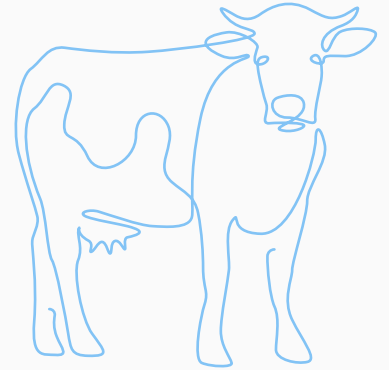
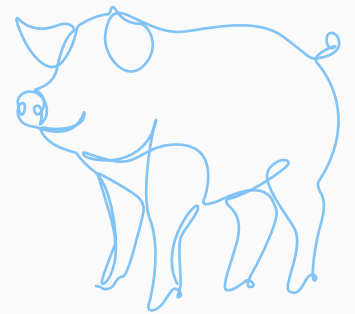


The Meat Industry Animal Welfare Audit Guide



Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow



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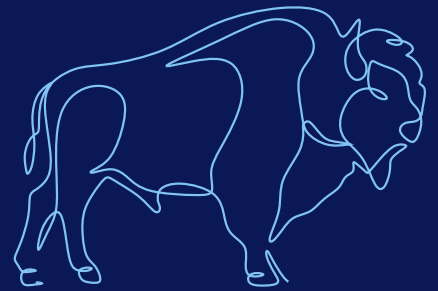


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Introduction

As the saying goes, “You manage what you measure.” Understanding and using the Meat Institute’s guidelines and audit program to measure outcomes can help companies manage animal handling more effectively. The Meat Institute audit guidance recommends that companies conduct both weekly internal (self-audits) and annual third-party audits by a certified third-party auditor with animal welfare training, using measurements of the critical and key welfare indicators below as well as other general criteria:

- **Effective stunning**
- **Hot wanding (swine only)**
- **Bleed rail insensibility**
- **Falls**
- **Vocalizations**
- **Electric prod use**
- **Animal condition**
- **Euthanasia**
- **Most critical: willful acts of abuse (egregious acts)**

There are three types of criteria that make up the audit: general criteria, key welfare indicators (KWIs) and critical welfare indicators (CWIs).

General criteria include animal welfare policies, training, and facility observations, demonstrating a commitment to animal welfare.

Key welfare indicators are outcome, facility, or resource-based measures that have a significant impact on animal welfare. These indicators are determined to hold substantial risk to animal welfare if not monitored effectively. Factors influencing these indicators may not be entirely under the control of the plant.


Critical welfare indicators are outcome, facility, or resource-based measures that have a highly significant impact on animal welfare. These indicators are determined to hold the greatest risk to animal welfare if not monitored effectively. Factors influencing these indicators are under the control of the plant.



To ensure good outcomes, the Meat Institute recommends varying internal audit days and times across all shifts to assess the role that employee experience, behavior, and fatigue may play in animal handling and stunning. However, auditors and companies should remember that audits represent a “snapshot in time.” Many variables can impact audit outcomes, especially when live animals are involved. These can include:

- **Changes in plant personnel:** it may take time for a new employee to become as skilled an animal handler as a more experienced employee. However, willful acts of abuse can NEVER be tolerated.
- **Breed, age, and gender of domestic livestock and bison:** these factors all can affect temperament.
- **Previous handling or lack of handling and human contact:** domestic livestock and bison that are accustomed to seeing people generally are less skittish at the plant.
- **Weather:** domestic livestock and bison sometimes react to weather or seasonal changes, like a thunderstorm.
- **Auditor influence:** auditors play a critical role in the assessment of humane handling and must have the appropriate expertise and the ability to interact with plant personnel during the audit without interfering with the process and impacting the results of the audit.

For these reasons, audits should be considered part of a process and trends should be considered along with each specific audit result to determine if results are an anomaly or a pattern. A plant’s proposed corrective/preventive measures and follow-up also should be considered. While it is essential to set numeric targets, the mere act of auditing, measuring, and tracking will help companies manage more effectively and will contribute to improved animal welfare.

This audit program is designed to evaluate livestock, specifically cattle, swine, sheep, and bison, though the concepts may be applicable to other species. The term domestic livestock only refers to cattle, swine, and sheep, not bison.

Recommendations that are bison specific are marked with their respective symbol:  .

Some country-specific regulations are noted throughout this document, and are marked with their respective country symbols ( for United States regulations, and  for Canadian regulations).

This section details how to audit during the receiving and unloading of livestock at meat packing facilities and outlines the audit criteria. Objective criteria can be used to evaluate humane livestock handling during transport by analyzing factors once trucks arrive at plants. Plants should conduct internal audits at least weekly and vary those audit days and times across all shifts to assess the role that employee experience, variance in transporters, behavior, and fatigue may play in animal handling.

Section 1: Auditor Instructions and Information

This audit is intended to monitor the welfare of animals arriving at meat packing facilities. It is the responsibility of third-party auditors to:

- Arrange with plant management the best time to perform the audit to ensure the plant will be receiving animals and a representative audit sample can be acquired.
- Establish with plant management which industry transportation program guidelines the establishment uses as a standard. These are the guidelines that the auditor will audit against. Plants may use National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance (TQA™) program (swine), the Beef Quality Assurance Transport (BQAT) program (cattle), the Canadian Livestock Transporter (CLT) Certification Program (swine, cattle, bison, poultry, horse and sheep), a plant specific program for sheep or bison, or a combination of standards.
- Establish with plant management the areas the audit will cover. Areas will include the trailer holding or staging area, the trailer(s) (only for assessing set-up and loading), and the unloading area (*i.e.*, up to the exit gate of the unloading alley/receiving pen or to the gate of the first alley off the trailer). Due to differences in plant design, this will need to be established by plant management and communicated to the auditor. At the discretion of the plant, the auditor may not be allowed to enter the trailer. The balance of the handling and stunning areas beyond the unloading area are covered in the facility audit.
- The auditor must find a safe place to stand that will not impede unloading or cause the animals to balk. The auditor must not enter the trailer while the animals are being unloaded.



Auditors should practice extra caution when auditing bison and understand that bison have a large flight zone that the auditor should respect

- All auditors should participate in the National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance (TQA™) program (swine), the Beef Quality Assurance Transportation (BQAT) program (cattle), the Canadian Livestock Transporter (CLT) Certification Program (swine, cattle, bison, poultry, horse and sheep), or a similar program to educate themselves on the current transportation practices and guidelines for the species they are auditing.
- Some criteria points may not apply to the plant the auditor is auditing. It is the responsibility of the auditor to meet with management and review the criteria and their applicability before conducting the audit.
- Some criteria will be dependent on animal type, trailer style, plant design, or regional climate differences. Choose the points that apply to the animal type or trailer being audited.
- Scoring for the criteria of falls, electric prod use, and compromised animals are performed on a *per animal* basis. For example, document the number of animals that fall. If an auditor observes multiple falls from one animal, it is still only counted once on the audit sheet.
- Truck selection: The number of trailers to be audited will be determined before beginning the audit. The auditor will base the audit results on the trailers that were actually audited, not on trailers they may have observed that were not part of the selected audit sampling. No more than five trailers should be audited and scored per audit. Small plants should audit the trucks that arrive during their audit, up to five trucks.

SECTION 2 | COMPLETING THE TRANSPORTATION AUDIT FORM

In large plants, auditors can select trucks based upon the auditor's selection scheme (which he/she should make every effort to be randomized), what unloading docks are being used during the audit (auditors should monitor trucks at different docks), and what trucks can be audited in an efficient manner.



Gooseneck farm livestock trailer



Potbelly/drop center trailer

- Observation of an egregious act of abuse at any point in the process always results in a failed audit.

Section 2: Completing the Transportation Audit Form

- ◆ **Trailer number and other identification information.** In this space, enter the sequence number of the trailers audited and the truck identification numbers, if applicable.
- ◆ **Total number of animals on board.** This is the total number of animals on the trailer being audited. This number can be obtained from the plant staff, transporter, or scale ticket. Once this number is obtained there is no need to count the animals as they come off the trailer.
- ◆ **Types of trailers.** Note the type of trailer such as pot, straight, or gooseneck.
- ◆ **If transporting swine, has the driver completed TQA™ or CLT?** This area is to note whether a driver is currently certified in National Pork Board's TQA™ training program, CLT, or another recognized swine training program.
- ◆ **If transporting cattle, has the driver completed BQAT™ or CLT?** This area is to note whether a driver is currently certified in National Cattlemen's Beef Association's BQAT™ training program, CLT, or another recognized cattle training program.
- ◆ **If transporting sheep or bison, has the driver completed training?** This area is to note whether a driver is currently certified in an industry-derived program, CLT, or another recognized sheep training program.

Auditor Tip:

If any single truck does not meet all the required criteria, this should be noted on the audit form.



Auditor Tip:

Once the total number of animals on board is obtained from plant staff, transporter or scale ticket, there is no need to count the animals as they come off the trailer.



