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### **Animal Handling and Welfare Guidelines**

- Fill the crowd pen leading to the single file chute and the staging area half full. Animals need room to turn.
- Plastic bags work well for moving cattle. A plastic wastebasket liner on a stick works well for turning cattle in the crowd pen. Use the stiff plastic liners that make a crackling noise.
- Illuminate the entrance of the knock box. The light must be directed into the entrance of the box. It must not shine into the eyes of approaching cattle. Animals will balk at a dark entrance.
- If animals balk at a reflection on the floor of a chute, try moving the ceiling lights off the centerline of the chute. Moving a light will often eliminate a reflection.
- On a pneumatic stunner, install an easy to reach water spray to clean the trigger mechanism; regular cleaning will help prevent misfiring.
- Cartridges for a cartridge-fired stunner should be kept in a dry place. Storage in a damp location can result in misfiring. One suggestion is to shrink-wrap boxes of cartridges held in storage.
- Cartridge-fired stunners must be rotated often to prevent overheating. Build a rack on the wall or side of the chute to hold the stunners to make rotation easier.
- Electric prods should not be used routinely. A flag, paddle stick or a plastic bag should be the primary tool for moving animals. The electric prod should only be used to move an animal that balks.
- If a powered gate is used to move animals, it should be controlled by an operator pushing a switch. Fully automated gates in the crowd pen leading to the single file chute often lead to pile ups. The operator must be able to control the gate.
- Chutes should be designed to reduce clanking and rattling
- People should stop whistling and yelling. High-pitched sounds from people yelling agitate the animals.
- Eliminate the injection of air into the brain by a stunner.

Elkhorn Valley Packing is committed to the proper and humane handling of all animals in our supply chain.

Sincerely,

Troy Bennington  
HACCP Coordinator  
Elkhorn Valley Packing