

Natural Pork Production, LLP
AMVC, LLC
MowMar, LLP
Suidae Health & Production, L.C.
Sow Farm
F Avenue and 330th Street, outside Bayard, Ia.

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

- Today I went to an AMVC hog farm in Bayard, IA to interview for a breeding position. Jordan is the unit manager, and after speaking with him, he took me around on a tour of the farm. As we were walking through one of the hallways, we saw a sow who was lying in the middle of the hallway approximately 45 feet down from us. There was a male employee hovering over her with a bolt gun, and Jordan started yelling out to him. I believe he called him Victor, and he told him not to bolt the sows if he did not have someone else there helping him hold her with a snare. Jordan then turned to a very young kid and told him to go get the snare. This kid gave Jordan attitude and said that he did not know what a snare was. Jordan told him to follow us, and gave him the snare. After he handed it to him, Jordan explained how to snare the sow around the snout, and that will hold her head steady for Victor to bolt her. This young employee then said that Victor had already shot her two times in the head. She was still fully alive and conscious at the point when we saw her in the hallway, due to the fact that she was sitting with her head up in the air. I did not see any blood anywhere, but I could not see the floor behind her. She was not seizing at all. A little bit of time elapsed between when Jordan and I started walking down the hallway and when this employee said that. It is possible that Victor had bolted her after we started walking down the hallway. I did not see them snare her or bolt her again.
- Jordan said that on August 18, Sewaday (unsure of spelling) would be taking over the management responsibilities on the farm from AMVC.

Friday, July 25, 2008

- Today was my first day of employment at the farm. I spent the morning watching videos, some of which made a slight mention about animal welfare and proper animal husbandry. This was not spoken about in great detail, but they pretty much just said that animal abuse of any kind would not be tolerated. They said that this would be grounds for dismissal. At lunchtime, two representatives from the new management company, which is being called MowMar, came to speak to us. They are aiming to be taking over the farm on August 18.
- I spent the rest of the day training on the breeding side. Richard is the employee who is training me, and seems to be in charge of breeding. I also worked with Al, Carlos, and Shawn. I spent most of the time moving sows.

- Richard was getting the sows out of the crates from the breeding barn for me to move into the gestation barn. There was one gilt, who I believe was pregnant, who wouldn't come out of the crate right away, so he became abusive towards her. He first used a gate rod to poke at her neck and face. When she shrieked and backed up in the crate, he took the plastic herding board and started hitting her in the face with it fairly hard. He hit her in the face approximately two or three times. As he did this, she shrieked and backed up in the crate as far as she could. She finally ran out of the crate.
- There was one sow who was dead in her crate today. I believe she was in the gestation barn. As we passed by, Richard said that she was still alive a few hours ago. He said that she was pregnant, and maybe she was trying to push the piglets out. There was no physical evidence of a prolapse. A few minutes later, we walked over to where Shawn and Al were standing. Richard told them that she had died, and they started talking about her. I asked why she had died, and they said that she has been very lame lately and not moving for a period of a couple of days. It appeared that they had not euthanized her in the hopes that they could get some of the piglets from her. Al chimed in, and said that he hoped she was in a "lot of pain" when she died. He said that he hoped her "insides were causing her lots of pain." He said this in a joking manner, but it was very evident that he meant it. He told me that he has been working in hog farms for 19 years, and it seems as if he is very bitter towards the hogs.
- Richard was bitten by a boar this morning. He told me that he had a pretty long cut from the bite, and he made a comment about wanting to beat the hell out of him.

Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27, 2008

- I am off these days.

Monday, July 28, 2008

- The first thing that we do in the mornings is scrape. That is when you use a shovel/scrapper and walk the aisles behind the sows and scrape all the feces into the pit. While doing this, I came across approximately four different sows who had their piglets while in the gestation crates. Some of them were "abortions", or stillborns, but some of them were not. I came across one sow who had four piglets who were still barely alive. They were almost motionless, and were very cold. I ran to get Richard, and he told me that two of the other piglets that this sow had given birth to had been born alive, due to fact that they were not pale, but had died while lying there. We brought the four surviving piglets to farrowing, but I later heard that they had all died.
- Richard was very abusive towards a few sows today. We were walking the boar along the sows to heat check, and we came to a few pens where there were a number of sows in them. We went into the pens, and brought two boars in. There were a few times that Richard would hit the sows in the head

with his hand to get them away from him. When we were coming out of the pen, he used the gate rod to hit one sow in the face fairly hard to get her to stop trying to come out of the pen. He hit her a few times, and poked her in the neck as well. She seemed very frightened, and squealed as she backed away from him.

- Al was very abusive towards a few sows and gilts also today. There was one time that we were trying to move approximately a dozen gilts from isolation into the breeding barn. It seems that they keep all of the new gilts who arrive in iso until they come into heat and are bred. Al has made comments about how he hates gilts because they are “dumb” and don’t move very easily. There were about three gilts who had turned around and were not walking in the direction that we were trying to take them. Al used his plastic herding board to hit each of them in the face several times, and he also used it to squeeze one gilt’s head against the crate. The gilts squealed and screeched loudly as this was happening. After this didn’t work for a while, he took a clothespin that we use to hang cards, and jabbed it into the eye socket of a gilt. He did this three times to the same gilt. She screamed out loudly, and appeared very frightened. As he did this he was using his body to push her, and he got her turned around. There was another gilt who had gotten into a crate that had opened up. I saw Al take a metal gate rod out of the gate, which is approximately two-feet long, raise it high above his head, and slam it down on her back approximately four times. He used a lot of force to do this, and was slightly out of breath afterwards. The gilt screamed out in pain, and there were some red welts that formed on her back. Later in the day, when I was catching some sows in a pen, Al told me to take a gate rod and hit them if they tried to come out.
- Al told me a horrific story today about his dog Jake. Jake is half Rottweiler and half a small breed. Al told me that after he first got Jake from his daughter, there was one time that Jake ran across the highway and into an open field. After a long time of trying to get Jake back, Al’s daughter finally was able to call him in. Al then told me that he proceeded to take Jake’s chain leash and use it to whip and beat him, pretty badly. He said that when he was done, Jake looked at him and growled, so Al then threw one end of the leash over a pipe and used it to hang and choke Jake. He said that Jake’s toenails were just barely on the floor. After he finally let him down from that, Jake again looked at Al and growled. Al then put a shock collar on Jake and “shocked the hell out of him”. After a long time of that, he said that Jake still growled at him, and then Al decided that he liked the attitude on Jake, so he stopped beating him.
- While we were bringing the boars in and out of the pens with multiple sows, they continuously tried to mount the sows. There was one sow with a very swollen breast which was hanging down and was maybe the size of a small volleyball. Richard told me that it was an abscess, but Al told me that it was mastitis. This sow is going to be culled due to this. While the boars were in the pen, one boar successfully mated with her. It appeared as if she was too

