

REPORT OF HUMANE HANDLING
VERIFICATION VISIT

1. CASE NUMBER
15-12-HH008

2. EST. NUMBER
7299

3. EST. ID
4967

PAGE
1 OF 2

4a. EST. NAME
Valley Meat Co.

4b. EST. ADDRESS/P.O. BOX
3845 Cedarvale Rd.

4c. CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
Roswell, NM 88203

5a. NAME OF DVMS (last, first)

5b. NAME OF PHV (last, first)

5c. NAME OF IIC (last, first - if not PHV)

6. DATES(S) OF VISIT (MM/DD/YY)

FROM: TO: 01/05/12

7. CIRCUIT VISITED (4-digit no.)

1513

8. PLANT SIZE

Large Small Very Small

9. SPECIES SLAUGHTERED (Check all species observed)

Bovine Caprine Ovine
 Porcine Equine Other (specify):

10a. VOLUME SPEED (Head/Day)

10b. (Head/Hour)

11. STUNNING METHOD (Check all that apply)

12. REASON FOR VISIT (Check all that apply)

District Office Direction Egregious Violation Religious Exemption
 Routine Assessment Data Driven Visit Special Correlation/Other (specify): 30 day visit
 Repetitive Non-Compliance Suspicion of Violations

13. SYSTEMATIC APPROACH (Federal Register Notice dated September 9, 2004 - "Systematic Approach to Humane Handling and Slaughter")

DOES THE ESTABLISHMENT USE A PROACTIVE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO HUMANE HANDLING, PERFORM AUDITS, AND RECORD THEIR FINDINGS?

Yes No Implementation not assessed per this date

IF YES, CHECK ITEMS BELOW THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED; NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THE FOUR STEPS OF THE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH:

- 1. Initial assessment performed.
- 2. Facilities' design and handling practices minimize excitement, discomfort and injury to livestock.
- 3. Periodic evaluations performed on handling methods and, if applicable, stunning methods.
- 4. Handling practices and facilities modified when necessary.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS (Check only one):

No Action NR by IIC Suspension/Withdrawal Other (specify): recommend ending suspension

FOR ALL RESPONSES, OTHER THAN "NO ACTION", CHECK ALL CATEGORIES BELOW THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION:

Inclement Weather Ante-mortem Slips/Falls Facilities
 Truck Unloading Suspect/Disabled Stunning Effectiveness
 Water/Feed Prod Use Return to Consciousness

EST. NAME
Valley Meat Co.

15. NARRATIVE REPORT - See attached. (Include the categories listed below in the indicated order. Note: the heading for each category should be entered on a separate line above the narrative section for each category.):

- Correlated With:
- Summary of Data Assessment Prior to Visit:
- Systematic Approach Comments:
- Summary of Reason(s) for Recommendation:
- Findings/Narrative Report:

Correlated With:

Dr. [REDACTED] SPHV
 [REDACTED] FLS
 Insp. [REDACTED]
 Rick De Los Santos, owner
 Eddie De Los Santos, QC

Summary of Data Assessment Prior to Visit:

The last humane handling verification visit was conducted on 05-24-11. There was one non-compliance written for water since the last visit. The plant was suspended for inhumane handling on 11-08-11. The suspension was held in abeyance the same day. The HAT time shown is for the second quarter of 2011. The time shown is appropriate for the plant size, number of FSIS personnel, and type of animals harvested.

CircuitNbr	Location	State	nonIW	nonTU	nonWF	nonAM	nonSD	nonPR	nonSF	nonST	nonRAIL
07299	M/1	1513 NM	1.5	0.25	1.5	1.25	1.25	0.5	1.5	2.5	2.5
			vmoIW	vmoTU	vmoWF	vmoAM	vmoSD	vmoPR	vmoSF	vmoST	vmoRAIL
07299	M/1	1513 NM	1.5	0	1.5	0.75	0	0.25	1	1.25	1.25

Systematic Approach Comments:

The plant employees demonstrate knowledge of animal behavior, good handling techniques, and the plant has made improvements in the facilities. There are written protocols for humane handling, training, or stunning equipment maintenance. There is ongoing documentation of stunning training only. Stunning equipment maintenance is documented though the records were not available for viewing during this visit. More complete training and documentation for all aspects of humane handling and facility conditions was encouraged.

Summary of Reason(s) for Recommendation:

The plant immediately reconfigured the pens so that aggressive cattle could be moved into the drive alley leading to the stun box more easily and safely. The plant also immediately purchased a [REDACTED] for stunning animals in the pens when that was necessary. The changes made were immediate and permanent. All verification plans since the suspension have verified that the modifications that were made are working well. There have been no further incidents involving aggressive animals that couldn't be moved into the drive alley. There have been no problems with euthanizing non-ambulatory cattle in the pens using [REDACTED]. There is nothing to be gained by continuing the suspension. For these reasons I recommend ending the suspension.