



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

AUG - 4 2017

Office of the
Administrator

1400 Independence
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Washington, DC
20250

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young
Administrator
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jaime L. Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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Washington, DC 20250

Attached you will find the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Animal Care report from our inspection of the United States Meat Animal Research Center on July 11–13, 2017. We appreciate your continuing efforts to improve animal welfare at the facility.

Our inspection team observed over 13,000 animals: approximately 3,765 head of cattle (roughly 25 percent of the cattle maintained in feedlots and open pasture), 5,740 sheep, and 3,802 swine. We noted four items requiring immediate attention. Three animals required some additional degree of veterinary care and adjustments were needed to ensure that cattle in the feedlot area did not experience heat distress. We note that staff on site immediately addressed our concerns and are pleased that you are putting measures in place to improve communication among your staff, provide additional training to animal caretakers, and improve your facilities.

Thank you for your care and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Gregoire
Acting Administrator



Inspection Report

Us Meat Animal Research Center
P.O. Box 166
Clay Center, NE 68933

Customer ID: **334103**

Certificate: **47-G-0001**

Site: 001

US MEAT ANIMAL RESEARCH CENTER

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 13-JUL-2017

No non-compliant items were identified during this focused inspection.

This was a focused inspection to address the direct non-compliant veterinary care and handling citations from the inspection dated July 13, 2017.

All of the animals listed in the inspection report from July 13, 2017 have received veterinary care.

The heat stress mitigation plan has been updated and evaluated concerning the non-compliant handling issues from July 13, 2017.

This focused inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors

Rhyner Aaron, Veterinary Medical Officer

Baker Jeffrey, Veterinary Medical Officer

Gibbens Robert, Regional Director

Prepared By:

CUNNINGHAM DEBBIE, D V M

CUNNINGHAM DEBBIE, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6072

Date:

14-JUL-2017

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Title:

Date:

14-JUL-2017



Inspection Report

Us Meat Animal Research Center
P.O. Box 166
Clay Center, NE 68933

Customer ID: **334103**
Certificate: **47-G-0001**
Site: 001

US MEAT ANIMAL RESEARCH CENTER

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 11-JUL-2017

2.33(b)(2) DIRECT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

On July 11, 2017 a blacked faced lamb was observed to be non-weight bearing on the right rear limb. This animal was initially examined on July 7, 2017, and treated that day. The lameness was classified as slight at that time. There has not been any further examination or treatment for this animal.

On July 12, 2017 a black bovine was observed to be lame on the right front limb and a white bovine was observed lame on the left front limb. One of these animals was toe-touching when they attempted to move and the other was extremely reluctant to place weight on limb when walking.

There also were numerous swine with wounds and injuries to the head, neck, shoulder, and flank areas. These included animals that were lame because of the injuries. None of these animals were under treatment at the time of the inspection.

Injuries that are not treated may be painful and can lead to prolonged suffering, infection, and other veterinary care health problems.

These animals must be examined by a veterinarian and adequate veterinary care provided.

Correction: July 14, 2017

2.33(b)(3)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

Although the facility has records of daily monitoring of temperature, humidity, feed and water checks, the records were unclear on documentation of daily observations of the animals health at the facility. APHIS Animal Care inspectors observed health/medical issues during the inspection which were not documented nor conveyed to the Attending Veterinarian (AV).

Additionally, in some instances, health issues were documented in these records but not conveyed to the AV. Failure to adequately observe animals on a daily basis and failure to communicate promptly with the attending veterinarian may be detrimental to the health of the animals and cause unnecessary pain and distress as necessary

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Inspection Report

treatment is delayed. Daily observation of all the animals to assess their well-being and direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian regarding health issues is necessary to ensure that the animals receive timely and adequate veterinary care. A more detailed system should be in place to ensure that all animals are observed daily and the attending veterinarian is notified when necessary.

To be corrected from this date forward.

2.131(e) DIRECT

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

AG GUIDE Chapter 6 page 61

On July 11, 2017 APHIS Animal Care inspectors observed numerous animals in the feedlot area demonstrating various stages of heat distress. Some of the animals were exhibiting symptoms of severe heat stress including open mouth breathing with tongue protruding, excessive drooling, and increased respiratory rate. Failure to alleviate the impact of threatening climatic conditions (in this case high heat and humidity) can lead to animals that are unable to maintain a safe body temperature which is stressful and can lead to medical problems including heat stress and death.

When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal must not be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being, taking into consideration such factors as the animal's age, species, breed, overall health status, and acclimation.

Correction: The facility must have an appropriate heat stress mitigation plan in place prior to environmental conditions conducive to heat stress in their animals.

3.133(d)

SEPARATION.

Ag Guide Chapter 11 page 149

Several pigs were introduced and housed together a few days earlier. A large percentage of these animals had

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Inspection Report

numerous scratches, scrapes and wounds on their head, neck and bodies. APHIS inspectors witnessed many fights among the co-mingled swine. Animals that are housed in the same primary enclosure with other incompatible animals are at risk for injury and stress from fighting. In some cases more dominant animals will limit access of the incompatible animals in the enclosure to necessary resources such as food, water, etc. All animal housing systems should attempt to minimize aggression and competition especially at mixing. The facility must ensure that animals housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible.

To be corrected from this point forward.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors

Rhyner Aaron, Veterinary Medical Officer

Baker Jeffrey, Veterinary Medical Officer

Bacon Robert, Animal Care Inspector

Gibbens Robert, Regional Director

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