

ABSTRACTS
*** Author Presenting Paper**

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Careful handling of pigs and cattle at the slaughter plant will help preserve meat quality. Cattle handled quietly have less bruising and cattle which remain calm during handling are less likely to have dark cutting or tough meat. In pigs, quiet handling and a minimum of electric prod use in the stunning chute will reduce PSE approximately 10 percent. Meat damage from poor injection technique may be reduced in animals that are handled quietly. Proper injection technique is easier in calm animals. People manage what they measure. Objective scoring should be used to measure the quality of handling. Vocalization scoring can be used to assess handling quality. The percentage of cattle that vocalize (moo or bellow) during handling through chutes is tabulated. Other measures are the percentage of animals prodded with an electric prod and the percentage of cattle that walk quietly into a squeeze chute. Cattle that walk quietly into the squeeze chute are less likely to get shoulder injuries which cause extensive meat damage. Cattle that are handled quietly with a minimum of electric prod use will vocalize less than cattle that are excessively prodded with an electric prod. Squeal scoring can be used in pigs to assess handling quality. Several studies show that vocalization is correlated with physiological measures of stress in both cattle and pigs.

Key Words: Pigs and Cattle, Vocalization, Handling quality