Section 3: Audit Scoring

- ◆ **Plant policies, facility, and handling observations apply to the plant only.** They are scored only once during the audit.
- ◆ **Trailer set-up, loading density, alignment, and timeliness of arrival apply to individual trailers only.** Each trailer will be individually assessed. At the end of the audit, the total points for all the trailers will be added together to obtain the final scoring for each of the criteria. The average of the trailers scored will serve as the overall score. If any single truck does not meet all the required criteria, this should be noted on the audit form. If the trailer does not meet the standard, the Meat Institute recommends further investigation and that the plant has a mechanism for communicating back to the site of trailer loading. Corrective actions should include communication with the producer/feedlot outlining expectations regarding humane transport and potential adjustments to written policies at the establishment.
- ◆ **There are three types of audit criteria:** General criteria, key welfare indicators (KWIs), and critical welfare indicators (CWIs).
- ◆ **There are three ways to fail an audit:** 1) Fail any of the critical or key welfare indicators (CWIs or KWIs) at a not acceptable level, 2) fail two of the key welfare indicators (KWIs) at an intermediate level, or 3) have a total score less than the established passing percentage specific to each audit.
- ◆ **There are up to four levels within each criterion:** Criterion may be Yes/No, number based, or percentage based depending on what is most appropriate for each outcome. Welfare indicators have up to four levels of achievement, which vary between criteria out of five possible categories: excellent, good, acceptable, intermediate, and not acceptable. Excellent results in the plant receiving the maximum number of points for a given criterion. Good results in the plant passing that criterion and earning more points than acceptable, but not as many as excellent. Acceptable results in the plant passing that criterion. Unacceptable results in the plant failing that criterion. Intermediate does not have an automatic outcome, the plant does not automatically fail the criterion, but maximum points were not received and there is still room for improvement.
- ◆ **Sampling.** Up to five trailers should be sampled. The total number of animals on board all trailers sampled will be the sample size for falls, electric prod use, and condition of animal.

Scoring Small Plants

Small plants that process fewer than 100 head per hour may need to adjust scoring due to small sample size. Ideally, 50 or more head should be scored, but this may not be practical, *i.e.*, if the plant only receives two trailers with a total of 25 head on board during the audit.



For falls, electric prod use, and condition of the animal, a small plant adjustment should be applied if less than 100 head are observed.



For bison scoring, the small plant adjustment is built into the bison scoring system since all bison plants are considered small plants, so additional adjustments will not be needed.

Criterion 1: Commitment to Animal Welfare — Plant Policies and Training

This criterion audits the plant's commitment to animal welfare through policies for transportation and preparedness for receiving animals. It is only scored once during an audit. The following are explanations of each of the applicable points to be scored during the audit:

- ◆ **The plant has written animal welfare policy for transporters.** Plants must have a written animal welfare policy for transporters hauling animals to their plants. The policy can be an in-house policy; a policy that strictly references the TQA™, BQAT, or CLT; or a combination of recognized species-specific and/or in-house programs.
- ◆ **Arrival management process minimizes waiting time at the plant.** Plants must have a process in place to minimize wait times at the plant. A scheduling system that allows a specific number of loads to arrive within a given time period works for most plants. Plants should have the lairage space and personnel to meet the requirements of the loads they are accepting.
- ◆ **Emergency plans are in place for animals in transit.** Plants must have a written policy that outlines an action plan for loaded trailers in transit to the establishment. This action plan may include:
 - ◇ Contacting transporters/dispatchers in route to keep their vehicle moving per the establishment's emergency management plan until there is sufficient room at the plant to unload.
 - ◇ Requesting that trucks follow the provided emergency plan and provide a comfortable area for animals while trucks await further instructions on unloading.
 - ◇ Requesting that crews postpone loading of animals at the source.
 - ◇ Requesting that transporters unload animals at an alternate facility.
- ◆ **The plant has a written policy for non-ambulatory and fatigued animals and tools available for handling.** The plant must have a written policy for handling non-ambulatory and fatigued animals on trailers. A non-ambulatory animal at unloading is an animal that is unable to bear weight on more than one leg or to move without being dragged or carried, regardless of size or age. Fatigued swine are swine that have temporarily lost the ability or the desire to walk but have a reasonable expectation to recover full locomotion with rest (Source: National Pork Board). Plant policy should include instructions for when an animal is to be euthanized and euthanasia methods should be based on industry guidance (e.g., Meat Institute Stunning Guide, AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines, AABP Guidelines for the Humane Euthanasia of Cattle, etc.).
 - ◇  U.S. plants must also provide equipment for employees or transporters to use in handling non-ambulatory and fatigued animals humanely. This equipment can include, but not be limited to, sleds, stretchers, hand carts, and mechanized equipment. In plants that euthanize non-ambulatory animals where they are found, this equipment may not be necessary, as long as the animal is not moved before it is euthanized.
 - ◇  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.
- ◆ **The plant has documented employee training for livestock receiving.** The plant must have documentation of animal handling training for staff handling animals at unloading. This training should include how to handle compromised or non-ambulatory animals arriving on trailers.
- ◆ **The plant has a method for communicating back to the site of trailer loading.** The plant must have a method to communicate feedback to the site of trailer loading. Some examples of feedback include, but are not limited to: the condition of animals, overcrowding, and trailer conditions, such as:

Auditor Tip:



It is not necessary to review the substance of a plant's training program; it is only necessary to ensure that a program is in place and being implemented.

CRITERION 1 | COMMITMENT TO ANIMAL WELFARE — PLANT POLICIES AND TRAINING

- ◇ **Non-slip, solid flooring.** The trailer must be outfitted with non-slip flooring to minimize slips and falls of the animals. Examples of non-slip flooring include, but are not limited to, rubber mats, stamped tread, sand, shavings, steel reinforcement rods, etc. There must be no holes in the flooring or items that can cause an animal to trip. With stamped tread, the tread should be significant enough that it provides non-slip flooring.
- ◇ **Gates and doors open freely and can be secured shut.** All gates and roller doors on trailers should open and close freely. They must be able to be safely secured shut and not have gaps or spaces where animals can get their heads or legs wedged.
- ◇ **Internal ramps function properly and extend all the way to the floor.** Internal ramps must be able to be lowered down easily and secured into place when not in use. They must reach all the way to the floor of the trailer and set level unless they are aligning with an adjustable chute. They must have non-slip flooring or steps and no holes or gaps where the animals can get wedged or injured. Barriers must be in place to ensure animals do not fall off the ramps.
- ◇ **No sharp or protruding objects that can injure the animals.** There can be no sharp or protruding objects on the trailer that may injure the animals. This includes gates, pass-through areas, trailer walls, floors or ramps, or any place that the animal may contact the object.
- ◆ ***The truck driver or plant employee who unloads the trailer follows plant policies.*** Electric prods, rattle paddles, sort boards, flags, and other tools must be used correctly based on the plant policy. The person unloading the trailer should do so quietly and calmly. Make a note of if a plant employee or truck driver unloaded the trailer. If during the unloading process the handler excessively yells or screams, bangs on the trailer, or appears to be rough and impatient during handling, this should be noted.

Handling tools may not be used aggressively to strike or injure animals. Aggressive striking may include but not be limited to:

- Raising the handling tool over the handler's head and bringing it down on an animal.
- An excessive number of contacts of the handling tool on an animal.
- Continually using both hands to hold the handling tool to cause excessive physical force.
- Excessive use of multiple handling tools to increase fear/noise/contact. (Handling tools such as sort boards, witch's capes, and flags are considered visual barriers; whereas, handling tools such as rattle paddles, electric prods, sort sticks/rods, etc. are considered contact driving aids. Handlers may sometimes use two handling tools, generally one of each type, but it should not result in undue fear/near/contact.)

Handling tools may not be used in a way that deviates from the intended use. Deviations may include but are not limited to:


- Modifying handling tools in a manner that may cause undue injury to animals.
- Using broken handling tools that have become ineffective and/or sharp.
- Using handling tools to touch/prod sensitive areas, *i.e.*, animal's mouth, eyes, ears, nose, rectum, vulva, testicles, or belly.
- Using handling tools to hit animals in the face.
- Throwing handling tools at or in the path of animals.
- ***The plant has a way to communicate their electric prod use policy to truck drivers.*** This could be achieved through posting a sign, sending out a letter to truck drivers, etc.

Scoring:

Yes/No

5 points are given for each criterion

Criterion 2: Facility and Handling Observations

- **The plant provides extreme temperature management tools (water, fans, protection, etc.).** Refer to the establishment's selected industry standard for verification of compliance.
-  Remember that extreme temperature management requirements for domestic livestock, particularly in cold weather, may not be the same as bison which are more cold-tolerant.
- **Acceptable handling tools are available and utilized as needed.** The plant must provide handling tools for plant staff and transporters to aid in the movement of animals off trailers. As part of internal training for plant staff and listed expectations of transporters, plants should have a procedure to describe the proper use of handling tools, which may include, but are not limited to, rattle paddles, sort boards, witches' capes, or nylon flags.
- **Acceptable euthanasia tools are available.** Acceptable euthanizing tools for use in lairage (yards/barns) include:
 - ◊ firearms and penetrating captive bolt for cattle and bison; and
 - ◊ firearms, penetrating captive bolt stunners, and handheld cardiac arrest electric stunners for pigs and sheep.