weak to throw him off of her. Richard was in the pen with them, and did not stop her from being raped.

- The condition of the sows at the farm appears pretty bad. There are a lot of sows with crate sores, most of which are on their shoulders.

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

- Today was Al's day off, so I worked primarily with Richard and Carlos. Shawn and Greg were also on the breeding side, mostly artificially inseminating. It seemed to be a typical day, consisting of scraping, heat checking, moving sows, and breeding.
- Richard was extremely abusive today, several times to several sows. While we were heat checking, we had to move the two boars into the pens where there are several sows. He was using a gate rod to hit some sows very hard in the face and poke them hard in the neck and behind the ear. He mainly did this to keep them away from the gate. He would also kick a lot of them very hard in the face in order to get them to move a certain way. There was one time that a boar had mounted and penetrated a sow. Richard had finished in this pen at this time, and didn't want to waste any time. He took the gate rod and pounded the boar on the back very hard. He then used it to poke the boar in the face and eyes to get him off of her.
- Richard was also very abusive as we were moving sows today. There were about ten gilts who we had to move from isolation into the breeding barn. A few of them were hard to get moving in the right direction, and Richard used whatever he could to hit them. He used the plastic board and a gate rod to hit them, a clothespin to stab them with, and he kicked them a lot as well. There were approximately three gilts who Richard kicked or hit in the face and/or head. He used all of these things to hit them in the face and/or head, but he also used them to hit the others on the back as well. There was one time that he took a running start, pulled his leg back, and kicked a gilt so hard in her rear that afterwards he had to take off his boot and rub his foot. After he did this, the gilt took off running very fast, and acted like she was very scared.
- Carlos was abusive today as well to the sows. There were a few times that I saw him using his plastic board to hit the sows in the face. These were sows who he was moving, and were not in their crates. He also kicked them in the face a lot when they were in their crates to get them to move. He did this to see how skinny they were so that he could set their food levels. He would kick them directly in the face through the bars on the front of their crates.
- Victor was power washing the gestation crates in the breeding barn today. I was shocked to see that he was spraying down and washing the crates that still had sows in them. The sows were taking the full brunt of the pressure washer, sometimes in the face. They tried to get out of the way, but were largely unsuccessful. I am unsure if the water is hot or cold. I don't think that there are any chemicals added to it, but I am not 100% sure.

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

- Today was the first time that I artificially inseminated at the farm. They call it breeding, and we bred this morning and this afternoon. As we were breeding in the morning, Richard and Jose weaned the sows, and they unloaded all of the piglets, and sold them. We also loaded up a farrowing room late in the day.
- Richard was abusive again today. There was one time that he was very abusive to two of the boars. While we were breeding, we needed to use a “boar bot” to move one of the boars. The boars are moved in front of gilts and sows to excite them and facilitate insemination. Another boar is attached to the front of the robot, though he is not actually pulling the bot with boar in it because the bot is electric. The boar in the bot is kept in a cage that moves, and so the two boars are kept separated. Before lunch, Richard was trying to rush us to finish breeding. He was putting away the boars, and instead of doing it the way we are supposed to, which would be to put away the boar who is closer to the aisle where their crate is, he let the boar in the bot out, and the two boars came face to face. They started fighting briefly, and Richard kicked them both very hard in the face to get them to stop. (Almost everyone at the farm wears rubber boots, including Richard.) He then started kicking the one he wanted to move very hard in his rear, and the boar started walking.
- Al was showing me how to breed, and Shawn was breeding in the row across from us. Al and I bred approximately 25 sows. There were approximately three times that he used the saddle, which is a hard plastic harness that you put on over the sows’ hips to hold the inseminating tool in place and to simulate the pressure of a boar, or the plastic inseminating tool, which is plastic tubing about 2 feet long which is inserted into them, to hit the sows in the face, including the eyes, to get them to stand up. He used a fair amount of force in doing this. Some of the sows squealed as they got up from being hit with these.
- There were about a dozen gilts who we had to move from iso into the breeding barn because they were coming into heat. Shawn and I went to move them, and Shawn was incredibly abusive towards a few of them. About three or four of them would not walk into the hallway, they kept going to the end, and then turning around and running through Shawn to the other end of the aisle. There was one gilt in particular who did this about five or six times. He hit her extremely hard in the face with his plastic board several times. He also kicked her very hard in the face, and he used a hot shot on her as well, shocking her on her back. I was unable to tell if the hot shot left any marks on her, but I would assume that it did. He abused the two or three other gilts who were not going in the right direction also. He used his board to hit them on the face and back, all with a lot of force. He kicked them in the face and in the rear.
- At the end of the day, we had to load a farrowing room with sows. Mostly everybody was being abusive at times, but Carlos was by far the worst. There were about four heavily pregnant sows who were supposed to farrow

that day or the next at the end who would not walk into the farrowing room. He used his plastic board to hit all of them very hard in the face and on the back. He also kicked all of them very hard in the face. The last sow gave him a really hard time, and would not move at all in the direction he wanted her to. She kept trying to run back past him, and then when she finally went into the room and walked down the aisle way, he followed her and gave her three swift hard kicks in the rear. This sow had already went into the room, and walked down the aisle way that he wanted, so these kicks were nothing more than mere malicious frustration on his part.

