Audit Report

Beef Animal Welfare

Caviness Packing Company - Hereford
3255 U.S. 60
Hereford, Texas 79045

Audit Date: November 13, 2020
Auditor: Lacey Vinson

Audit criteria are based on the September 2019, Rev. 2, NAMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines - Please refer to Guidelines for further explanation of criteria requirements

Audit Summary

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

Contact Name:	Jorge Aleman
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Audit ID:	AO-000864
Audit Date:	November 13, 2020
Audit Type:	Annual audit
Audit Result:	Passed

Auditor Name:	Lacey Vinson
Auditor Phone Number:	210-290-7892
Auditor Email Address:	lacey.vinson@fsns.com

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

** Denotes a Core Criteria.

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.

Beef Animal Welfare

Score Summary

Result

Score Summary

	# Cattle in Question	Total Cattle Observed	Percent Acceptable
Electric Prodding (prodded) - crowd pen to restrainer	2	100	98%
Vocalization (vocalized)	0	100	100%
Slips (slipped) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100%
Falls (fell) - Unloading	0	134	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 facility harvested 1,900 head of cattle per day on one production shift, at a chain speed of 210 head per hour.

1 Livestock Receiving

Result

1.1	Must have written expectations & humane guidelines for transporters.	25
Comment:	Caviness Beef Packers Program for Transporters defined transporter requirements. Transporters received a copy of the requirements at arrival for review.	
1.2	Animals must be loaded at the proper industry recommended level.	25
Comment:	The three potbelly livestock trailers contained 29 head, 46 head, and 40 head of cattle. The two gooseneck trailers observed contained 7 head and 12 head of cattle. Signs of trailer overcrowding were not observed.	
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:	Flooring in the commercial potbelly trailers was comprised of stamped metal; flooring in the gooseneck livestock trailers was comprised of wood that was reinforced with rebar for additional traction. Trailer flooring was in good condition on the five observed trailers. Trailers were cleaned weekly at a minimum or as needed between loads. Manure buildup was not observed.	
1.4	Ramps, unloading area, and scales should be slip resistant, ≤ 20° slope, with no significant accumulated manure. Record all potential injury points (broken gates, sharp metal edges, etc.) in unloading area.	25
Comment:	The two commercial trailer docks and one gooseneck livestock trailer dock were comprised of grooved concrete flooring with a layer of dirt utilized for additional traction at the initial dock contact point. Manure buildup, standing water, injury points, and distractions were not observed. The docks were slightly sloped down toward holding pens.	
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. Excellent: No falls = 100 pts Acceptable: < or =1% falls = 90 pts Unacceptable: >1% falls = 0 pts	100
Comment:	The 134 head of cattle observed did not slip or fall. 0/134=0%	
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:	Electric prods were not used at unloading. Plant personnel were responsible for unloading cattle, and utilized flags or rattle paddles in a non-contact manner to encourage cattle movement. 0/134=0%	

2 Non-Ambulatory

		Result
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 explained requirements for handling of non-ambulatory cattle on trailers and in pens. Such animals were euthanized using a captive bolt stunner, denatured, and held in the covered shed until transport to a landfill for disposition. Fatigued cattle were segregated into the US Suspect pen, provided water, and were allowed to rest until USDA ante-mortem inspection.	
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: Euthanized and DOA cattle were stored in a covered pen until transport to a landfill. Such cattle were tracked via the Outside Livestock Condemned Log. Records from July 2020 evidenced program compliance.

3 Holding and Handling

		Result
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. 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	25
Comment:	The Inclement Weather and Emergency SOP explained backup generators were located on-site to supply power to the plant in the event of a power outage. Water was supplied from the city of Hereford, Texas and was not affected by a power outage. Feed was provided to cattle held over 24 hours. Offsite pens owned by the facility were utilized to hold cattle over in the event of an extended breakdown. In the event of a short-term breakdown, drivers were instructed to keep moving to maximize airflow during extreme heat. Animals could be moved to off-site shelter during extreme cold.	
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:	Temperature at the time of the audit was 36F with clear skies and calm winds. Observed cattle were comfortable and did not exhibit signs of cold stress. Pens were open to maximize airflow during extreme heat. Cattle could be transported to offsite pens with covered shelter during extreme cold.	
3.3	Pens, drive alley, circle pens, and other areas where animals walk must have slip resistant floors to minimize the risk of falls. 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.)	25
Comment:	Grooved concrete flooring in pens and drive alleys were cleaned daily, and were in good condition. Standing water, manure buildup, injury points and distractions were not observed.	