One of these appropriate euthanasia tools and an employee(s) trained to use them must be available at all times when animals are being received. A prudent establishment will always have two appropriate euthanasia tools immediately available.
- **Maintenance records for euthanasia equipment, proper storage, and employee training for euthanasia are available.** Documentation of cleaning and maintenance must be provided for each piece of equipment. Cleaning frequency and preventative maintenance should occur per the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. The equipment and ammunition must be stored in a dry place when not in use to prevent ammunition from becoming ineffective. Proper cleaning and maintenance of equipment will result in effective stunning. Employees must be trained in the company's euthanasia policy and the application of the mode of euthanasia. Documentation of training must be provided and employees should be able to demonstrate knowledge of training.
- **Gates in unloading area swing freely, latch securely, and have no sharp protrusions.** Only gates appropriate for the animals being slaughtered should be used. Gates must swing freely and latch securely to keep animals in pens and never be slammed shut on an animal passing through it. There must be no protruding parts on the gates that may injure the animals in any way.
- **Non-slip flooring is evident.** The unloading area must have non-slip flooring to allow the animals to maintain good footing and to prevent slipping and falling.
- **Unloading area and ramps are in good repair (e.g. no broken cleats, holes or gaps).** The unloading area must be properly maintained and in good repair and free from sharp edges that can injure the animals. There must be no broken cleats, holes, or gaps where animals can get stuck or be directly injured. The ramp or dock and the unloading area should also be clean enough to prevent slips and falls. Some manure and urine build up is unavoidable due to the nature of animals, but significant build up should be minimized. In winter weather conditions, the unloading area must be free of ice such that it does not cause falls.
- **There is adequate lighting.** The unloading area must have sufficient lighting to observe animals during the unloading process.
- **Staff is properly trained and available for receiving animals.** The plant must have a training program and staff handling animals at unloading must be trained. Plant staff must be available to receive animals during plant receiving hours. If transporters are scheduled to arrive during off-hours, a plant employee should be available by phone to assist transporters if necessary. The contact number should be made available to the transporters.

Scoring:

Yes/No

10 points are given for each criterion

KWI Criterion 3: Set-up and Loading of Trailer

- ◆ **Compartments are gated.** This criterion applies only to swine, sheep, and veal calves. Market cattle are only gated under special circumstances. In a standard commercial swine trailer, all gates should be closed to segregate compartments. There may be trailers with special sectional gating or freight gating where closure of all gates will not be required or even possible. If the auditor is unable to see if all the gates are closed, obtain the information from the driver or from the plant staff that are unloading the trailer. If all the gates are not closed, note the reason on the audit form (*i.e.*, broken gate).
- ◆ **Trailer is loaded at proper density.** The auditor should visually observe the trailer. Signs of overcrowding for pigs may include: piling, excessive squealing, open mouth breathing, excessive numbers of fatigued animals, injured animals, dead on arrival (DOA), or euthanized on arrival (EOA). Signs of overcrowding for cattle and sheep may include: vocalization, animals not settled, animals standing on each other, open mouth breathing, excessive number of fatigued animals, injured animals, DOA, or EOA. If any overcrowding indicators are present, the auditor may assess the loading density based on applicable industry standards to determine if the load was not in compliance. Gates should close easily without squeezing animals.
- ◆ **Incompatible animals are segregated when required.** Segregation prevents more aggressive animals from injuring other animals in the trailer. Examples of appropriate segregation include keeping aggressive, intact males separate from females and separating significantly larger animals from smaller ones.
 - ◆  Identified incompatible bison should be segregated at loading. Bison may show signs of aggression towards one another, though it may not be necessary to separate them to avoid injury. If raised together, intact bison males may not need to be separated on the trailer.
- ◆ **Trailer is properly aligned with the unloading area to prevent animals from escaping or becoming injured.** Trailers must be aligned square and flush with the unloading ramp/dock. Plants need to ensure that there are minimal gaps between the dock/ramp and the bottom of the trailer exit. Moreover, plants need to ensure that there are minimal gaps between the back end of the trailer and the side walls of the unloading area. If holes and gaps are unavoidable due to unloading area design in relation to the trailer design, they must not be large enough to allow legs or feet to get caught or injured or for animals to become wedged or escape.

Auditor Tip:



Questions about the type of gating in the trailer should be discussed with the driver.

Scoring:

When auditing swine, sheep, and veal calves, assess all four criteria: gating, loading density, animal segregation, and proper alignment. For all other cattle and bison, assess three criteria: loading density, animal segregation, and proper alignment, but not gating.

The Meat Institute recommends further investigation for unacceptable results and that the plant has a mechanism for communicating back to the site of trailer loading. Corrective actions should include communication with the producer/feedlot and potential adjustments to written policies at the establishment for driver and producer/feedlot expectations regarding humane transport.

KWI CRITERIA 4 | WAIT TIME TO UNLOAD

Example: 5 swine trailers were audited for a possible average of 30 points.

(Sum of the points earned by each trailer divided by 5)
#1 – 20pts; #2 – 25 pts; #3 – 30 pts; #4 – 25 pts; #5 – 30 pts
Total Score = $130/5 = 26$ pts

Excellent – 30 points
Acceptable – 20 points if ≤ 2 trailers sampled, 25 pts acceptable if audit ≥ 3 trailers sampled
Not Acceptable – Less than 20 points

KWI Criterion 4: Wait Time to Unload

This criterion audits the timeliness of truck arrivals and the length of time trucks spend in line waiting to unload.

Scoring:

To score plant unloading for domestic livestock, the wait time begins as soon as the trailer arrives at the plant premises and stops when the first animal walks off the trailer. Record the arrival time of the trailer. This can be obtained from plant staff. The plant will receive the full 40 points if unloading started within 60 minutes of the truck's arrival at the plant. Points will then be deducted for each 30-minute interval past the 60 minutes it takes to start unloading. Time to unload (from when the first animal steps off the trailer until the last animal walks off) will be noted separately in the notes, but not scored. All domestic livestock should be unloaded within 60 minutes.



Bison may take an extended period of time to come off the trailer. Wait time begins as soon as the trailer arrives at the plant premises and stops when the trailer door is opened to allow the animals to walk off the trailer.

Plant begins unloading within:	Points Received:
60 minutes of arrival	Full 40 points
61 – 90 minutes	30 out of 40 points
91 – 120 minutes	20 out of 40 points
≥ 120 minutes (with reason)	10 out of 40 points
≥ 120 minutes (without reason)	0 out of 40 points

If any trailer exceeds 90 minutes, this should be noted on the audit form.

Example: 5 trailers audited at a plant. 40 possible points (Sum of the points earned by the 5 trailers divided by 5).

#1 – 40 pts
#2 – 40 pts
#3 – 30 pts
#4 – 40 pts
#5 – 30 pts

Total Score = 180 pts / $5 = 36$ points

Excellent – 40 points
Acceptable – 30 points if ≤ 2 trailers sampled, 35 pts acceptable if audit ≥ 3 trailers sampled.
Not acceptable - < 30 points if ≤ 2 trailers sampled, < 35 pts acceptable if audit ≥ 3 trailers sampled.

Criterion 5: Falls

Falls are to be scored in the unloading area (*i.e.*, up to the exit gate of the unloading alley/receiving pen or to the gate of the first alley off the trailer) only after all four limbs are off the trailer and on the unloading ramp or dock.

- A fall occurs when an animal loses an upright position suddenly in which a part of the body other than the limbs touches the ground.
- When auditing domestic livestock all falls are counted, regardless of the cause.



Bison that fall due to temperament should not be counted.

Scoring:

The number of animals that fell are tallied together for all loads. The total is then divided by the total number of animals audited for all trailers.

Cattle, Swine, and Sheep

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 0.1-1% falling (body touches floor) 30 points

Intermediate – 1.1-3.0% falling (body touches floor) 20 points

Not acceptable – More than 3% falling down 0 points

Bison

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 1-2 animals falling (body touches floor) 30 points

Intermediate – 3 animals falling (body touches floor) 20 points

Not acceptable – 4 or more animals falling down 0 points

Small Plant Adjustment for domestic livestock (less than 100 head observed)

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 1 animal falling (body touches floor) 30 points

Intermediate – 2 animals falling (body touches floor) 20 points

Not acceptable – 3 or more animals falling down 0 points

Temperament of the animals may be noted to provide additional information and context on unloading.

Core Criterion 6: Electric Prod Use

Electric prod use is to be scored in the unloading area only after all four of the animal's limbs are on the unloading ramp or dock. Electric prod use on the trailer is not scored because the auditor cannot see what is happening inside the trailer to evaluate if the electric prod touches the animal. Touching an animal with an electric prod is scored whether the prod is energized or not. The Meat Institute recommends that electric prods be the driving tool of last resort while unloading animals after other options have been attempted. Some plants have opted to not allow the use of electric prods during the unloading process. In these instances, electric prods will only be used when difficult animals are encountered. Electric prods should only be used when absolutely necessary and must never be applied to a sensitive area (animal's mouth, eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, testicles, or belly). Applying an electric prod to a sensitive area of any animal is considered a willful act of abuse.

Auditor Tip:



Touching an animal with a prod is scored whether the prod is energized or not.

Scoring:

Electric prod use per animal is tallied together for all loads. The total is then divided by the total number of animals audited for all trailers.

Cattle, Swine, and Bison

Excellent – 0% 50 points

Acceptable – 0.1-10% electric prod use 40 points

Not acceptable – More than 10% 0 points

Sheep

Excellent – 0% 50 points

Acceptable – 0.1-5% electric prod use 40 points

Not acceptable – More than 5% 0 points

Core Criterion 7: Condition of Animal

Compromised: A compromised animal is an animal with reduced capacity to withstand transportation, but where transportation with special provisions will not lead to undue suffering. Animals that are compromised are more likely to become fatigued, injured, non-ambulatory, or die during transport.