- There were about five or six sows who were in the gestation barn who all farrowed. As far as I know, all of these piglets died, which I would approximate at 40-50 piglets.

Thursday, July 31, 2008

- I am off today.

Friday, August 1, 2008

- This morning we had to wean the piglets from the sows. They were being sold and picked up today. The guy who picks them up is named Paul Herbers, and he has a farm about an hour or so from Bayard. Apparently, he has a farm where he grows them, and a farm where he slaughters them as well. Colleen is the person who told me this, but she wasn't too sure where they go after this. She said that it is in Iowa, but she did not tell me the name of the town. The process of weaning the pigs shocked me. I was taking the piglets out of the crates with Shawn, Greg, Victor, Jose, Richard, and a female employee, possibly named Patty. They all were being very abusive and rough with the piglets. They would grab them with one hand by whatever they could grab. Most times it would be by one back leg, and plenty of times they grabbed them by an ear. They would then throw them over the side of the crate, and onto the cement floor in the aisle. Most of these piglets hit the floor pretty hard. This whole time that this is happening, the piglets are in the crates with their mothers. The mothers were helplessly in the crates while their young are ripped away from them in such a rough manner. There were several times that as we got down to the last piglet in a crate, he/she would run over by the face of their mother and try to hide. They were always unsuccessful, and the sows looked as if they were confused by what was happening. Then, while being pushed towards the room they needed to go into, people would kick them, fairly hard. Victor was being very abusive as he walked them, kicking them very hard.
- After all of the piglets were in the room where they were being moved to, we had to bring the sows out of farrowing and into the breeding barn. I was still working with the same people during this process as I was during the first part of it (Shawn, Greg, Victor, Jose, Richard and the woman possibly named Patty). During this process, everybody was being abusive at times to get the

sows to move. They would hit them with the boards on the back, and kick them in the rear.

- The farm has what they call GDU's, which stands for 'gilt development unit'. They are not located on the farm, but close by. I believe this is where they raise gilts until they are a certain weight and then they are brought to the farm. Al told me that not quite a month ago, Jordan had shut off the water there, but hadn't told anybody. There were two employees who were supposed to go and check on the GDU's, but hadn't in a few days. Due to the heat, and lack of water, about 40 gilts died from the heat.
- Approximately a few months back, there was a PRRS outbreak at the farm, which killed hundreds of piglets, and plenty of sows as well. I heard this from a few people at the farm, Al and Colleen as well.

Saturday, August 2, 2008 (Video)

- I took some footage today of some of the sows in the gestation crates which shows how cramped and horrific the conditions are. I also filmed one of the pens which has an extreme amount of sows in it. There are approximately between 25 and 35 sows in the pen which is about 30 feet by 30 feet.
- I filmed one sow who had really bad crate sores on her shoulders. She had been moved into this pen with other sows when she was weaned recently, and today they moved her back into a crate because she was coming into heat.
- In the same pen as the sow with the crate sores was another sow that I filmed who had a possible case of mastitis.
- I filmed one sow today who had gotten her head stuck underneath the gate door. She was squealing really loudly and seemed extremely frightened. Shawn had to go over and take the door off so she could get up. This happens quite frequently in a gestation crate setting, and if it happens as soon as everybody leaves the farm, she would be stuck like that for approximately 12-14 hours.
- I briefly recorded a conversation where Shawn said that he gets a lot of aggression out on the gilts. Greg piped in and said that he has kicked them in the face.
- We had to bring approximately a dozen gilts from iso into the breeding barn to be bred. There was one, number 14804, who would not run down the aisle the right way. I filmed her as Shawn and Rick abused her. Shawn said that he wanted to use the shocker, but didn't know where Richard had left it. Shawn was kicking the board into her face a lot. He then told me that Al pokes them in the eyes with his fingers, but that he didn't want to do that. Rick came by with his board also, and he was slapping her in the face with his hands. He then put his board on her face, and kicked it fairly hard. After a long while of that, she finally went forward a little bit, to the beginning of the breeding barn, but then she stopped and would not move again. Shawn started slapping her and stabbing her on her back with a clothespin when she first stopped. They both attempted to drag her by her ears with their hands, but she pulled her head away. Rick was jabbing her a lot with the clothespin

on her back and side. Shawn finally went to get the hotshot, and when he came back with it, Rick told him to, “shoot that fucker, will ya?” Shawn then proceeded to shock her, on multiple parts of her body including her neck. She seemed very frightened, and moved around right away.

- Victor was extremely abusive today towards sows who we were moving. He kicked many of them in the face, and used a board to smash one’s face into a cement wall. I was unable to film these incidents.
- Richard was extremely abusive today towards a sow who he told me had a broken hip. We were loading a farrowing room with sows, and he was moving her from one crate into a different one, which wasn’t in the farrowing room. I filmed him as he tortured this sow. He first was walking her by squeezing her tail and pulling it up as much as he could. She wouldn’t walk on her own, as her legs kept straddling out. She ended up falling down, and he spent a long time kicking her in the face to get her up. She squeals in anguish as he does this. He then grabbed the underside of the top half of her snout and tried yanking her up by that. He finally decided to leave her in an aisle that was next to us, but he had to back her up a little bit to get her in there. He did this by continuously kicking her in the face and yanking her by her tail. He also grabbed her by both of her ears and proceeded to try to drag her a few feet into the aisle. He then kicked her in her vagina over and over again to make her move a little bit more. I asked him if they were going to kill her, and he replied no. He said that they were going to leave her there until she farrowed, which should be the next day.
- I filmed a conversation with Rick today where he told me that his son was one of the two boys fired for Jordan’s mistake with the water at the GDU. He said that a lot of gilts died, and that it was Jordan’s fault for turning off the water.

