



Audit Report

Beef Animal Welfare

Iowa Premium, LLC

3337 L Avenue
Tama, Iowa 52339

Audit Date: November 14, 2023

Auditor: Curtis Pittman

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:	Iowa Premium, LLC	Company ID:	AUNATIOW
Address:	3337 L Avenue Tama, Iowa 52339		

Contact Name:	Pat Mies
Contact Phone Number:	816-713-8547
Contact Email Address:	Pat.mies@nationalbeef.com

Audit ID:	AO-007424
Audit Date:	November 14, 2023
Audit Type:	Unannounced
Audit Result:	Passed

Auditor Name:	Curtis Pittman
Auditor Phone Number:	
Auditor Email Address:	curtis.pittman@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	0	100	100
Vocalization (vocalized)	0	100	100
Slips (slipped) - crowd pen to restrainer	0	100	100
Falls (fell) - Unloading	0	132	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 157 head per hour during a single ten hour shift, harvesting approximately 1,200 head per day, five to six days per week.

1 Livestock Receiving

Result

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

Comment: The Animal Welfare Program and Cattle Haulers Animal Handling and Welfare Procedure Manual defined cattle receiving and transporter guidelines. Transporters signed the Head Count Verification sheet at arrival, which specified humane handling guideline requirements for transportation and unloading of cattle. The Quality Management Program additionally included the NAMI criteria and detailed practices the plant implemented to maintain compliance with standards.

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

Comment: Signs of 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: Trailers were cleaned as needed, or at least weekly. Stamped metal trailer flooring was free of manure buildup, and potential injury points. Damage was not identified in the five trailers observed at unloading.

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 unloading dock was level and constructed of grooved concrete covered with anti-slip mats. Anti-slip mats were in good condition. Standing water, manure buildup, injury points, and distractions 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: There were no falls or slips out of the 132 head observed during unloading. 0/132=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: A No Prod Policy was posted at the unloading dock to reinforce practice. Rattle paddles and flags/streamers were used to move cattle if necessary. Electric prods were not used to unload cattle during this assessment, and streamers were used to move cattle.

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. 25
 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.

Comment: The Procedures for Handling Cattle Deemed to be Euthanized Before Slaughter and the Iowa Premium Cattle Welfare Program explained the requirements for handling immobile, or fatigued cattle on trailers and in the yards. Such cattle were segregated, administered Xylazine (where necessary), euthanized, pithed, and disposed of through a landfill or off-site rendering. Fatigued cattle were segregated, provided water, and permitted to rest. Team members tasked with Xylazine administration and euthanasia duties were identified with a unique sticker on their hardhat.

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 or euthanized cattle were tracked on the Iowa Premium Euthanized Cattle Verification Form. Completed forms from August 2023 demonstrated program compliance. Dead or euthanized cattle were staged at the back of the property out of public view until removal.

3 Holding and Handling

	Result
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Comment: Emergency Management Program explained that in a short term breakdown during extreme cold weather, slats were utilized in trailers to aide in protection. During extreme heat, cattle were hauled during early morning or late at night where possible. Cattle trucks were instructed to keep moving to avoid unnecessary stops to maximize airflow through the trailer during a short term breakdown in extreme heat. If necessary, cattle could be returned to the source feedyard. In the event of an emergency at the plant or extended downtime, cattle were moved off site. Water was continuously provided. Cattle held over 24 hours were provided feed.</p>	25
<p>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.</p> <p>Comment: The temperature during the audit was 60°F, overcast with a light breeze. Sprinklers and fans were available during extreme heat. Curtains could be raised and heaters were used during extreme cold temperatures. Cattle were observed with no signs of stress due to temperature.</p>	25
<p>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.)</p> <p>Comment: Pens and drive alleys were comprised of pipe fencing and grooved concrete flooring that was in good condition; pens were cleaned daily, at a minimum. Manure buildup, standing water, injury points, or distractions were not observed.</p>	25
<p>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</p>	100

Comment: The 100 head observed moving from the crowd pen to the restrainer 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
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Comment: Flags were used in a non-contact manner to move cattle. Vibrating prods were observed with the end worn down and smooth. Vibrating prods were not in use during this assessment.

3.6	If mounting behaviors are observed the animals that chronically mount are removed from the pen.	25
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Comment: Mounting behavior was 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 observed under ¾ full of cattle. Signs of overcrowding were not observed, as cattle appeared calm and relaxed. Gates were not observed used to forcibly 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: Emergency response plans addressed provisions for feeding cattle held over 24 hours. Cattle held in pens were provided unrestricted access to clean water from overflow water troughs. In the event of a short term breakdown, cattle were backed out of the lead up area and were returned to pens to access water.

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, stepped flooring leading up to the restrainer was in good condition, and was free of manure buildup, injury points, standing water or distractions. Excessive rearing was not observed. Struggling behavior was 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 used for primary stunning and security knocking. Hand held Jarvis captive bolt guns were available for back up stunning and euthanasia in the barns and on trailers. Ammunition was stored in a sealed plastic bag. Stunning equipment was cleaned, inspected, and test fired each day of use. Inspections were recorded on the Iowa Premium Pneumatic Stunner PM and Hand Held Captive Stun Gun Clean Service Testing Verification monitoring forms. The site used a center track restrainer. Air injected stunning was not utilized. Records observed from August 2023 demonstrated compliance with the facility's procedures.

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 observed out of the 100 head of cattle. Flags were used in a non-contact manner to move cattle.
 0/100=0%

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 not observed out of the 100 head of cattle.
 0/100=0%

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 100 head of cattle observed were properly rendered insensible on the first stunning attempt. 0/100 = 0% sensible

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: The 100 head of cattle observed were properly rendered insensible prior to being hung on the bleed rail.
 0/100 = 0% sensible

5 Management Commitment

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

Comment: The Mission Statement was posted in the cattle handling office, unloading area, and throughout the facility. The statement included that it was a priority of the company to provide humane handling of livestock from the time they were loaded at the feedlot to the time they arrive at the plant through receiving, stunning, and bleeding.

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: Iowa Premium Daily Plant Cattle Welfare Audit included a 100 head verification of stunning, prod use, vocalization, insensibility, slips, and falls. The audit also included pen density, water access, and pen maintenance, as well as the lead up area and restrainer conditions. The Iowa Premium Transportation Cattle Welfare Audit Summary was completed twice per week and included verification of NAMI transportation core and secondary criteria. Records from August 2023 were reviewed and demonstrated 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.

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Comment: The Iowa Premium Cattle Handling training included a combination of electronic training software and plant policy training. Training topics included but were not limited to cattle handling, stunning, and euthanasia, including handling a sensible animal on the bleed rail, water requirements, cattle held over 24 hours, and non-ambulatory and fatigued cattle handling. The training was conducted during new hire orientation and annual refresher training. Records from 2023 for three random employees observed performing handling tasks, including the knockers observed during the assessment demonstrated program compliance.

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, Curtis Pittman, do not have a conflict of interest with the client.