- **Non-ambulatory.** A non-ambulatory animal at unloading is an animal that cannot or will not rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk. This includes, but is not limited to, acutely split animals and animals that require hobbles to assist in the healing of injuries or to prevent further injury.
- **Severe injuries/conditions in swine, cattle, bison, and sheep:** Severe injuries in swine include broken legs, bleeding gashes, deep visible cuts, and prolapses (larger than a baseball or dark in color and necrotic). Severe injuries in cattle, bison, and sheep include broken legs, bleeding gashes, deep visible cuts, necrotic prolapses, and severe cancer eye. For sheep, exclude superficial shearing cuts in the skin layer.
- **Severely lame swine, cattle, bison, and sheep:** Severely lame animals are animals that appear to be experiencing significant pain, especially in the hoof or leg, resulting in the animal limping or walking with extreme difficulty. A severely lame animal appears unlikely to make it through the slaughter process without experiencing extreme discomfort and distress.
- **Calving, farrowing, or lambing:** This includes all animals that have delivered or are in the process of delivering on the trailer.



Unfit for transport: prolapse



Unfit for transport: cancer eye



Unfit for transport: frostbite

KWI CRITERION 7 | CONDITION OF ANIMAL

- **Negative impact from severe weather:**
 - ◇ **Fatigued swine/heat stressed cattle, bison, and sheep:** Fatigued swine are swine that have temporarily lost the ability or the desire to walk but have a reasonable expectation to recover full locomotion with rest (Source: National Pork Board). Swine may become fatigued due to heat stress, among other potential reasons. Cattle, bison, and sheep experiencing heat stress will exhibit open-mouthed panting and may be reluctant to move.
 - ◇ **Frostbite (SWINE ONLY):** Visible signs of frostbite include purple/dark pink patches on the skin, which is especially apparent on light colored swine. Clearly visible signs should be scored. Frostbite will only occur during extreme cold temperatures at some point during transport.
- **Frozen to the trailer (Cattle):** Animals should not be frozen to the side of the trailer. Auditors do not need to enter the trailer to determine this but can ask the handler unloading the trailer or observe as animals are coming off the trailer.

If animals are heat stressed, frostbitten, or frozen to the trailer, a note should be made of whether the truck was following plant policy or industry best practices for bedding and whether side slats or plugs were in place at recommended levels for the current temperature.

Scoring:

All compromised animals are tallied together for all loads. The total is then divided by the total number of animals audited.

Swine:

Excellent – 1% or less compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 1.1-3% compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – More than 3% compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Swine Example: 5 trailers are audited, with 925 total swine audited on all 5 trailers.

of compromised animals

Trailer #1	3 swine
Trailer #2	1 swine
Trailer #3	6 swine
Trailer #4	2 swine
Trailer #5	4 swine

Total: 16 pigs $16/925 = 0.017$ or 1.7%

Cattle/sheep:

Excellent – 1% or less compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 1.1-2% animals on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – More than 2% compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Bison:

Excellent – 0 compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 1-2 compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – 3 or more compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points



Bison are more likely to become injured in transport than domestic livestock. Therefore 15 points are still awarded for 1-2 compromised animals.

Small Plant Adjustment for domestic livestock (less than 100 head observed)

Excellent – 0 compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 1 compromised animal on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – 2 or more compromised animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

KWI CRITERION 7 | CONDITION OF ANIMAL

Poor udder condition and severe emaciation: Cattle with poor udder conditions and all animals with severe emaciation are audited separately from the compromised conditions above.

- ◇ **Severe emaciation:** For the purpose of this audit animals are considered severely emaciated if they have a [body condition score of one](#).
 - Swine** - Severely emaciated swine will be extremely narrow in the loin, have a hollow flank area, and their ribs and backbones will be easily visible.
 - Cattle and Sheep** - Severely emaciated cattle and sheep will be extremely thin, with their ribs and backbones easily visible. Such animals would be described as extremely thin if there is no fat on the rib or in the brisket and the backbone is easily visible, with some muscle depletion evident through the hind quarter. The extremely thin attributes of these animals may sometimes compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness, and lead to debilitation.
- ◇ **Poor udder condition (cattle only):** Poor udder condition includes any animal that displays a severely engorged/swollen/distended udder that is interfering with the animal's ability to walk, pushing out against the rear legs causing difficulty of movement, and/or causing obvious pain/distress to the cow.

Scoring:

All emaciated animals and those with poor udder condition are tallied together for all loads. The total is then divided by the total number of animals audited for all trailers.

Swine:

Excellent – 3% or less emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 3.1 - 6% or less emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – More than 6% emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Cattle

Excellent – 2.5% or less emaciated animals and poor udder condition on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 2.6 - 5% or less emaciated animals and poor udder condition on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – More than 5% emaciated animals and poor udder condition on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Sheep:

Excellent – 2.5% or less emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 2.6 - 5% or less emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – More than 5% emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Bison:

Excellent – Less than 2 emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 2 to 3 emaciated animal on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – 4 or more emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points

Small Plant Adjustment for domestic livestock (less than 100 head observed)

Excellent – Less than 2 emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 20 points

Acceptable – 2 to 3 emaciated animal on the trailer at arrival 15 points

Not Acceptable – 4 or more emaciated animals on the trailer at arrival 0 points



LEFT: Unfit for transport:
Emaciated cow.

RIGHT: Unfit for transport: Ema-
ciated pig



KWI Criterion 8: Euthanasia

Animals observed during the audit that required euthanasia, such as severely injured/severely lame animals, must be promptly euthanized according to plant policy. Promptly means within a reasonable amount time considering all of the relevant facts, with the goal of minimizing pain and suffering.

Scoring:

If no animals are observed that require euthanasia, the criterion will be scored as not applicable (NA) and 50 points will be removed from the total points possible for the audit.

If an animal is observed that required euthanasia and was promptly euthanized according to plant policy, the criterion is scored as passing and 50 points are awarded.

If any animal(s) is observed that required euthanized and was **not** promptly euthanized according to plant policy, the criterion is scored as failing, zero points are awarded, and the audit is failed.

KWI Criterion 9: Willful Acts of Abuse/Egregious Acts

Any willful act of abuse/egregious act is grounds for automatic audit failure, regardless of whether the act is observed within the areas being audited.

Willful/egregious acts of abuse include, but are not limited to:

- **Dragging** a conscious animal, non-ambulatory or otherwise;
- **Intentionally applying prods to sensitive parts** of the animal such as the animal's mouth, eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, testicles, or belly;
- **Deliberate slamming** of gates on animals;
- **Malicious driving of ambulatory animals** on top of one another either manually or with direct contact with motorized equipment;
- **Driving animals off high ledges**, platforms, or off a truck without a ramp (driving market weight or adult animals off a low stock trailer is acceptable);
- **Beating or excessive prodding of ambulatory or non-ambulatory** animals;
- **Animals frozen** to the floor or sides of the trailer;
- **Leaving disabled livestock** exposed to adverse climate conditions while awaiting disposition;
- **Lifting sheep by the wool or throwing a sheep**;
- **Otherwise causing unnecessary pain and suffering** to animals, including situations on trucks.



Note: Bison may run into a pen and immediately turn around, causing a human safety hazard where the handler needs to quickly close a gate. Quickly closing a gate to prevent a human safety hazard, so long as it is not deliberately slammed on the animals is acceptable.

Slaughter Audit Guidance

This section details how to audit animal handling post unloading and stunning of livestock at meat packing facilities and outlines the audit criteria. Plants should conduct internal audits at least weekly and vary those audit days and times during shifts to assess the role that employee experience, weather, animal behavior, and fatigue may play in animal handling.

Section 1: Auditor Instructions and Information

This audit is intended to monitor and verify the welfare of animals being processed at meat packing facilities. It is the responsibility of third-party auditors to:

- Arrange with plant management the best time to perform the audit to ensure the plant will be processing animals and a representative audit sample can be acquired.
- Establish with plant management when they would like to go through policies and training and conduct facility and animal observations.
- Establish with plant management the location of handling and stunning areas. Establish a safe place to stand where the auditor can see what they are auditing, but also not impede the process or cause a safety issue for themselves or others. This is particularly important around the lead up to the restrainer and in the stunning area.
- Stunning criteria vary by the stunning method, and religious slaughter and small plant adjustments alter some criteria scoring. The auditor must choose which criteria apply and which criteria do not.
- Scoring for the criteria of falls, electric prod use, vocalization, stunning, and insensibility are performed on a *per animal* basis. For example, document the number of animals that fall. If an auditor observes multiple falls from one animal, it is only counted once on the audit sheet.
- Observation of an egregious act of abuse at any point in the process always results in a failed audit.

Section 2: Completing the Slaughter Audit Forms

Weather. Note the weather conditions on the day of the audit as this could impact animal behavior, create slippery conditions, and impact water access.

Line Speed. Note the line speed to indicate whether it is over 100 head per hour or if the small plant adjustment will need to be used.

Stunner Type. Note the type of stunner whether it be electrical stunning, penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt, CO₂, or firearm.

Section 3: Audit Scoring

This audit generally utilizes a sample size of 100 animals at facilities that slaughter at least 100 animals per hour.¹

- **Sampling:** In each area, the 100 head sample should be selected on a random basis by time, a given number of head per lot, or over a given amount of time to ensure that a broad sample of loads/handling are included.
- **Per Animal:** Scoring for the criteria of falls, electric prod use, vocalization, stunning, and insensibility are performed on a *per animal* basis. For example, if an auditor observes multiple falls from one animal, it is only counted as one on the audit sheet.
- **There are three types of audit criteria:** General criteria, key welfare indicators (KWIs), and critical welfare indicators (CWIs).
- **There are three ways to fail an audit:** 1) Fail any of the critical or key welfare indicators (CWIs or KWIs) at a not acceptable level, 2) fail two of the key welfare indicators (KWIs) at an intermediate level, or 3) have a total score less than the established passing percentage specific to each audit.
- **There are up to four levels within each criterion:** Criterion may be Yes/No, number based, or percentage based depending on what is most appropriate for each outcome. Welfare indicators have up to four levels of achievement: excellent, acceptable, intermediate, and not acceptable. Excellent results in the plant receiving the maximum number of points for a given criterion. Acceptable results in the plant passing that criterion. Unacceptable results in the plant failing that criterion. Intermediate does not have an automatic outcome, the plant does not automatically fail the criterion, but maximum points were not received and there is still room for improvement.