Sunday, August 3, 2008 (Video)

- As I was walking in the aisle this morning, I saw Richard walking a sow with some new piglets towards the farrowing room, from the gestation barn. I recorded a conversation with Shawn about this afterwards, and he said that that was the sow from yesterday who had the possible broken hip. I asked them if they were going to kill her since she was done farrowing, and Shawn replied that she had gotten up this morning, so they were not. She seemed to be walking alright, but I only saw her very briefly.
- I was able to again briefly record the pen outside of the iso barn that is very overcrowded. I think that this is the ‘cull’ pen.
- I recorded one of the boars today who is used for walking around to stimulate the sows. There are several boars who always have two collars on, one around their neck and one around their body. The two collars are connected with a chain, and the one which is around their body gets connected to a pole when they take him out to walk. The pole is connected to the boar bot. Even when in their crates, these collars never come off. This boar who I recorded

has his body collar fairly tight, and the skin on the top of his back is very irritated, and seems to have a major sore underneath the collar.

- I recorded another sow today who had her head stuck under a gate door. Shawn went over there and took out one of the gate rods and yanked on her door until it opened past her head. While he did this her head was squeezed and dragged against the cement ground.
- I moved some sows today with Shawn, Rick, and Greg. They were all abusive towards the sows, especially Greg. I recorded Greg as he cocked his fist back to punch some sows in the face and grabbed one sow by the back leg, knocked her off her feet and dragged her. He also kicked a few of them in the face fairly hard. He was using the gate rod also to hit them in the face as well as the neck, but I did not get that on tape. He also sat on one sow's head, which he later told me in a recorded conversation. He is a very large, heavy guy. He is approximately 6 feet, and must weigh about 315. He was doing all of this to keep them in the pen that we were moving them into. As he was doing this, Rick was being abusive with the plastic board. He was using it to hit the sows in the face. Shawn was also hitting them with the gate rod in the necks and behind their ears as he let them out of the crates and into the aisles, but I saw this from a distance.
- I recorded a conversation with Richard today where he said, "When I get pissed or get hurt or the fuckin' bitch won't move, I grab one of those rods and I jam it in her asshole." I asked him a few more times if that is what he did, and each time he replied that he did. He said that he only really does it when the sows or gilts are giving him a hard time. He also said, "half the shit I do nobody else is supposed to do".
- I recorded a conversation with Rick again today about what happened at the GDU when Jordan shut off the water. He said that a lot of sows died of heat stroke. He said he didn't know how many, but there were a lot. He said that this happened a couple of months ago.
- I recorded Shawn as he moved the gilts from the iso barn to the breeding barn. There were two gilts who would not go in the direction that he wanted them to, so he would put the board in front of their face and then kicked it. He had said that if the shocker was still working he would use that. Apparently, it was not working this morning. There was another gilt who he hit in the face with the plastic board to get her to move out of her crate.
- I recorded a conversation with Rick where he told me that AMVC has lost at least one large hog farm to a fire. Apparently, all of the hogs were burned alive and died.

Monday, August 4, 2008

- I was off today.

Tuesday, August 5, 2008 (Video)

- I filmed a few piles of dead piglets who were all covered in blood out in the hallway to show the carnage that is present. These were piglets who had been born in farrowing and then had been killed by thumping or accidentally were crushed by sows.
- There were a lot of gilts who we had to move out of iso and into the breeding barn. Richard was abusive as we were doing this, using the hot shot a lot to get them to move. I believe Richard is the interim breed lead, and he reports to Jordan. Richard is my direct supervisor, and is in charge of the breeding department. He was kicking them in multiple parts of their body, including their faces, using his board to hit them, in the face as well, and there was one gilt whose eye he dug his fingers into very hard.
- There was one gilt who would not walk through the hallway from iso to the breeding barn. She did not appear to have any form of injury, she was just very scared. I filmed her as Richard and Shawn spent over 20 minutes beating and abusing her. I was trying to move her first, and as I was unsuccessful, Richard's advice to me was to "stick your finger in her butt". Shawn came out first and kicked her in the face and side. After he could not get her to move either, Richard came by to show us his preferred way to do it. He was yelling at us that we needed to beat her more. He came over and started to kick her very hard in her side, and slap her. Richard does not wear the same rubber boots that everybody else wears, his are more of a work type of boot. Richard then got the hot shot and started to shock her on her butt, back, and side. This seemed to scare and hurt her, because she ran each time he did it. He eventually grabbed her by both her ears with his hands and tried to pull her out. He then ended up "wheel barrowing" her, which is picking up her whole back half of her and making her walk on her front two legs. He had to do this a few times in order to get her out. At one point Richard said, "I hope you die now". A little while after that, I asked Richard and Shawn if there as a chance that she would over heat, and they said that they hoped so. Richard covered her eyes at one point, and was putting pressure inwards on them. After he finally got her out of the hallway, he gave her a few swift kicks in the rear. This was after she was already moving in the direction that he was trying to get her to, so this was nothing more than malicious frustration on Richard's part.
- There were nine dead sows who were found in gestation crates yesterday when I was not there, and there were also nine dead ones today. There were two sows who, according to Richard and Colleen, needed to be bolted due to painful injuries, yet because of the amount of dead ones and the time it would take to kill and dispose of two more, Colleen told Richard not to kill the one in breeding and that she was not going to kill the one in farrowing. I taped her as she told us not to worry about destroying her today. Richard later confirmed this on tape, and after I asked if the lame hogs would just die overnight, he said that he hoped so because it would be less work for tomorrow. I am unsure as to how these animals were injured.
- At the end of the day there were four dead sows in one row in the gestation barn that we had to take out. They were all very bloated and a blue/green

color. The decomposition process was very much underway, and there was blood all over the aisle from one of them. I recorded the blood as it flowed from the crate one dead sow was in over to the crate across the aisle. The live sow in that crate was forced to lay her head in the blood. This blood ran over and covered the area where the food would be dumped. There is no water trough, they all have individual nozzles that they get it out of.

