



Audit Report

Beef Animal Welfare

National Beef Packing Co., LLC. - Dodge City
2000 East Trail Street
Dodge City, Kansas 67801

Audit Date: October 06, 2023
Auditor: Lori Ernst

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:	National Beef Packing Co., LLC. - Dodge City	Company ID:	AUNATDOD
Address:	2000 East Trail Street Dodge City, Kansas 67801		

Contact Name:	Pat Mies
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Audit ID:	AO-007091
Audit Date:	October 06, 2023
Audit Type:	Annual audit
Audit Result:	Passed

Auditor Name:	Lori Ernst
Auditor Phone Number:	210-355-6937
Auditor Email Address:	lori.ernst@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	340	350	97.14
Lead-up and Stunning Area	475	475	100.00
Management Commitment	50	50	100.00
Employee Training	75	75	100.00
Overall Score	1,215	1,225	99.18

** 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	4	100	96
Vocalization (vocalized)	1	100	99
Slips (slipped) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100
Falls (fell) - Unloading	0	164	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

Chain speed was 390 head per hour, running two shifts of operation. Site slaughtered approximately 6,000 head per day operating five to six days per week.

1 Livestock Receiving

Result

1.1 Must have written expectations & humane guidelines for transporters. 25

Comment: Cattle Transportation procedure included the NAMI Core Criteria for cattle welfare procedures. Transporters were required to sign the Head Count Verification upon arrival for each load delivered to the facility. By signing the Head Count Verification form, drivers indicated understanding of facility expectations, including that they be BQAT certified.

1.2 Animals must be loaded at the proper industry recommended level. 25

Comment: Trailers were loaded with 34, 34, 34, 31, and 31 head which was within industry recommended levels.

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: Trailer/Truck Maintenance procedure stated that trailers were drained daily and cleaned once a week or as needed. Flooring was slip resistant.

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: Cattle stepped of trailers to a slightly lower unloading dock. Injury points were not observed.

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: Falls were not observed during the assessment of five trailers, 164 head. One slip was observed.

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 allowed at unloading. 'No Prod' policy was posted at the unloading dock for driver reference. Handling tools were not used during the assessment.

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: Downer/DOA Policy stated that immobile cattle at the facility were considered downers and did not enter the slaughter facility. The policy included the steps taken by employees to evaluate and handle animals that were euthanized. Jarvis hand held captive bolt stunners were used to euthanize animals on trucks and in the pens, followed by the use of a pithing rod. Non-ambulatory animals were not moved and euthanized where they were, and ambulatory animals were evaluated to determine if they could be moved to a squeeze chute without undue stress or injury for safe handling. Fatigued cattle were allowed time to rest and then re-evaluated.

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: DOA and euthanized cattle were stored by the cattle pens, out of public view. These animals were tracked on the Pre-Requisite 21 – Downer Verification Form, and records from January 2023 to present were reviewed and demonstrated 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. 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: Emergency Livestock Management Plan stated that in the case of plant shutdowns, trucks in route could either be delayed, diverted, or sent to unload at a designated feedlot. Animals on site for 24 hours would be provided feed, and water would be always available. If cattle needed to be evacuated, cattle procurement would organize destinations and cattle would be hauled out.

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 time of assessment was approximately 70F with sunny skies. Animals appeared content and not stressed. Sprinklers were in use at time of assessment.

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: Pens were lined with Anamat flooring in pens and drive alleys. Injury points were not identified.

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: Falls were not observed during 100 head assessment from holding pens to 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. 15

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: Driving tools used for moving cattle included bags on sticks, vibrating prods, and electrical prods (restrainer only).

The following was identified:

Personnel at the restrainer were observed using flags and vibrating prods in a jabbing motion.

3.6	If mounting behaviors are observed the animals that chronically mount are removed from the pen.	25
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Comment: Chronic 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
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Comment: Holding pens were properly stocked, bud box was less than 3/4 full and gates were not 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
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Comment: Water was provided in each pen. Animals were not kept in drive alley for extended periods of time. Water was available 24 hours per day.

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: Anamats were present in lead up area and cleaned daily. Injury or distraction 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
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Comment: Jarvis pneumatic stunners were used as the primary stunning device, with Jarvis handheld captive bolt stunners used as the backup and method for stunning in the pens. Stunners were cleaned and inspected daily and properly stored. Records from July of 2023 were reviewed and demonstrated compliance.

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: During 100 head evaluation at lead up to the restrainer 4 animals were electrically prodded.
 4/100 = 4%

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: One animal vocalized in the restrainer.
 1/100 = 99%

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: Each of the animals present during the assessment were properly stunned on the first attempt.
 0/100 = 100%



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: Sensible animals were not present during the 100 head evaluation for insensibility.

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 posted throughout the facility and stated that the humane handling of livestock from the time they are loaded at the supplying feedlots to the time they arrive at a National Beef Packing Co. LLC facility, through the receiving, stunning, and bleeding process is a priority to National Beef. The company also feels that they have a moral obligation to ensure the humane slaughter of all cattle at their plants. Employee Safety and higher quality beef are seen as additional benefits of cattle that are humanely treated and slaughtered.

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
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Comment: NBP Plant Cattle Welfare Audit Summary was completed once per shift and includes the observation of stunning, prodding, vocalizing, insensibility, slips, and falls for 100 head. The NBP Plant Cattle Welfare Transportation Audit Summary was completed once per week per shift, and included trailer conditions, unloading times, pen conditions, slips and falls, cattle temperament, DOAs, compromised cattle, and driving tool usage. Records of NBP Plant Cattle Welfare Audit Summary and Transportation Audits from July of 2023 demonstrated program compliance.

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: Employees working in a cattle handling area receive training upon hire and annually thereafter. Training topics included NAMI core and secondary animal handling criteria, including procedures for handling sensible animals on the bleed rail. Training records from 2023 demonstrated program compliance, with most recent training dated 8/24/23.

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: A willful act of abuse was 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, Lori Ernst, do not have a conflict of interest with this auditee and the audit was carried out independently and impartially.