Auditor Tip:



If you have already observed 100 animals to score prod use and you see a prod used in another area, you do not count it because your prod scoring has been completed.

¹ This sample size was set based on previous surveys, non-normalcy of the data associated with the attributes listed in the criteria, and practicality of use. Numerous peer-reviewed surveys conducted on animal welfare attributes in slaughter facilities use the 100-head sample (Grandin, 1997; Grandin 1998a; Grandin, 2000; and Grandin, 2012). Additionally, calculations to determine sample size needed to detect an attribute rely on numerous assumptions, including independence between observations and a normal distribution of the data. Due to the nature of an audit, observations will not be independent, as animals that flow through a slaughter facility will likely be part of the same group or groups of animals. Additionally, a normal distribution of the data for numerous criteria is not observed. For example, the data collected for assessing Criterion 4 in the Slaughter Audit, "Falls," is not normal, because such criteria are observed to be very frequent or non-existent. This indicates a more binomial distribution of the data would likely be applicable. If different assumptions must be made to determine the sample size for each attribute, this would result in an audit that requires, for example, 281 samples for one attribute, and only 70 for another. Auditing a different number of animals for each criterion is not practical, nor is it easily-understood. Therefore, based upon previous work, differences in the assumptions that must be made when calculating sample size for each attribute, and practicality of use, the 100-head sample size is appropriate.

Scoring of Small Plants

Small plants that process fewer than 100 head per hour may need to adjust scoring due to small sample size. Ideally, 50 or more head should be scored, but this may not be practical in a plant that processes 5 to 10 head per hour.

If larger numbers of animals are available even in small plants, they should be used to improve the reliability of the audit. For a plant's own internal audit, data may be pooled and averaged. Pooled small data sets can be scored per these guidelines.


When a third-party auditor audits a small plant, sometimes only 10 to 20 animals are observed. If one stun were missed, the plant would not achieve the 96 percent acceptable score. If passing or failing the stunning audit is based on a single small data set, one miss should be permitted if a second stun is applied in a timely manner and renders the animal insensible.



USDA regulations require cattle and sheep to be rendered insensible on the initial knock.

In small beef plants with line speeds of less than 20 cattle per hour, the animals may stand for long periods in the single file chute (race) and "talk" to each other. Their "talking" vocalizations are not scored. "Talking" vocalizations in the handling system occur more often at slow line speeds. An animal should be scored as vocalizing if the vocalization is determined to have been provoked by handling or equipment. However, all cattle vocalizations that occur in the stunning box are counted until an effective stun is applied.

In plants that process less than 100 head per hour, the small plant adjustment should be applied to falls and vocalization, along with one mis-stun being permitted.

 For bison scoring, the small plant adjustment is built into the bison scoring system since all bison plants are considered small plants, so additional adjustments will not be needed, except for the effective stunning criterion. A single stun failure is considered acceptable if a second stun is applied in a timely manner and renders the animal insensible, in plants that process less than 50 head an hour.

Scoring of Religious Slaughter

Plants that conduct religious slaughter should use the same scoring procedures except for stunning scoring, which should be omitted in plants that conduct religious slaughter without stunning. Religious slaughter plants that do not practice pre-cut stunning must meet the following criteria to pass a Meat Institute audit:

- Restraining to position conscious animals for the throat cut by hoisting by the limbs, dragging a leg, clamping boxes, or trip floor boxes will result in an automatic audit failure.*
- Vocalization score of 5% or less in cattle entering and while in box. Do not score vocalizations in sheep.
- Falling score is the same as conventional slaughter: 1% or less is considered acceptable.
- Electric prod use score is the same as conventional slaughter: 25% or less is considered acceptable.
- Animals must be shot with a backup device if collapse (LOP = loss of posture) and eye rollback does not occur within approximately 40 seconds.
- When slaughter with stunning is performed, all stunning requirements apply.
- For slaughter without stunning, the alternative passing percentage provided on the audit form applies.

***Note:** While not a criterion, upright restraint is recommended.

Before hoisting and dressing procedures are started, the following signs of sensibility **MUST be absent:**

- Corneal reflex
- Eyelash reflex
- Rhythmic breathing

Section 4: Auditing Multiple Factors Simultaneously

In many plants, it is possible to score multiple criteria at a time. For example, while scoring swine stunning at the entrance to the stun box, an auditor can also score vocalization. In some small plants, it may be essential, because the auditor may not have the opportunity to observe a sufficient number of animals if each criterion is audited separately. Due to variance in plant layout and design, auditors must determine, in conjunction with the plant, where to stand to observe multiple criteria and not impede handling. It is essential that views be unobstructed. However, personal safety is a critical consideration in where to stand and is why the plant should be involved in making the location determination.

Vocalization scoring is done on a per animal basis. For example when auditing multiple criteria, if a steer vocalizes when it is touched with an electric prod, it is scored as one electric prod use and one vocalization. If the same steer vocalizes three times, it is still scored as one vocalization. A single distressed animal will often vocalize with several short moos that are closely spaced, which would be scored as a single vocalization.

All cattle that vocalize in the stun box or religious slaughter box are scored if this is the location where vocalization is being audited. If vocalization is being scored at a location other than the stun box or religious slaughter box, only cattle that vocalize as a result of handling, electric prod use, or equipment. Only swine vocalizations provoked by electric prod use or equipment are scored. Vocalization is not scored in sheep.

When falls are scored in the crowd pen, count all animals that fall within the crowd pen itself and in the groups of animals entering the crowd pen. If multiple animals are observed falling in a group of animals that is outside this area, it may be indicative of a problem in that area. This is not part of the formal score for the crowd pen, but should be noted in the comments.

It is helpful to follow the rule of thirds when scoring animal handling at slaughter. Pick a place in each of the following areas to observe animals for falls and electric prod use and divide the number of animals to audit in each area as evenly as possible:

- Drive alley (*i.e.*, 33 animals)
- Crowd tub (*i.e.*, 34 animals)
- Single-file chute (*i.e.*, 33 animals)

Observations in these three areas should add up to the total number of animals necessary to complete the audit.

If you have already observed 100 animals and you see an electric prod used or a vocalization in another area, you do not count it because your scoring has been completed. However, if you observe a willful act of abuse, such as prodding a sensitive area, that must be documented as an abusive act even if you have already electric prod scored 100 animals. **Willful/egregious acts of abuse always count and result in a failed audit.**

Criterion 1: Commitment to Animal Welfare — Plant Policies and Training

A key factor in establishing and maintaining optimal animal handling and stunning in plants is a clearly communicated management commitment to an animal handling program. All levels of management must play an active role in the animal welfare program to demonstrate a culture of animal care. This criterion audits the plant's management commitment to animal welfare through documented policies, internal audits, and personnel training. It is only scored once during an audit. The following are explanations of each of the applicable elements to be scored during the audit:

- **Does the facility have a documented training program for its employees or use an outside training program to teach the principles of good animal handling?** This program should include training on condition of livestock, holding, and moving the animals up to the stunning area. The program should cover onboarding/new hire and ongoing/refresher employee training.
- **Does the facility have a protocol for handling non-ambulatory animals?** A written policy for immobile and fatigued animals that are non-ambulatory must be in place. This may mention the tools necessary for handling non-ambulatory animals unless they are euthanized and are not moved according to the protocol. Plant policy should include instructions for when an animal is to be euthanized and euthanasia methods should be based on industry guidance (e.g., Meat Institute Stunning Guide, AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines, AABP Guidelines for Humane Euthanasia of Cattle, etc.).
- **Does the company perform internal audits at least weekly and implement corrective actions as needed?** Ongoing monitoring of animal welfare outcomes must be completed through internal audits. Different parts of the audit may be divided up and occur at different times throughout the week so long as outcomes are measured weekly. Corrective actions should be implemented as appropriate for critical issues such as an egregious act.
- **Does the company have an emergency management plan for livestock on file?** In the event of a disruption to normal operations, like downtime at the plant, the flow of livestock may be disrupted and necessitate keeping livestock in drive alleys or unloading docks, rather than returning animals to holding pens or back to the farm of origin. A plan must be in place for short-term and long-term breakdowns, weather events, scheduling issues, etc. For weather events, the plan should include extreme temperature management tools such as water, fans, or protection.
- **Does the emergency plan include instructions on when/how water will be provided to animals in drive alleys/unloading docks and how feed will be provided if animals are held longer than 24 hours?** Animals require water access during holding regardless of unforeseen emergency conditions. Plans must be in place to provide access to water if animals are held in areas not typically equipped for holding animals and provide appropriate feedstuffs to animals held over 24 hours in the event of an emergency situation.
- **Do employees inspect the facility weekly and document for repair any damage or sharp protrusions that may injure animals?** These can include broken gates, sharp edges, and broken concrete.
- **Does the facility have a protocol for stunning equipment maintenance?** Documentation of cleaning and maintenance must be provided for each piece of equipment. Cleaning frequency and preventative maintenance should occur per the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. The equipment and any ammunition must be stored properly when not in use. Proper cleaning and maintenance of equipment will result in effective stunning.
- **Are facility personnel trained in handling non-ambulatory animals?** This training should be based on the facility protocol for handling non-ambulatory animals. The training should provide instruction on whether non-ambulatory animals may be moved, including how to properly use the tools required to do safely, or euthanized and not moved until they are insensible.