Wednesday, August 6, 2008 (Video)

- I filmed a handful of sows today who have Blu-Kote sprayed on them. Some of their ear tag numbers were 2573, 5266, 1994, 6451, 6519, 5700, and 6257. There were a couple of others who I filmed, but I wasn't able to get the numbers on. There were a lot of sows who had Blu-Kote on them who were weaned today. For the most part, the sows who have it on them have it on their shoulder sores.
- Richard was putting some gilts in gestation crates who Paul (Colleen's husband, works part time) and I were bringing up to him. I recorded Richard as he poked one gilt in both eyes with his fingers and then kneed her in the face to get her to turn around a corner.
- We had to move some culls down into the pens near iso. I recorded Richard as he used the hot shot to move them from one pen into another. There were a couple of sows who he shocked in the face and/or neck.
- Towards the end of the day, we were moving the hogs who would be culled tomorrow. After the sows, there were about six boars who we needed to move. Before we did, we passed by a pen with two sows in it who were territorial fighting. I made a comment, and Richard said to wait for the boars. I asked him if we would be moving them separately, since they were in separate crates and were moving to separate crates. He said that would take too much time. A short while later, I was catching the boars as he sent them, and of course, there was a fight. I started recording and ran over to it. Richard started swinging at them with a gate rod fairly hard, but that did not get them separated. One of the boars had a very large gash on his back left thigh. This injury looked to have been caused by the other boar who probably bit and ripped that skin. He finally got them separated by placing a gate in between them. When I asked Colleen what we should do about the boar who was injured, she told me to go get some Blu-Kote. I recorded her as she sprayed it on the boar's wounds. She told me that they put it on the sow's shoulder sores in the farrowing department. She told me to put it on the sores when I see them. This boar is supposed to be culled tomorrow, and I asked her if that meant that he would be going to the slaughterhouse, and she said yes. I also asked if that meant he would become sausage and pepperoni, and she said yes. This was right after she sprayed the Blu-Kote on him. She sprayed it on a few sows as we walked out of the barn. Later on, I recorded a conversation with Richard about the boar fight. He said that they were fighting in the hallway, and he got them separated, but then they started fighting again. I asked him if he would still do it like that again, moving the

boars together and possibly causing a fight. He said that he would, and that they “were going on the cull truck anyway, so it doesn’t matter if they get hurt”.

- Richard had to kill a different boar by bolting him. I got there after he had already shot him twice. I started recording as Colleen told him that he needed to shoot him up higher. I asked Colleen why he didn’t die from the first two shots, and she said that he hit the wrong spot. She said that if you hit them in the wrong spot it just causes them pain. I asked if anybody there knew how to do it, and she said Victor does. He was not there at that time, he had gotten sick and gone home. Then this task falls to someone who doesn’t know proper placement as well, and that just causes them pain.

Thursday, August 7, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded Richard this morning as he told me that his boots are steel toed. Shawn just bought a new pair, and his are steel toed as well.
- I recorded Richard telling me that Victor made a mistake when he was pulling the sows to be brought into the farrowing department. He left two pregnant ones in the gestation barn. Odds are that when those two sows give birth the piglets will most likely die because they are not in the right environment that they need to be in. Richard acknowledged this and said that it was not his “fuck up”.
- I spent the majority of the day today breeding and catching the sows who needed to be moved. At times, Richard would send too many sows, probably to try to rush, and they would all get bunched together. He would come up to help, and hit them with his hands, sometimes in their faces and on their heads, to get them separated. This was at a distance, and so I could not record it.

Friday, August 8, 2008 (Video)

- Today I spent most of the day preg checking. Jordan showed me how to do it on some of them, and then he had me do it to a lot of the sows. The purpose of doing this is to see if the insemination of the animal got them pregnant. This is done by squeezing some jelly onto a sensor which is attached to a long piece of PVC piping. You then run the sensor over the sow’s belly, and look at a monitor to see if there are any piglets inside her.
- I taped one sow who Paul (Colleen’s husband) bolted today because she was lying in the crate and not moving. Greg told me that she has been lying in the crate like that and unable to eat, drink, or move since Tuesday. I am unsure if this is the same sow who Richard and Colleen discussed killing. I have not seen nor heard of any attempts to try to treat her. It appears that the farm just leaves them for a few days to see if they improve by themselves.
- I had a conversation with Al where he told me that Richard is the breed lead, or that he at least thinks and acts like he is. He assumed the position and responsibility since Marvin has left.

Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10, 2008

- I am off these days.

Monday, August 11, 2008 (Video)

- I believe Jose number 2 was power washing in the gestation barn today. I recorded him for a little while as he did because a lot of the sows and boars were getting wet all around him. While I was watching him, he was only power washing the crates that were empty, although I have seen them in the past washing crates that still had sows in them.
- I recorded another sow who had her head stuck under the gate door which I took off for her. There was another at the end of the day who did the same thing. This seems to happen quite frequently at this farm, no doubt yet another disadvantage for the gestation crates.
- I recorded a sow today who had a large growth on the left side of her neck.
- I recorded Greg as he shot a sow today with the bolt gun. She was lying in her crate not moving, and apparently she hasn't been eating. He told me that she has been like this for a few days. He shot her, and she shook very violently for a few minutes. I asked him how many he has shot, and he replied about 7. He then said, "One bitch I had to shoot 8 times". I asked him why he had to shoot her so many times, and his reply was that "she wouldn't die". I asked him if you have to hit them in the exact right spot, and he said that you can hit them a certain distance away from it in different directions, and it didn't matter. He then said, "I probably hit that bitch in like 7 different spots". He said that this happened a few weekends ago. I asked him if he was trained on it, or how he learned how to shoot them. His response was that he has just been a hunter all of his life, and that he hunts wild boars all of the time. I confirmed again with him that they didn't show him how to do it, and he said that you are just supposed to make a triangle out of it. Shawn then attached the winch to her and pulled her out of her crate and up onto it while she was still shaking.
- I recorded Shawn as he used his plastic board to hit a sow in the head who was not coming out of her crate.
- I was walking sows over to Greg to catch, and he was being very abusive towards some of them. He was kicking them in the face, and hitting them in the face/head with his fist. I recorded him as he did some of this, but it is a little ways off.
- I recorded a conversation with Colleen about where the piglets go and the difference between the companies. She said that through this week NPP2 is still in possession of the hogs, and they will be going to Paul still until the transfer of ownership. After this week, Mowmar will take over ownership of the farm and hogs, and Suidae will be the new management company. She said that Paul picks them up now and has a nursery and a finisher, and that he has a contract with Tyson. She said that some of the pigs from our farm end

up going to Tyson. All of our piglets go to Paul, and so some of his go to Tyson, and some must go elsewhere.

