



Inspection Report

Northeast Area Beltsville Location

10300 Baltimore Avenue
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705

Customer ID: **334304**

Certificate: **51-G-0001**

Site: 001

NORTHEAST AREA BELTSVILLE
LOCATION

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 22-APR-2025

2.31(c)(7) Critical

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

During a post approval monitoring review of records for an IACUC approved protocol involving a poultry activity, the IACUC found that 20 chicks had died, and the event had not been reported to the IACUC. An IACUC investigation found that 10 chicks died on March 10, 2024, 10 chicks died on March 11, and two chicks were humanely euthanized by the principal investigator on March 11. The IACUC determined that the principal investigator had deviated from the IACUC approved protocol and the standard husbandry practice of providing diurnal lighting. The principal investigator had also used gelatin beads containing an inoculate that was not approved by the IACUC and used the beads earlier than the IACUC had approved. The gelatin beads placed in the hatchers, which are set at elevated temperatures, coupled with continuous lighting, broke down the beads, increasing the humidity and adversely affecting the normal drying of chicks post-hatch. The veterinarian concluded that the beads were the source of moisture that caused the chicks to become wetter than normal after hatching.

Chicks are unable to self-regulate their body temperatures at hatch making them susceptible to chilling. The wet chicks were then transported to another enclosure in the building, resulting in hypothermia and death of the chicks. A significant change was made to the protocol without IACUC approval, leading to the death of 22 chicks. The IACUC must review and approve significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities before the changes are made to ensure the welfare of the animals. Corrected prior to inspection.

2.32(a) Critical

Personnel qualifications.

IACUC records reviewed during this inspection included an unexpected outcome report for an event on January 22, 2025, involving chicks held at the facility. The animal care staff euthanized 54 chicks using CO2 as the primary method, but did not confirm death as required by the facility's standard operating procedures. The chicks were placed in a freezer for disposal. Fifteen of the 54 chicks were later discovered alive in the freezer, having survived the CO2 exposure. The chicks were subsequently euthanized by another approved euthanasia method. Failure to ensure personnel can perform effective humane euthanasia by CO2 resulted in distress for 15 chicks. The research facility must ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. Corrected prior to inspection.

Prepared By: DEBRA SIME

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

25-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Institutional Officer

Date:

25-APR-2025



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3.151(c) Critical

Facilities, indoor

IACUC records reviewed during this inspection included an unexpected outcome report for an event on January 16, 2025. During morning checks in the poultry building, animal care staff discovered that the overhead work lights were left on in the male turkey room overnight. Light intensity and time periods are established factors in modifying behavior of confined poultry species. The veterinarian concluded that the lights being on all night caused the birds to become over stimulated, leading to at least seven turkeys fighting with each other and sustaining injuries. Six turkeys sustained injuries severe enough that they had to be euthanized. Lighting in indoor housing must be of appropriate quality, distribution, and duration for the species of birds involved. Lighting of primary enclosures must be designed to protect the birds from excessive illumination that may cause discomfort or distress. Maintain the lighting cycle in the indoor housing so that the duration of lighting is appropriate for the species being maintained. Corrective action included installation of automatic timer switches where a timer can only be overridden for a period of five minutes. Corrected prior to inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with Facility Representatives.

End of report.

Prepared By: DEBRA SIME
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
25-APR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Institutional Officer

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
334304	51-G-0001	001	NORTHEAST AREA BELTSVILLE LOCATION	22-APR-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000113	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000556	<i>ARS BIRDS</i>	ARS BIRDS
000194	<i>ARS MICE</i>	ARS MICE
000023	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000886	Total	