CRITERION 2 | FACILITY AND HANDLING OBSERVATIONS

- **Does the facility provide special training to stunner operators to ensure proper equipment use and stunning efficacy?** Employees must be trained in the company's stunning methods. Documentation of training must be provided and employees should be able to demonstrate knowledge of training. Training should include the proper location to stun the animals, including training for different species that the stunner operator may be asked to stun, along with training on safe use of stunning equipment.
- **Does the facility train its personnel and have a written procedure about how to handle a sensible animal on the bleed rail?** A written plan must be in place for how to stun a sensible animal on the bleed rail along with employee training on how to operate stunning equipment and where it is located.

Scoring:

Yes/No

5 points are given for each criterion

Criterion 2: Facility and Handling Observations

- **Is non-slip flooring provided throughout the facility?** This includes areas such as drive alleys, crowd pens or bud boxes, single file alleys, and knock box.
- **In the crowd pen or bud box, do animals flow, with stress and discomfort minimized?** An overcrowded crowd pen can result in overuse of driving aids. The appropriate number of animals in the crowd pen or bud box changes from one facility to the next and as animals flow through, there may be more or less animals in the crowd pen at any given time. Auditors should assess the outcome, not a specific number or percentage: the crowd pen should not be filled to the point that animals are not flowing and are showing signs of distress, such as vocalization. Animal temperament can influence behavior in the crowd pen, but regardless of temperament, handlers can work to minimize stress and discomfort.
- **Are non-electrical devices the primary tool used to move livestock?** Use of electrical prods should be on a limited basis and must not be the primary handling tool. Other handling tools such as flags, rattle paddles, sorting boards, etc., should be the primary tools used.
- **Are any holding pens overcrowded?** First, visually assess all holding pens. If a pen appears to be overcrowded, the auditor has two options to evaluate further to make a determination.
 - Option 1: The auditor should ask if animals are going to be held overnight and if so, assess if they have adequate room to lie down. If the animals have room to lie down, the pen is not overcrowded.
 - Option 2: The auditor should ask if the establishment uses pen density guidance based on industry guidance (e.g. Meat Institute Guidelines, Swine Care Handbook, etc.). If the plant is adhering to that guidance, the pen is not overcrowded.
 - Overcrowding Determination: If the pen appears to be overcrowded and the auditor further investigates and finds that the animals do not have room to lie down and will be kept overnight or that the establishment is not adhering to their pen density guidance (if applicable), the pen is overcrowded.
- **Are CO₂ levels or amperage/voltage monitored regularly?** For swine, if electrical stunning is used, amperage/voltage must be monitored. For swine, if CO₂ stunning is used, CO₂ levels must be monitored. For sheep, if electrical stunning is used, amperage/voltage must be monitored. Ask a plant employee to explain if levels or amperage/voltage is monitored regularly by the plant.

Scoring:

Yes/No

10 points are given for each criterion

CWI Criterion 3: Access to Water

All livestock must have access to clean water in holding pens in plants. Each pen must have a suitable and accessible water source.

Scoring:

Yes/No
50 points

KWI Criterion 4: Falling

All areas where animals walk must have non-slip footing. Animals should be observed during active handling from the crowd pen to the stunning chute or the gate where animals enter the CO₂ gondolas. Because survey results indicate that the greatest falling problems occur in high traffic areas such as the drive alley near the crowd pen and the stunning chute, scoring should be done in such high traffic areas (Grandin, 1998).

Auditor Tip:



For all species, falls caused by powered gates are counted.

- A fall occurs when an animal loses an upright position suddenly in which a part of the body other than the limbs touches the ground.
- Falls are counted on a per animal basis. If the same animal falls multiple times, it is only scored as one animal falling.
- All animals that fall in a stun box or restrainer before stunning or religious slaughter are counted.
- When auditing domestic livestock all falls are counted, regardless of the cause.



Bison that fall due to temperament should not be counted.

Scoring:

Score a minimum of 100 animals in large plants. In most plants that have non-slip flooring, falling seldom occurs. In fact, problems with falling are usually either a big problem or almost no problem.

Score in the areas where the animals are being actively handled. For all species, falls caused by powered gates are counted.

Cattle, Swine, Sheep

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 0.1-1% falling 30 points

Intermediate – 1.1-3% falling 20 points

Not Acceptable – More than 3% falling 0 points

Bison

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 1-2 animals falling 30 points

Intermediate – 3 animals falling 20 points

Not Acceptable – 4 or more animals falling 0 points

Small Plant Adjustment

Excellent – No falling 40 points

Acceptable – 1 animal falling 30 points

Intermediate – 2 animals falling 20 points

CWI Criterion 5: Electric Prod Use

Reducing the use of electric prods will improve animal welfare. Using electric prods significantly raises heart rate, open mouth breathing and many other physiological measures. Touching an animal with an electric prod is scored whether the prod is energized or not. Electric prod use should be monitored anywhere that prods are being used – the single file alleyway and entrance to the restrainer are common locations. Electric prods must never be applied to a sensitive area (animal’s mouth, eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, testicles, or belly). Applying a prod to a sensitive area of any animal is considered a willful act of abuse.

Auditor Tip:

Do not score grunts or squeals that can be attributed to hot wanding or squeals that appear unprovoked by humans or by equipment.



Note: A vibrating prod or air prod is not the same as an electric prod and should not be scored.

Scoring:

Cattle

	Percent of Animals Electrically Prodded:
Excellent	5% or less 50 points
Intermediate	5.1-15% 45 points
Acceptable	15.1-25% 40 points
Not Acceptable	more than 25% 0 points

Bison

	Number of Animals Electrically Prodded:
Excellent	5% or less 50 points
Intermediate	5.1-15% 45 points
Acceptable	15.1-25% 40 points
Not Acceptable	more than 25% 0 points

Swine Moving Through Single File in Electric or CO₂ Systems

	Percent of Animals Electrically Prodded
Excellent	5% or less 50 points
Intermediate	5.1-15% 45 points
Acceptable	15.1-25% 40 points
Not Acceptable	more than 25% 0 points

Swine With CO₂/Group Stunning Systems

(No Single File Chute or Systems Where Swine Are Stunned on the Floor in Groups)

	Percent of Animals Electrically Prodded
Excellent	Zero animals prodded 50 points
Intermediate	0.1-2.5% 45 points
Acceptable	2.6-5% or less 40 points
Not Acceptable	More than 5% 0 points

Sheep

	Percent of Animals Electrically Prodded
Excellent	Zero animals prodded 50 points
Intermediate	0.1-2.5% 45 points
Acceptable	2.6-5% or less 40 points
Not Acceptable	More than 5% 0 points

***Note:** Electric prods are not allowed on sheep in Canada.

KWI Criterion 6: Vocalization

Vocalization

Vocalization can be an indicator of stress in livestock. Though other reasons may occur, the six major causes of provoked vocalizations during handling are:

- electric prod use;
- contact with a sharp edge(s);
- pressure from the hold-down rack;
- sides of a v-restrainer moving at different speeds;
- hitting or poking livestock; and
- excessive pressure applied by moving mechanized parts of an animal restraint device such as a head-holder, rump-pusher gate, or body restraint equipment.

Vocalization is scored on a per animal basis. For example, if an animal vocalizes more than once, it is only counted as one on the audit sheet. Vocalizations should only be scored up until an effective stun is applied.

Cattle and Bison

Cattle and bison vocalization should be audited in the crowd-pen, lead-up chute, restrainer, and stun box. All cattle or bison that vocalize (up to 100 head total) in the stun box or religious slaughter box are scored if this is the location where vocalization is being audited. Vocalizing animals in the crowd-pen and lead-up chute are scored only during active handling when the handler is moving the animals. Vocalizations in the yards are not scored because animals standing in the yards will often vocalize to each other.

Auditor Tip:

Vocalizations in the yards are not scored because cattle standing quietly in the yards will often vocalize to each other.



Religious Slaughter

When evaluating religious slaughter, cattle vocalization should be five percent or less of the cattle in the crowd pen, lead up chute, and restraint device. A slightly higher vocalization percentage is considered acceptable because the animal must be held longer in the restraint device compared to conventional slaughter. A five percent or less vocalization score can be reasonably achieved for any operation using a head holder.

Swine

Because it is impossible to count individual vocalizations in a group of swine, vocalization scoring of swine can only be conducted in the restrainer, stun box, or group stunning pen.

It is important to count squeals only and not grunts in swine. A squeal is an extended sound produced with an open mouth, indicating excitement, fear, or pain. Squealing that occurs when swine root under each other or jump on top of each other is counted if provoked by electric prods, yelling, poking, or hitting the swine. Score swine squeals after the most posterior part of the hind end is past the restrainer entrance. The definition of the restrainer entrance for different types of equipment is listed below:

- **V conveyor restrainer** – The entrance point is located on the outer circumference of the slats where they turn around the sprocket (pivot).
- **Center track conveyor restrainer** – The entrance point is located at the point where the conveyor emerges from the housing and is exposed. In the unlikely event that swine squeal because both legs and feet get on one side of the center track, the squeal would be counted.
- **Stun box** – The entrance point is located on the inside surface of the tailgate.
- **Group floor stunning** – The entrance point is the gate where the pigs enter the stunning pen. Score after the pigs enter and the gate is closed.

