

P1309

House of Raeford Farms Inc.

(1354 Rutherford Rd., Greenville, SC 29609)

2024-12-04

Est. P-1309, House of Raeford Farms, December 4, 2024, 1345 hours. In attendance: Dr. REDACTED IIC, SPHV and Mr. REDACTED Establishment Manager.

At approximately 0615 hours, a CSI contacted me because he had observed a higher than usual number of DOAs in Lot 1 while performing a Good Commercial Practices task. When I arrived at P-1309, the outside temperature was 23°F. I observed two trailers at the live haul sheds that held birds from Lot 1. I noted a headboard on each trailer, but neither one had sideboards, nor any other measure to protect the birds during transportation. Along the perimeter of the cages, I observed numerous dead and dying birds that were very cold and stiff and live birds that were cold and shaking, consistent with excessive cold exposure. A review of slaughter information from Lot 1 showed a final DOA count of 3,089, with a total number of 22,349 birds slaughtered. Therefore, the DOA percentage for this lot was 13.82%. A review of slaughter records from 11/01/2024 through 12/03/2024 showed the average DOA percentage for P-1309 was 0.30%.

An additional concern noted during my evaluation of Lot 1 was an increased wing fracture/dislocation rate. I observed carcasses from this lot during the evisceration process on five occasions. During each of these observations, I examined approximately 500 carcasses and noted an overall wing fracture/dislocation rate of 23%. The fractures I observed were mostly compound with visible bruising and involved the radius, ulna, or wingtip. The dislocations were primarily located at the elbow, often with the distal humerus protruding through the skin and associated swelling and hemorrhage. I observed that the wing fracture/dislocation rate dropped significantly in the following lot to 9.5%.

At approximately 1345 hours, Establishment Manager REDACTED and I met in the USDA office, and I informed him of the disproportionate rate of DOAs and fractured/dislocated wings observed in Lot 1. I informed Mr. REDACTED that I would document my findings in a Good Commercial Practices MOI. Mr. REDACTED indicated P-1309 has canceled slaughter for birds from this grower on Friday due to the predicted low temperature.

Agency regulations require that live poultry be handled in a manner that is consistent with good commercial practices and that they not die from causes other than slaughter. This MOI will be forwarded to the Atlanta District Office and District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS) Dr. REDACTED in the event additional follow-up is recommended.

Respectfully,

Dr. REDACTED IIC

P-1309, House of Raeford Farms