- At one point I was working with Al to condition score the sows. He wanted me to get them to stand up, from the back of the crate, and he would see if they were skinny or fat, and adjust the feeder. There were some sows who were not getting up for me as I tapped them on the back, and he grabbed a wooden handle to give to me to hit them with. I did not use it in the manner that he wanted, and I recorded him as he came to the back of the crates to tell me. He told me to use the sharp end of the broken wooden handle to stab the sows to get them up, because that end hurts more. He told me to, “hurt them, nobody works for PETA out here!” He explained to me that PETA was the “Protection for the Environmental Treatment of the Animals”. He went on, “motherfuckers deserve to be hurt! Hurt I say! Hurt, hurt, hurt, hurt! If you’ve got to hurt em, hurt em! ... Take out your frustrations on em!” He then went on to say to pretend one of these sows scared off a 17 or 18 year old voluptuous girl, and to just “beat the fuck out of em”. Richard left in the morning today, before lunchtime. When he is not at the farm, Al takes over as lead, and gives the orders to everyone. He has been working with hogs for almost 20 years, and supposedly has some management experience in his past. He gives the orders, and everyone in the breeding department listens to what he says. He said all of this in seriousness, telling me to hurt the sows on the farm. I obviously did not follow his advice. When new employees start, however, as Jeremy did today, and get told by him to do this, I can only assume that they do and will.

Tuesday, August 12, 2008 (Video)

- Jordan and Shawn went to the GDU in the afternoon yesterday to pull mats out from underneath the gilts. This morning in the meeting Jordan told Richard that he would have to bring the bolt gun there this afternoon, but he may not need it because the gilt that they need to kill may be dead. He and Shawn said that a bunch of gilts were fighting with this one gilt, and she seemed hurt. Instead of trying to fix the situation and separate the gilts, they just left them, and assumed that the gilt wouldn’t make it through the night. A short while later, I recorded a conversation with Shawn about this, while Al and Richard were there. Shawn said that the other gilts were pushing her all down a hallway, and when I asked him if they were all beating up on her, he said that “her ass was gone”. Al then told us how last week some sows started eating another one alive, but I am not sure where he was talking about. I assume that this is what Shawn meant by saying what he said. It seemed like he was saying that the other gilts were beating up and eating alive the weaker gilt. Shawn then said, “her face was blood red from eating on her”. He was referring to the gilt who was at the GDU who was being bullied. I asked them if anybody was over there at the GDU at all during the times when they are not, and they said no. Unfortunately, there really is no way to check on her.

- I was heat checking with Richard, and he stopped to move some sows from one pen into another. He was using a gate rod to make them move quicker, and I recorded a few instances of this. He would use the gate rod to jab into their necks and press it in. There was one time that a sow ran past him into the pen where they were coming from, and Richard reached for her eyes, and when he couldn't get to them, he hit her on the head with the gate rod. There was one sow who had 'cull' written on her. She could barely walk, and Richard moved her into the one pen, and was going to try to cull her. Later on, I found out that she would not move to the cull pen, and they said they were going to kill her today. At the end of the day, she was not in the pen anymore, and there were a couple of dead sows in the dead room.
- I recorded Richard as he brought a few sows to the cull pen-one of whom was limping on what was possibly a broken leg. She appeared to be quite uncomfortable when she was standing there. I asked Richard when the cull truck would be coming again and he said about 2 weeks. (This means that the culled sows will be sitting in the same pen for that amount of time, and then when the cull truck comes, they will get shipped off to the slaughterhouse.) There was one sow who he was trying to get to move, and I briefly recorded him as he went to poke her eyes with his hands. I believe he did poke her with a fair amount of pressure. She squealed loudly and jumped away from him.
- Richard was moving some gilts and I was catching them. I recorded him because they were moving very slowly, and he was fighting them with the plastic board. Al was standing there, and was yelling out to Richard to "hit em hard!" He was making a motion with his arm like he was hitting them. After the gilts all bunched up, and wouldn't move, Al then moved forward to help Richard. He leaned forward, and you can clearly see his arm/hand jabbing forward towards a gilt's head. There is a loud screeching, and the gilt moved quickly. Al then yelled at her, "How'd that feel?" He then turned to me and told me that he got her in the eye, with the clothespin he was holding. After the gilts were in the crates, he showed me the clothespin which he said had some blood on it. He said that he slapped her in the face with it and it went right into her eye. He then said, "Usually I use my thumb in their eye."

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

- I spent almost the entire day today preg checking the sows in the gestation barn. Jordan had me do part of week 27 yesterday, and I had to finish it today. He then told me to do week 28, which he should have done. This means to preg check the animals who were inseminated in those particular weeks of the farm's calendar. He left yesterday and today between 12 and 1, and he had me do it instead of himself staying to do it. These two weeks' worth of sows was several hundred animals, and thus took the majority of the day.
- I attempted to tape a sow who had a growth on her back right side, but due to equipment difficulties, was unable to.

