

M751+P1049	Pitman Farms Inc. (Moroni Turkey Processing)	4/28/2021	<p>Memorandum of Interview ..to Discuss ..Mistreatment of Birds on a Trailer Involved in an Accident ..Pitman Farms Turkey / Est# P01049 ..Meeting Time: Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 0900 ..Attendees: ..USDA Establishment ..REDACTED REDACTED ..REDACTED REDACTED ..REDACTED ..This meeting was necessitated by observations made on Wednesday, April 28, in response to the arrival of a trailer of turkeys which had been involved in an accident during which the trailer left the roadway and landed on its side. ..According to plant management, trailer 78 was involved in a rollover accident at approximately 0100 on the morning of April 28. At approximately 0630 on the same morning, trailer 78 arrived at the establishment missing the rear third of the coops. Those coops had been detached in the accident and arrived at the establishment minutes later on a flatbed trailer. At 0645, while inspecting the trailer and the detached coops with the REDACTED, I observed that most of the coops had been distorted and partially crushed as a result of the accident, and many of the coop doors were bent and pinned shut. I observed both dead and live birds inside the coops. REDACTED noted it would require maintenance to open the coops. REDACTED agreed it should be a priority to get the birds unloaded and sorted, and he informed REDACTED, of that assessment on the phone in my presence. ..At approximately 0745, I observed the trailer and the detached coops had yet to be emptied, and there were no signs of impending action to do so. According to REDACTED, he had been informed he was not to bring the truck into the building due to it being a safety hazard, but he had no info on when and how they were going to address the birds. ..At approximately 0850, I observed the rear third of coops on a flatbed truck had been sorted and the healthy live birds had been transferred to another trailer waiting for slaughter. According to the REDACTED, the injured birds were being euthanized at the rendering facility and discarded along with the dead birds in that rear section. The remainder of the damaged trailer was still parked and unaddressed. According to REDACTED, due to the instability of the trailer and the need to cut open the damaged coops, management could not address it at that time out of safety concerns. He said they would bring the trailer into the hanging bay for accessibility to empty the coops. When asked when that would happen, Jaime said at the end of the slaughter day. REDACTED overheard the discussion and promptly corrected REDACTED and told me the establishment would do it at lunch between 1000 and 1100. According to REDACTED, the maintenance supervisor was in a meeting with OSHA this morning and was now available to oversee that exercise. ..Between 1000 and 1130, I observed as the trailer was brought into the hanging bay and unloaded. Live birds were hung on the shackle line to proceed to evisceration, and the dead birds were discarded. Several birds identified by employees to be seriously injured were euthanized using a handheld stunner that REDACTED notified me was designed for use with turkeys. ..During the weekly meeting on Thursday, April 29, REDACTED voiced his objection to the MOI for egregious concerns because the trailer presented a safety issue, which, according to REDACTED, prevented them from taking prompt action. Although this type of accident has happened previously at this establishment, management did not have a plan in place to address the injured birds promptly and safely. ..This memorandum serves to document what was observed and discussed and provide the Denver district office with information concerning the operations being conducted at this establishment. A copy of this memorandum of interview was provided to establishment management, and the signed original will be placed in the USDA files. ..REDACTED</p>
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