NIAA Bovine Meeting

Matt Jones
Vice President of Auditing
Validus
Validus

ISO 9001: 2008 Certified Company
&
ISO 17065 Accredited Company

We are a full service company with the ability to provide audits to ensure farm production practices meet or exceed consumer and brand expectations in the marketplace.
Certifications

- Validus training on ISO
  - 9001:2008
  - 17065
- SQF- Safe Quality Foods
  - Level II and III
- PAACO- Professional Animal Auditing Certification Organization
  - Swine, Poultry, Dairy
  - Becoming a requirement for all auditors to obtain PAACO certification
September, 2016--IMI Global dba Where Food Comes From (WFCF) purchases Validus Ventures

Validus Verification Services

Auditing & Verification

Auditing
Why is Validus so Successful?

• Validus Auditors have:
  – Knowledge of the area they are auditing
  – Communication skills
  – Strong Ethical Foundation
  – Impartial
  – People skills. The ability to deal with all types of clients in all types of client situations. To put client personnel at ease. Show respect for the client.
  – Reliable and Predictable

• Quality of the Audit

• Consistency of the Audit
Importance of Addressing the Animal Care Issue

Up until the last few years, not much progress was made by activist groups in addressing animal welfare in agriculture until a vulnerable link was found....

CONSUMER BRANDS!!!
Audit Standards

• Industry developed
  – Beef, swine, poultry
  – Packers

• Certification Organizations
  – American Humane
  – Safe Quality Foods

• Validus owned
  – Dairy, environment, worker care, on-farm security

• Privately owned
  – Client wants own standards
  – Focus of key aspects of the operation
Expert Committees

• Review the standards on an annual basis
  – Defend standards

• Make recommendations/changes based on industry and research changes
  – Recommended changes from industry
  – Recommended changes from auditors
  – Changes from review panels

• Changes made to audit standards

• Auditors trained on changes
Audit Outcome Based

• Animal welfare audits identify key animal observations
  – Access to feed and water
  – Bedding area
  – Body conditioning
  – Lameness/location scores
  – Facilities

• Employee and management interviews
  – Verify processes and training

• Records and documentation
  – Verify that activities are documented
Animal Observations
BCS = 1
Photos courtesy of Elanco
Space allocation

Access to lie down
Scored Audits

- **Records and Documentation**
  - Important to verify for audit process
  - Typically carry points per record
  - Not scored as high as animal observations

- **Animal observations**
  - Carry more point totals
  - Focus on key animal welfare areas

- Some audits will have pass/fail criteria
- Audits will have a threshold that the site must meet for certification
Corrective Action Plans

• Steps the facility will take to address any non-conformance
  – Actions taken
• Responsible parties that need to be involved
• Timeline for completing the action
• Typically verified on the next audit
Audit Findings

• Submitted to the audit firm
• Review for Quality Control/Quality Assurance
• Allows time to ask auditor for clarification, if needed
• Clients demanding that results be provided on tight timelines
Audit Results

- Audit findings are provided to the contract holder
  - Producer
  - Packer
  - Industry
  - Certification Organization

- Contract holder can request (in writing) to have results sent to their client
  - Wholesaler
  - Retailers

- Allows consumers to know that third-party audits are being conducted
Summary

- Success for Validus is based on auditor knowledge and experience
- Standards are the basis of the audit
- Audits are a combination of documents, observations, and employee/management interviews
Questions/Discussion