

| Establishment Number | Establishment Name        | Description  |
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| P208+V208            | George's Processing, Inc. | <p>On Wednesday, July 31, 21024, at the start of the 0600 hour, while observing the live hang area, I observed a large quantity, too numerous to count, (TNTC) of dead chickens being sorted from live chickens on both live hang belts. The TNTC dead birds were placed in an approximate 6 feet in diameter by 3 feet in height pile at the end of both belts. I continued to monitor the area while more dead-on-arrival birds (DOAs) were rapidly being deposited onto the floor pile. I observed several live hang employees and members of management removing the DOAs from the floor while placing them in yellow condemn barrels and into the transfer auger cabinet. Approximately 16 dead birds were placed into each yellow barrel (Approximately 554 barrels). Numerous barrels (TNTC) were filled and removed from the live hang area and staged on pallets outside in live receiving for disposal into offal. Establishment management shared with FSIS that they were investigating the cause of the DOAs, suspecting the issues originated at the farm. They also reported all catching at the farm had been put on hold while the establishment went down to hanging on one line at the facility. FSIS continued to monitor the establishment's sorting procedures and animal welfare practices. FSIS noted no live birds were placed in the condemn barrels or auger cabinet.</p> <p>I performed antemortem inspections on the trailers staged in the live receiving department and in the holding sheds. In both staging areas, all fans and water misters were operational. There was also an additional diesel-powered industrial fan mounted on a flatbed truck staged in live receiving to increase air circulation. I watched the cage dumper for both kill lines and noted that birds were not overcrowded in the cages and were not being overloaded onto the live hang belts. In my observations of the birds in cages waiting on the trailers, no signs of panting, lethargy, or distress were noted. A few birds inside some of the cages appeared to be DOAs, but the numbers were only visible when the cages were dumped onto the live hang belts. The overnight temperatures Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning were in the uppers 70s and the daytime temperatures were in the upper 90s with a heat index of approximately 100 degrees for the area.</p> |

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|  |  | <p>While IPP continued to monitor the process, I notified Dr. REDACTED Springdale Circuit DVMO and Springdale Circuit Frontline Supervisor Mr. REDACTED of my observations at approximately 0625 hour. Both Dr. REDACTED and Mr. REDACTED arrived at the establishment (approximately 0700 hour) for observations. Dr. REDACTED was provided a copy of the establishment's farm's premovement Avian Influenza (AI) testing results and to examine a sample of the DOAs collected from random barrels. The AI testing results were negative. The establishment's farm's testing results, along with Dr. REDACTED examinations were sufficient information for the Springdale's District office.</p> <p>The establishment was afforded due process by continuing with the sorting of the DOAs and live birds in this lot which is defined to a single farm of 95,200 birds. Establishment Live haul reported the final totals of DOAs at 8,861, resulting in a DOA percentage for the lot of 9.4307%. The average number of DOAs for any given day would be around 1-2%. The establishment reported to FSIS after their investigation and inquiry at the farm, that it was determined the farmer misread the schedule and forgot to pull feed before the live birds were caught for transport. This error by the farmer, combined with environmental temperatures, caused the birds to overheat during catching/transit and resulted in the high number of DOAs (and full crops in evisceration).</p> |
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