

Establishment Number	Establishment Name	Inspection Date	Description
M751+P1049	Pitman Farms Inc. (Moroni Turkey Processing)	12-Apr-23	<p>This Poultry Good Commercial Practice (GCP) memorandum was necessitated by observations made on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in response to an establishment employee mishandling a live bird.</p> <p>On April 12, 2023, at approximately 1415 hours, the CSI was observing the hanging bay area in the Evisceration Department (while performing a Sanitation Performance Standards task), and the CSI observed a live bird being mistreated and therefore performed a Poultry GCP inspection task.</p> <p>The CSI observed a turkey hanging employee remove a live turkey by the legs from one of the cages on the rear/back of the last trailer for the day. As the employee turned to hang the live turkey in the shackles, the turkey struggled (flapping its wings and trying to get away). The employee dropped the live turkey, and the live bird landed on the hanging platform and stood up. The employee immediately picked up the live turkey by the legs and in a sideways swinging motion, forcefully struck the live turkey against the metal shackles two times. The shackles are supported on the backside by a solid metal bar to keep the shackles from moving out of reach and thus creating a solid “back wall”, thereby making hanging live birds easier for the employees. With this sideways motion, the back, wings, neck, and head of the live turkey struck the solid shackles. The CSI observed the turkey to become motionless and was limp as the shackles moved along the rail. Immediately after hanging the turkey, the CSI heard the employee laugh out loud. The CSI yelled to get the employee’s attention, but with the employee’s personal protective gear on, the employee could not hear the CSI. Another employee did see/hear the CSI and said something to the employee that mishandled the live turkey. The employee then moved away behind the trailer. The CSI proceeded back to the USDA office to notify supervisors of the event. The CSI who observed the live bird mistreatment and another CSI verbally notified the Quality Assurance Technician of the event at 1430 hours.</p>

		<p>The District Veterinary Medical Specialist and Denver District Management Team (DMT) were notified through supervisory channels. After discussing the details of the event, it was decided to issue this GCP MOI.</p> <p>The SPHV met with the Quality Assurance (QA) Manager to discuss the event and inform the QA Manager of the event details and that the Denver DMT had been notified. The SPHV also verbally informed the QA Manager that a GCP MOI would be issued and entered into PHIS for live bird mistreatment. The QA Manager (from watching establishment video footage of the event) agreed that the event was mistreatment of a live bird and reported that she had already met and discussed the event with other management personnel including the supervisor in the establishment's Human Resources (HR) Department. With the guidance from HR, the establishment had already suspended the turkey hanging employee with intent for termination. There have been no incidences of live poultry mistreatment or mishandling within the past 90 days.</p>
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