CRITERION 6 | VOCALIZATION

Optional suggestion for internal audits: Another simple method for monitoring continuous improvement within a plant is estimating the percentage of time that the entire stunning room is quiet, known as room vocalization. As each animal is stunned, the person scoring notes whether the room was quiet. The score is the percentage of stunning cycles where the room was quiet.

When CO₂ stunning is evaluated, a stunning cycle consists of the time to fill a gondola. Because vocalization scores can vary by auditor, number of swine, and room acoustics, room vocalization scores are difficult to compare across plants and should not be measured by third party auditors. This is for internal use only. However, one can conclude that a plant that has continuous, constant squealing may have swine welfare problems. This method is excellent for internal plant monitoring over time.

Additionally, plants can easily install a decibel monitor, which can help to determine room vocalization even when no active audit is being performed.

Sheep

Vocalizations are not scored in sheep.

Scoring:

Score a minimum of 100 animals in large plants or 50 or whatever is available in small plants. Small plants should score an hour of production. For data collection on large numbers of animals, fractional percentages can be used. A single animal that vocalizes more than once is counted as one vocalization, by going through the process backwards and starting with stunning and working back towards unloading, this is simpler to achieve.

An animal should be scored as vocalizing if the vocalization is determined to have been provoked by handling or equipment. If there is no way to identify the cause of a vocalization, it should not be counted. If possible, note the cause on the audit form. Vocalizations caused by hot wanding a pig are scored as part of the stunning score. Do not score them as part of the swine handling vocalization score.

Cattle

Excellent – no vocalization 40 points

Acceptable – 0.1-3% of the animals vocalize 30 points

Intermediate – 3.1-5% of the animals vocalize 20 points

Not Acceptable – More than 5% vocalize 0 points

***Note:** Three percent or less of cattle should moo or bellow. In religious slaughter operations or any operation using a head holder, up to 5% vocalization is acceptable.

Bison

Excellent – no vocalization 40 points

Acceptable – 1-2 animals vocalize 30 points

Intermediate – 3-5 animals vocalize 20 points

Not Acceptable – 6 or more animals vocalize 0 points

Criteria for Vocalization of Swine in Conveyor Restrainers

Do not score grunts or squeals that can be attributed to hot wanding or squeals that appear unprovoked by humans or by equipment. Score a minimum of 100 swine in large plants and 50 swine or what is available in small plants. In plants that process less than 50 swine per hour, score one hour of production.

Swine

Excellent – no vocalization in the restrainer; none due to hot wanding 40 points

Acceptable – 0.1-5% of swine squeal in the restrainer; none due to hot wanding 30 points

Intermediate – 5.1-10% of the animals vocalize 20 points

Not Acceptable – More than 10% squeal in the restrainer; none due to hot wanding 0 points

Auditor Tip:

Vocalizations caused by hot wanding a pig are scored as part of the stunning score. Do not score them as part of the pig handling vocalization score.



Auditor Tip:



Criteria for Room Vocalization.

(Should be used in internal audits only and not compared across plants)

Score a minimum of 100 pigs in large plants and 50 pigs in small plants.

Acceptable – 50% or more of the time the room is quiet.

Additionally, plants can easily install a decibel monitor, which can help to determine room vocalization even when no active audit is being performed.

Small Plant Adjustment

Excellent – no vocalization 40 points

Acceptable – 1 animal vocalize 30 points

Intermediate – 2 animals vocalize 20 points

Not Acceptable – 3 or more animals vocalize 0 points

CWI Criterion 7: Effective Stunning

Plants are evaluated on the effects of a single application of captive bolt, firearm, electric stun, or exposure to CO₂.

Effective Captive Bolt or Firearm Stunning

Regardless of species or device, an acceptable stunning score is 96 percent or above. When evaluating effective captive bolt or firearm stunning, the auditor monitors whether or not an animal is rendered insensible with a single shot.

If one-shot efficacy falls below 96 percent, immediate action must be taken. Note that shots in the air where the animal is not touched do not count as missed shots. If the stunner bolt makes any visible mark or injury on the animal, a missed shot is counted. Touching an animal with the outer housing that surrounds the bolt, but not firing, does not count as a missed shot.



USDA regulations require cattle, calves, sheep, swine, and other livestock to be rendered insensible on the initial knock.

Some plants routinely shoot some animals twice to ensure insensibility. This is called a security stun. In this situation, the auditor must examine the animal for signs of sensibility before the second shot is applied to ensure that the stunner is capable of rendering 96 percent or more of the animals insensible with a single shot.

Scoring:

Score a minimum of 100 animals in large plants. Score 40 animals or the number available within an hour of production in small plants. Scoring is the same for all species.

Note: For a more accurate assessment in small plants, data collected over a period of time can be averaged.

Excellent – 100% instantly rendered insensible with one shot 50 points

Acceptable – 99.9-96% instantly rendered insensible with one shot 40 points

Not Acceptable – Less than 96% instantly rendered insensible with one shot 0 points

CRITERION 7 | EFFECTIVE STUNNING

Small Plant Adjustment (less than 40 head per hour): 1 missed stun is considered acceptable if a second stun is applied in a timely manner and renders the animal insensible

Electrical Stunning Systems for Swine and Sheep

When evaluating effective electrical stunning, the auditor monitors both the correct placement of stunning wands/tongs and the effectiveness of the stun in ensuring insensibility.

Scoring:

Score a minimum of 100 animals in large plants. Score 50 animals or the number available within an hour of production in small plants. For data collection on large numbers of animals, the fractional percentages can also be used following traditional rounding rules.

Accurate Placement of stunner

Rating	Placement Criteria
Excellent	100% correct placement 10 points
Acceptable	99% correct placement 5 points
Not Acceptable	Less than 99% correct placement 0 points

Effective stunning

Rating	Effectively Stunned
Excellent	100% effectively stunned 20 points
Acceptable	99.9-98% effectively stunned 15 points
Not Acceptable	Less than 98% effectively stunned 0 points

Hot Wandering—Swine Only

Rating	Placement Criteria
Excellent	No hot wandering 20 points
Acceptable	0.1-1% hot wandering 15 points
Not Acceptable	More than 1% hot wandering 0 points

*Special Audit Point for Plants That Use Head-Only Reversible Electric Stunning

Plants that use head-only reversible electric stunning systems must use extra care in ensuring that animals remain insensible when they are bled. Plants using this method should consider adding an audit point to their regular audits: when evaluating the effectiveness of reversible electrical stunning, the auditor monitors whether or not an animal is rendered insensible immediately following administration of a stun as evidenced by the absence of signs that an animal is starting the process of a return to consciousness.

Auditor Tip:



Note that shots in the air where the animal is not touched do not count as missed-shots.

CO₂ Stunning System Operation for Swine Gondola Loading

The gondola or other conveyance for moving animals into the gas system must be evaluated for animal handling to ensure they are not overloaded.

Scoring:

Score 50 gondolas across all machines in operation in plants that slaughter more than 1000 swine per hour to determine the percentage of gondolas (elevator boxes) that are overloaded. Score 25 gondolas in plants that slaughter less than 1000 swine per hour. There will be instances where an auditor may not be able to see directly into the gondola. In this case, an auditor can observe the number of animals that are loaded into the gondola and compare to loading requirements of the plant, rather than directly observing the animals inside the gondola. A gondola or elevator is to be scored as over-loaded if there is not sufficient space for the animals to stand or lie down without being on top of each other. Score on a per gondola basis.

Excellent – No gondolas are overloaded 25 points

Acceptable – 0.1-4% of gondolas are overloaded 20 points

Not Acceptable – More than 4% are overloaded 0 points

Note: For gas systems where the animals ride head to tail on a continuous conveyor that does not have separate animal compartments, omit gondola scoring.

Effective CO₂ Stunning

When evaluating the effectiveness of CO₂ stunning, the auditor monitors whether or not an animal is rendered insensible when it emerges from the CO₂ chamber as evidenced by the absence of signs of sensibility. If signs of a return to sensibility are observed, the animal must be immediately re-stunned using an immediately available backup stunner.

Note: Plants with CO₂ systems that have shorter gas exposure times need to check insensibility on the shackle table as well. Plants that fall into this category should consider adding an audit point to their internal audits.

Scoring:

Score a minimum of 100 animals in large plants. Score 50 animals or the number available within an hour of production in small plants.

Note: For a more accurate assessment in small plants, data collected over a period of time can be averaged.

Excellent – No animals show signs of sensibility 25 points

Acceptable – 98% or more of the animals show no signs of sensibility 20 points

Failure – Less than 98% of the animals show no signs of sensibility 0 points

Auditor Tip:

There will be instances where an auditor may not be able to see directly into the gondola. In this case, an auditor can observe the number of animals that are loaded into the gondola and compare to loading requirements of the plant, rather than directly observing the animals inside the gondola.



CWI Criterion 8: Bleed Rail Insensibility

Auditors should monitor a minimum of 100 animals in large plants and 50 animals or the number available within an hour of production in small plants, looking for signs of sensibility, such as eye reflexes, vocalization, or the righting reflex. However, auditors should not stop the plant's process in an attempt to assess signs of insensibility. Regardless of the number of animals audited, **100 percent must be rendered insensible**. There is zero tolerance for beginning any dressing procedure such as skinning the head, leg removal, or scalding, on a sensible animal.

