a dry place when not in use. Plant must have a back-up stunner. Record type and brand of stunner and type of restrainer or knock box. Air injected stunners are prohibited. 50

Comment: Jarvis pneumatic stunners were used for primary euthanasia, and Jarvis .25 magnum hand-held captive bolt guns were available for backup. Euthanasia equipment was cleaned and inspected each day of use. Inspections for handheld equipment were recorded on the Daily Hand Stunner Maintenance Log. Maintenance records from the last three months were reviewed, and compliance was demonstrated. Pneumatic stunner inspections were recorded in the site's electronic preventive maintenance system. Ammunition was stored in a sealed plastic bag.

- 4.3** Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 100
 Chain speed >50-99/hr., evaluate 50 animals
 Chain speed < 50/hr., evaluate one hour of production Record percentage of animals electrically prodded. Electric prods should only be used when necessary and not on the facial, anal, or genital regions. Other primary handling tools should be in use.
 Excellent = ≤ 5% prodded 100 pts
 Acceptable = ≤ 25% prodded 90 pts
 Not acceptable = > 25% prodded 0 pts
 Knock box with head restrainer:

Comment: Electric prods were not used during the assessment.

- 4.4** Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 100
 Chain speed >50-99/hr., evaluate 50 animals
 Chain speed < 50/hr., evaluate one hour of production

 Record percentage of animals that vocalized from the crowd pen to and including the restrainer
 Excellent ≤ 1% vocalize 100 pts
 Acceptable ≤ 3% vocalize 90 pts
 Unacceptable > 3% vocalize 0 pts

 Knock boxes with head restraint:
 Excellent < or = 1% vocalize 100 pts
 Head Restrainer < or = 5% vocalize 90 pts
 Unacceptable > 5% vocalize 0 pts

Comment: Vocalization was heard and observed from 1 of the 100 cattle observed.

- 4.5** Chain speed > or =100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 100
 Chain speed >50-99/hr., evaluate 50 animals
 Chain speed < 50/hr., evaluate one hour of production

 Record percentage of animals that were stunned more than once to render the animal insensible.
 If animals are to have a planned security knock, auditor must assess sensibility prior to the second knock.
 Excellent ≤ 1% double stunned 100 pts
 Acceptable ≤ 4% double stunned 90 pts
 Unacceptable > 4% double stunned 0 pts

Comment: The site used planned security stunning. Stunning efficacy was evaluated immediately after the initial stun. Each of the 100 animals evaluated was rendered insensible with the initial stun.



4.6 Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 100
 Chain speed >50-99/hr., evaluate 50 animals
 Chain speed < 50/hr., evaluate one hour of production

An animal exhibiting characteristics of sensibility on the rail (i.e., immediately after shackling or hanging) will be an automatic audit failure if observed during any part of the audit. Insensibility is characterized by floppy head, straight tongue hanging out, no righting reflex, eyes in blank stare (no eye tracking), no natural blinks. If an auditor sees an animal that has returned to full consciousness on the bleed rail or table at any time during the audit, it should be noted and the audit failed, even if the animal observed was not part of the 100 animals scored when auditing bleed rail insensibility.

Excellent 100% insensible 100 pts
 Unacceptable < 100% insensible 0 pts

Comment: Each of the 100 animals evaluated was observed insensible immediately prior to shackling.

5 Management Commitment

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5.1 An animal welfare mission statement is in place and posted or circulated within the facility. 25

Comment: The Animal Welfare Mission Statement was posted in live animal handling areas of the complex and were communicated to staff during initial and annual refresher training.

5.2 A program of ongoing monitoring and measurement of animal handling, stunning practices, and outcomes is in place. Each of the seven core criteria should be included. Animal handling and stunning must be audited a (minimum weekly). 25

Comment: Weekly audits assessed core animal welfare, handling, and transportation criteria. Transportation audits were conducted on 3-4 trailers weekly, and animal welfare and handling audits were conducted on 100 heads weekly. Year-to-date completed audits were available.

6 Employee Training

6 Employee Training

6.1 The company's training program must reflect company procedures and policies for livestock receiving, condition of livestock, holding and handling, lead-up and stunning area. Training for personnel performing euthanasia must be documented. A written procedure for handling a sensible animal on the bleed rail and is included in training provided. Retraining should be at least annual. 75

Comment: Employees with responsibilities related to animal handling were trained before being assigned the duties and then retrained annually—records of training from February through May 2024 demonstrated compliance.

7 Acts of Abuse



7 Acts of Abuse

7.1 A willful act of abuse is automatic grounds for an audit failure. No
These offenses include, but are not limited to, dragging a conscious, non-ambulatory animal, intentionally applying prods to sensitive parts of the animal like the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, rectum, vulva, testicles, or belly; deliberate slamming of gates on livestock; intentionally driving livestock on top of one another or hitting or beating an animal, purposefully driving livestock off high ledges, platforms or off a truck without a ramp, or animals frozen to the floor or sides of trailer.

Comment: Willful abusive acts were not observed.

8 Conflict of Interest Declaration

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The below named auditor declares he/she does not have a conflict of interest with the client. No

Comment: I, Brent Knedler, do not have a conflict of interest with this auditee.