Thursday, August 14, 2008 (Video)

- Because Jordan is going to be leaving after Monday, he is trying to clean up the farm as much as possible. They had the cull truck come today to pick up the culls, and this morning we had to move all the ones who were going to be culled down to the pens near iso. Jordan handed me a list to give to Al of approximately 46 sows to be culled, and Jordan must have gone out before that to pick out which ones would go. Al got them out of the crates, Jeremy and I pushed them, and Carlos caught them in the pen. There were two sows who Al had taken out for Jeremy to walk who had very bad rectal prolapses. I was unable to film them coming out of the crates due to equipment trouble. I recorded Al as he let the next group out, and asked him what that was. He said that it was their “ass” which had fallen out. He acknowledged that these were prolapses, and after I asked if we were going to kill them, he said no, that we were going to ship them out. I was able to film the two sows in the pen they were brought to. The prolapses looked incredibly painful, one sow had blood pouring out of the prolapse, and other sows around her trying to eat it from her rear. The floor in the pen became soaked with blood before long. With all the other sows in the pen with her, she had no choice but to stand there and let it happen. After a little while, she ended up laying down, and I filmed her again. I asked Al if the other sows were all eating her, and he replied, “I hope so”. He told me that he has no sympathy for the pigs, that he doesn’t like them, and that he would hurt them if he can. He said, “the more the mother fuckers suffer, the better I like it.” I was able to record the second sow (ear tag number 8309) with the rectal prolapse as Al was reading other ear tag numbers out to me. Jordan was the one who had given me the sheet with their numbers on it, so I knew that he knew that these two prolapsed sows would be getting culled, and not killed right away. At lunchtime, he started to talk about it, but I had equipment trouble at first. Someone asked him what all the blood on his jumpsuit was from, and he replied that it was from one of the prolapses when the cull truck had come. The sow had turned around on him, and ran into him. I was able to get my equipment working, and so I asked him what that was that the sows had. He acknowledged that they were rectal prolapses and that the two affected sows were getting culled. I asked him if we have to kill them or cull them, and he said that the sows with really bad prolapses and otherwise in really poor condition should be killed. He is the one who picked these sows to be culled, and he is the one who put them onto the cull truck, and these prolapses definitely looked very bad. I think he just culled them because the farm gets the money from that, whereas they do not when they are killed, and he wants the farm to look as good as possible since he is leaving in a few days.
- While at lunch, there was a conversation between Colleen, Linda, Shelly, and Paul about thumping that I attempted to get on tape, but due to equipment difficulties was unable to. Linda was talking about how it takes her several attempts to thump a pig to actually kill them. She was telling us about the

time that she thumped one, and almost an hour later or so found him/her crawling around in the hallway half dead. I believe she said that when she saw him/her, she picked him/her up and thumped him/her again in the hallway, eventually killing him/her. She said that now, she has to hit piglets against the floor at least three times, because she is older and not strong enough to kill them with one attempt. They all started joking about it, and Colleen said that she has tried hitting them against the wall before, but that it didn't work that well. I was finally able to get my equipment working, and recorded a very brief conversation with Linda where she tells me that it takes her at least three or four strikes against the floor to kill each little piglet.

- One of the boars today was bleeding pretty heavily from his right ear. Al said that he was trying to cut off part of the collar with a blade, and accidentally sliced into his ear. There is the possibility that this was not an accident, and even if it was, nothing at all was done about it.
- There were approximately three or four litters who were born out in the gestation barn this morning. Most of the piglets died, approximately 25, and we brought the survivors into the farrowing department. Some of the piglets had been pushed down into the cracks of the barn floor, so they were hanging down towards the pit with only their heads sticking out above the floor. It seems that the sows must have stepped on them and squished them down into the cracks, because of how narrow the cracks are.
- Towards the end of the day we loaded a farrowing room with sows from the gestation barn. There was one heavily-pregnant sow who went down in the aisleway, and would not get back up. The other sows were walking over her and stepping on her, and so Paul switched the path they were taking to avoid her. Nobody did anything about her, and at the time we left, she was still lying in the aisle.

Friday, August 15, 2008 (Video)

- This morning was wean day, so we had to pull all of the baby piglets out of the farrowing crates to go onto the truck. This was such a sad experience. Everyone else who was weaning did this with no regard for the piglets. They would pick them up by an ear, a leg, or anything else they could get a hold of. They would then toss them very callously over the crates' sides and onto the cement floor, when the pigs would then smash into the ground. During this process, the pigs would try to run to their mothers, but they would get grabbed up during the process. The mothers would try to scream, and would watch in horror as their offspring were grabbed so roughly and thrown. I attempted to record a lot of this, but due to equipment troubles was only able to get intermittent clips. You can see Jose1 tossing the pigs over the crate side very carelessly. I also recorded Greg as he was very rough with the pigs, and there was an instance where the mother sow looked incredibly sad due to her offspring being grabbed away. I also was able to record a little from when they were moving the piglets down the hallway into the room where

they send them out. A few people, including Jose1, were using a metal scraper to hit the piglets, and kicking them also, to get them to move.

- After we weaned the piglets, we had to bring all the sows down to the breeding barn. At one point, there were a few who would not move to the crates, and Al became very abusive. Jeremy was abusive as well, but not as much. Due to equipment difficulties, I was only able to get part of the abuse on tape. Jeremy used a plastic board and hit one of the sows very hard with it on her back. Al kicked them in the face, and hit them with a board also. I recorded him as he got down on his back in a crate and used his feet to push a sow out of her crate. Shawn then took a gate rod and started jabbing a sow in her back. When this didn't work, Al took the gate rod from him. He swung it down onto the sow's back extremely hard two times, and then said, "Don't be afraid to hurt em!" He said this in a very sadistic tone of voice.
- The heavily-pregnant sow who went down in the aisle way yesterday, ear tag number 4305, was still lying in the same spot today, unable to move. She had a pile of food next to her, but she had no access to water since she went down yesterday. I filmed her briefly in the morning. Later in the day, when they were killing the sows who needed to be killed, I recorded Al as I asked him the time, and he said it was 2:45. This is when they were going to kill her. This is almost 24 hours after she went down yesterday, and there is no reason why they couldn't have killed her sooner. I tried to record them as they tried to kill her, but due to equipment trouble, I couldn't get a portion of it. They had her snared around the snout and were pulling it tight in order to keep her head still so that Richard could bolt her. Richard tried to shoot her, but Shawn let go of the snare because of how loud and intensely she was screaming. Richard did not discharge the gun at that point. I then was able to record, and they snared her again. She started screaming loudly in terror, and then was shot.
- There are only a handful of people who can run the bobcat, which is what is used to pick up the dead sows from the dead room at the end of the day. Richard and Jordan are two of the few people who can do it. Richard was not in this morning because he said he was in jail for a domestic dispute. Jordan was the only other person there that could run the bobcat. At lunch, Jordan told Al to kill approximately four or five sows who needed it. After lunch, Al realized that nobody else at the farm then other than Jordan could run the bobcat, and Jordan has an everyday habit of leaving very early. I recorded Al and Jordan as Al went over to tell Jordan that nobody else besides him could run the bobcat. Jordan did not want to wait for the time it would take for Al to kill all the sows who Jordan had already said needed to be euthanized and then bring them to the dead room. Instead, he just wanted to leave, so he told Al to get one sow who had already died on her own in a crate and to just kill the one sow, #4305, who was laying in the middle of the aisle. I recorded Jordan as he said that two other sows are suffering pretty bad and need to be killed, but to kill them tomorrow. The only reason for this was because he wanted to leave early.