3.4	Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 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	100
Comment:	The 100 head of cattle observed moving from the holding pens to the lead-up area did not slip or fall. 0/100=0%	
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. 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.	25
Comment:	Rattle paddles and flags were utilized in a non-contact manner to drive cattle from holding pens to the lead-up area. Vibrating prods were not utilized.	
3.6	If mounting behaviors are observed the animals that chronically mount are removed from the pen.	25
Comment:	Mounting behaviors were not 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 were maintained at 75% capacity, and were not observed crowded during the assessment. Cattle were observed comfortable and did not appear stressed. Crowd gates were not observed used to push cattle.	
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:	Overflow troughs were rinsed daily and deep cleaned weekly. Emergency protocols explained when a breakdown of thirty minutes or more occurred, cattle were backed out of the lead-up area and were returned to pens to access water. Cattle held over 24 hours were provided feed.	

4 Lead-up and Stunning Area

		Result
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: Grooved concrete flooring in the circle pen and lead-up area was in good condition, and was cleaned daily. Standing water, manure buildup, distractions, or injury points were not observed.

4.2 Documented records are available for the maintenance and cleaning of euthanasia tools. 50
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.

Comment: Jarvis pneumatic captive bolt stunners were utilized as primary stunners. Jarvis .25 caliber handheld stunners were utilized as secondary and euthanasia stunners. Stunners were cleaned, serviced, and tested through daily and weekly preventive maintenance tasks. Records from July 2020 evidenced program compliance. Secondary and euthanasia stunners and ammunition were stored in an air-tight container when not in use. A belly belt restrainer was utilized and rearing and struggling were not observed. Air injection stunning was not performed.

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: Two head of cattle out of the 100 head observed were properly prodded with an electric prod in the lead-up area.
2/100=2%

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: The 100 head of cattle observed did not vocalize in the lead-up or restrainer area.
0/100=0%

4.5	Chain speed > or =100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 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 planned to be double knocked, 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	100
Comment:	The 100 head of cattle observed were properly rendered insensible on the first stunning attempt. 0/100=0%	
4.6	Chain speed >100/hr., evaluate 100 animals 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. Excellent 100% insensible 100 pts Unacceptable < 100% insensible 0 pts	100
Comment:	The 100 head of cattle observed were properly rendered insensible prior to hanging on the bleed rail. 0/100=0%	

5 Management Commitment

		Result
5.1	An animal welfare mission statement is in place and posted or circulated within the facility.	25
Comment:	Animal Welfare Mission Statement was communicated through postings in employee common areas. The statement explained Caviness Beef Packers takes great pride in being stewards of live cattle and strives to competently and consistently produce quality beef products derived from humanely handled livestock.	
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:	Transportation and animal welfare audits were conducted weekly and were based on NAMI core and secondary criteria. Daily monitoring was conducted to verify water availability in pens and maintenance was performed on both pneumatic and handheld captive bolt stunners. Drive alleys and pens were inspected weekly to verify cleanliness and conditions of flooring, gates, water troughs, and pens. Audits reviewed from July 2020 evidenced program requirements.	

6 Employee Training

		Result

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: Training was conducted at hire, annually, and as needed through the Alchemy program, plant policies, and animal handling videos by Dr. Temple Grandin. Records from 2020 evidenced program compliance, and included protocols for handling of a sensible animal on the bleed rail.

7 Acts of Abuse

		Result
7.1	A willful act of abuse is automatic grounds for an audit failure. 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.	No

Comment: Willful acts of abuse were not observed.

8 Conflict of Interest Declaration

		Result
	The below named auditor declares he/she does not have a conflict of interest with the client.	Yes

Comment: I, Lacey Wooten, do not have a conflict of interest with this auditee.