

M45525+P45525+V45525	Pine Creek Processing LLC	21-Jun-22	<p>At approximately 1100 on 06/21/2022, REDACTED REDACTED was notified by plant personnel about a large number of dead red broiler chickens within a cattle trailer on the premises. The cattle trailer had tall solid sides with a row of open windows along the top of each of the side walls (approximately 6 inches high, with an extra bar running down the middle, splitting each into two long windows) and a small, open window at the front of the trailer. The chickens were loose (not in crates) on the floor of the trailer. No additional ventilation was provided (i.e. fans, et cetera) to direct any breeze to the level of the floor. The trailer was located in the sunlight with the back door closed, with an outside ambient temperature of approximately 88 degrees Fahrenheit at 1100. REDACTED REDACTED had performed antemortem inspection of those chickens before they were placed in the cattle trailer (while they were still in the client's shipping trailer) at approximately 0800, when the ambient temperature was approximately 78 degrees Fahrenheit, and found them to be healthy, well feathered, well fleshed and with no sign of disease or heat exhaustion during the time of that inspection. Plant personnel reported that when they last checked the chickens in question inside the trailer at 0900, the chickens had been alive and well, but by 1100, 130 of the chickens had died. Sixty-six chickens were still alive within cattle trailer at that time. REDACTED REDACTED notified the Chain of Command, who also notified APHIS REDACTED and the Des Moines District Office. REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED arrived at the plant to perform inspection of the remaining 66 chickens during the slaughter process. REDACTED REDACTED found minimal sign of disease (a few breast blisters, scant airsacculitis) and no sign of severe disease such as cyanotic combs, torticollis, severe airsacculitis or hemorrhages in the trachea or viscera in any of the chickens. REDACTED REDACTED concluded that the deaths were consistent with overheating in the poorly ventilated cattle trailer during a hot summer day. She shared her findings and conclusion with the Chain of Command. The APHIS REDACTED agreed with her diagnosis and declined to investigate an infectious cause for the deaths. Failing to protect chickens from high environmental temperatures with inadequate ventilation and thereby inducing heat</p>
----------------------	---------------------------	-----------	--

			exhaustion prior to slaughter is not consistent with good commercial practices. The establishment has since removed the cattle trailer from the premises and determined not to use it as a pen to hold birds during hot days.
--	--	--	---