While no sensible animal should be observed on the bleed rail or bleed table, on rare occasions, it is possible that an animal with partial return to sensibility will be observed. An animal showing transition signs is NOT counted as sensible as long as the backup stunner is IMMEDIATELY accessible and a successful second stun is administered IMMEDIATELY prior to the animal returning to sensibility. It is CRITICAL that animals showing signs of potential return to sensibility be re-stunned immediately. When a second application of the stunner is done in any location before the animal is hoisted, it is counted as a second stun, not as a sensible animal on the bleed rail or bleed table.

Scoring:

100 percent of animals must be rendered insensible. Signs of consciousness such as eye reflexes, vocalization, or the righting reflex must be absent. If one or more signs of sensibility are present it is grounds for an automatic failure of the audit.

For all of the species: Dressing procedures such as skinning, scalding, limb removal, etc. must never be performed on a sensible animal. The animal must be effectively re-stunned before any of these procedures are performed.

Insensibility

Acceptable – 100% insensible 50 points

Not Acceptable – less than 100% insensible 0 points

Auditor Tip:



When a second application of the stunner is done on a sensible animal in any location before the animal is stuck, cut, or hoisted, it is counted as an ineffective stun, not as a sensible animal on the bleed rail or bleed table.

Assessing Unconsciousness in Livestock During Slaughter

Definitely Unconscious: <i>ALL of the following signs are ABSENT</i>	Unconscious But Beginning Transition Back to Consciousness: <i>ONE OR MORE of the following signs are PRESENT</i>	Definitely Conscious: <i>ANY of the following signs are PRESENT</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menace reflex that occurs when a hand is waved in front of the eye without touching Eyelash reflex in response to touch Corneal reflex* Rhythmic breathing where the ribs move in and out at least twice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyelash reflex in response to touch Rhythmic breathing where the ribs move in and out at least twice Corneal reflex* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of posture/animal standing Righting reflex on the rail Vocalization Spontaneous, unprovoked blinking Menace reflex that occurs when a hand is waved in front of the eye without touching Eye pursuit of a moving object
Unconscious: No Action Needed	Unconscious: Re-stun Immediately	Conscious: Re-stun Immediately

**For cattle, a finger may be used to test the corneal reflex. Because pigs and sheep have small eyes, a small blunt object, like a pencil eraser or something similar may be used.*

CWI Criterion 9: Euthanasia

Animals observed during the audit that required euthanasia, such as severely injured/severely lame animals, must be promptly euthanized according to plant policy. Promptly means within a reasonable amount time considering all of the relevant facts, with the goal of minimizing pain and suffering.

Scoring:

If no animals are observed that require euthanasia, the criterion will be scored as not applicable (NA) and 50 points will be removed from the total points possible for the audit.

If an animal is observed that required euthanasia and was promptly euthanized according to plant policy, the criterion is scored as passing and 50 points are awarded.

If any animal(s) is observed that required euthanized and was **not** promptly euthanized in a timely manner according to plant policy, the criterion is scored as failing, zero points are awarded, and the audit is failed.

CWI Criterion 10: Willful Acts of Abuse/Egregious Acts

Any willful act of abuse is grounds for automatic audit failure, regardless of whether the act is observed within the areas being audited.

Willful/egregious acts of abuse include, but are not limited to:

Dragging a conscious animal, non-ambulatory or otherwise;

Intentionally applying prods to sensitive parts of the animal such as the animal's mouth, eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, testicles, or belly;

Deliberate slamming of gates on animals;

Malicious driving of ambulatory animals on top of one another either manually or with direct contact with motorized equipment;

Driving animals off high ledges, platforms, or off a truck without a ramp (driving market weight or adult animals off a low stock trailer is acceptable);

Beating or excessive prodding of ambulatory or non-ambulatory animals;

Animals frozen to the floor or sides of the trailer;

Leaving disabled livestock exposed to adverse climate conditions while awaiting disposition;

Lifting sheep by the wool or throwing a sheep;

Otherwise causing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals, including situations on trucks.



Note: Bison may run into a pen and immediately turn around, causing a human safety hazard where the handler needs to quickly close a gate. Quickly closing a gate to prevent a human safety hazard, so long as it is not deliberately slammed on the animals is acceptable.

Glossary of Terms

Amperage: the flow of electricity, or current (measured in amps).

Bloodsplash: petechial (pinpoint size) hemorrhages that result when small capillaries in muscle rupture because of increased blood pressure and muscular contraction.

Bison: Undomesticated animals that have a large flight zone and retain their wild instincts.

Clonic: a phase within a seizure in which the animal displays uncontrolled kicking and twitching.

Compromised animal: an animal with reduced capacity to withstand handling or transportation, but where handling or transportation with special provisions will not lead to undue suffering; compromised animals may be locally transported with special provisions to receive care, be euthanized, or humanely slaughtered.

Corneal reflex: the blinking effect elicited by lightly touching the cornea (surface) of the eyeball; this reflex is a sign of sensibility.

Crowd gate: a gate used in an animal handling system that can facilitate the movement of livestock from a large pen into a single-file alley or used for moving a group of animals along a drive alley.

Crowd pen: a pen which aids in the movement of animals into a single-file alleyway; contrary to the name, the crowd pen should never be crowded to the point that animals do not flow through the pen.

Domestic livestock: Only cattle, swine, and sheep — not bison.

Driving: Handler actively moving an animal.

Emaciated: Animals with a body condition score of one. Swine will be extremely narrow in the loin, have a hollow flank area, and their ribs and backbones will be easily visible. Cattle and sheep will be extremely thin, with their ribs and backbones easily visible. Such animals would be described as extremely thin if there is no fat on the rib or in the brisket and the backbone is easily visible, with some muscle depletion evident through the hind quarter. The extremely thin attributes of these animals may sometimes compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness, and lead to debilitation.

Euthanasia: Ending the life of an individual animal in a way that minimizes pain and distress.

Exsanguination: the act of draining the blood from an animal.

Fall: occurs when an animal loses an upright position suddenly in which a part of the body other than the limbs touches the ground.

Fatigued animal: Fatigued swine have temporarily lost the ability or the desire to walk but have a reasonable expectation to recover full locomotion with rest (Source: National Pork Board). Cattle and sheep experiencing heat stress will exhibit open-mouthed panting and may be reluctant to move.

Flight zone: an animal's personal space; determined by the wildness or tameness of the animal, or how accustomed animals are to people and handling.

Frequency (regarding electric currents): how many times the waveform is repeated in a second (measured in Hertz (Hz)).

Gondola: a large pen/cage in which swine can be loaded before being exposed to carbon dioxide stunning.

Hot wand: an instance in which the stunning wand is energized before it is in full contact with an animal, which usually elicits an adverse response, such as a squeal.

Involuntary movement: These may be associated with but not limited to the mouth, cheek, tail, forelimbs or back limbs, and may be characterized by kicking, reflexive movements, or spasms.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Knock box: area of containment where the animal is stunned, also known as a stun box.

Lairage: a place where livestock may be held during transit to a slaughter facility or in a slaughter facility.

Livestock: Cattle, swine, sheep, and bison raised in an agricultural setting to provide products for consumption such as meat.

Menace reflex: the blinking effect elicited by waving a hand in front of the eye; this reflex is a sign of sensibility.

Non-ambulatory animal: an animal that cannot or will not rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk.

Non-penetrating captive bolt: a captive bolt device which provides a concussive effect without the bolt penetrating the skull.

Nystagmus: a condition in which the eye makes repetitive, uncontrolled movements; appears that the eye is vibrating.

Penetrating captive bolt: a captive bolt device which provides a concussive effect from the bolt penetrating the skull.

Pithing: causing further damage to the brain after an animal has been rendered insensible by captive bolt or firearm by inserting a thin metal or plastic rod into the hole made by the concussive device.

Point of balance: the point at which an animal will move forward or backward in relation to a handler's movement, located at the shoulder of the animal.

Poor udder condition: the condition of an animal that displays a severely engorged udder that is interfering with the animal's ability to walk, including udders that descend below the hock, significantly push out against the rear legs causing difficulty of movement, or highly distended udders which cause obvious pain/distress to the cow.

Prodding: Handler using an electric or vibrating prod on an animal, regardless of if the prod is electrified.

Restrainer: a chute, box, or conveyor system that holds an animal still for handlers to more effectively place a captive bolt, firearm, or electric stun device to render an animal unconscious.

Rhythmic breathing: breathing displayed by animals, in which the ribs move in and out *at least twice*; this is a sign of sensibility.

Righting reflex: an attempt of an animal to lift up its head and/or arch its back (or right itself), in response to being hung upside down; animals which are sensible after being hung on the rail will exhibit such a reflex; the presence of this reflex is a sign of sensibility and is not acceptable.

Security stun: an additional stunning action taken after the first stun has rendered an animal unconscious.

Sensibility: when an animal is conscious as evidenced by spontaneous, natural blinking; presence of the menace or threat reflex; and may exhibit the righting reflex and raising the head.

Single file alleyway: an alleyway in which animals are moved single-file, usually leading up to the restrainer or stun box, also known as a single file chute or race.

Slip: occurs when a portion of the leg other than the foot touches the ground or floor, or a foot loses contact with the ground or floor in a non-walking manner.

Split animal: an animal (usually bovine) whose back legs have split underneath her and will not support her weight.

Tonic: a phase within a seizure in which the animal displays stiffness and rigidity due to extreme muscle contraction.

Unfit animal: an animal with reduced capacity to withstand transportation and where there is a high risk that transportation will lead to undue suffering; if transported, unfit animals would endure unjustified and unreasonable suffering (unfit animals may only be transported for veterinary treatment or diagnosis).