- Richard did end up coming in after he got out of jail. Therefore, we did kill the other sows. There was one sow who would not get up for a few days due to what seemed to be a broken pelvis/hips/ and/or legs. I recorded him as he kicked her, and then grabbed her by both of her ears and attempted to drag her out of the gestation crate in the breeding barn. She screamed in pain and protest. He then jumped on her back and was kicking her as he stood on her back. I was only able to partially record this due to equipment troubles. You can see him riding her like a surf board with one leg on her back and one on her neck. He then grabbed her by her tail, lifted her body, and forced her to walk out of her crate. As she did this, it was a horrific site. The back half of her body was unable to move, her two back legs were coming out from under the right side of her body. She was supporting her weight with her two front legs, and in obvious torture and torment. Richard was then trying to kick her and push her to keep her still as he shot her. She turned to the sows in crates alongside her as if asking for help. They kissed and sniffed, and then she was shot.
- One of the other sows, number 14348, who had to be killed, was already shot in the dead room when we got there. I recorded a conversation with Jeremy where he told me that Richard picked her up by her tail, and I think Jeremy dragged her with the snare in her snout to the dead room, and then they shot her.

Saturday, August 16, 2008 (Video)

- As we were scraping feces from behind the crates through the slatted floor in gestation this morning, Greg showed me a sow whose face was all bloody. I went over and recorded her, ear tag number 9708. She had blood all over her face, possibly from a cut behind her ear. I went to get Richard and showed him the bloody sow. He said that it was from her being bitten in a fight with the sow next to her. I asked him if there was anything we could do for it, and he said only Blu-Kote, which would keep it from getting infected. I did not see anybody get the Blu-Kote, or put it on her.
- We loaded a farrowing room today, and I was catching the sows. There was one heavily-pregnant sow who would not move into the crate from the aisle, and Richard came over to get her into the crate. I recorded him as he slapped her on the back, and used a clothespin to jab and dig into her back.
- While in a farrowing room, Greg noticed a piglet who was very small and not nursing. He pointed him/her out to Richard, and I recorded Richard as he picked him/her up and thumped him/her into the ground once. The angle is bad because Greg was in the way, but you can definitely see the piglet hit the ground. He then tossed his/her body back into the same crate with the mother and the other piglets. As soon as Richard tossed him/her back into the crate, he started walking away. He did nothing to verify that he had actually killed him/her, or to see if he/she was unconscious.

Sunday, August 17, 2008

- I am off today.

Monday, August 18, 2008 (Video)

- Today was the first day that the management at the farm changed hands. There were people there from AMVC, Suida, and MowMar. Suida is the new management company who will take care of all the human resource functions. MowMar is the company who now owns the hogs and all of the piglets who will be coming off of the farm. MowMar is made up of two separate families, the Thomes out of Mower County, MN, and the Beckers out of Martin County, MN. There were representatives from each family there today, Pat Thome and Lonny and Lynn Becker (brothers). I recorded a conversation with Pat Thome and Lonny Becker in the breeding lab about where the piglets will go when they take them from the farm. Pat said that all of the pigs who both families take will be going to the Hormel plant in Austin, MN to be killed. He said that they take them to their farms up in Minnesota to raise them, and then they all go to the Hormel plant.
- I spent the day breeding today with Al. Richard, Carlos, and Greg culled out a lot of sows today. Greg bolted approximately three sows today, but I was unable to watch since I was breeding.

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

- I am off today.

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded conversations with Richard and Al today to show their faces as well as their voices.
- There was one gilt who Richard was having trouble getting to move. I recorded him as he tried to pick her up to 'wheelbarrow' her, and then he gave her two hard kicks in her rear.
- There were approximately 340 gilts who were brought in today. There were three separate truckloads that came in. The first two each had approximately 155 gilts. The third truck had the remaining gilts. Richard and I were the ones who put them away. He actually decided to put them into pens at first from the truck, and then to take them a few at a time from there into the crates. He said that in the past, they would unload 75 at a time into the aisles in iso, and then put them into the crates from there. This would have been absolute madness. After we filled up the crates with the gilts from the pens, we then filled up the pens again because there were way more gilts brought than empty crates in iso. I was able to briefly film a few of the pens because there was an excessive amount of gilts in them. Afterwards, Richard thinned them about a little bit by moving some to a pen in the breeding barn.

- There was one gilt who had to be killed because she came off of the truck with a broken leg. I attempted to record Richard doing this, but due to equipment difficulties was unable to. He was very rough and abusive towards her. When he realized that the snare we had was broken, he told me to shoot her as he stood on her head. I told him that I have never used the bolt gun before, and would rather he do it, and he told me to step on her head. I offered to run back and get a different snare, and he said that by that time he would have her killed. She then moved, and so he no longer was trying to tell me to step on her head. He pinned her against a wall, and then told me to hold her there. He then shot her one time, and as she was still shaking, he pulled her outside, and over a step. He did nothing to confirm that she was unconscious. As soon as she started shaking he tried to grab her right away by a leg. He did not get a snare; he just pulled her by her leg outside.

Thursday, August 21, 2008 (Video)

- I helped move some of the sows to be bred today. I recorded Richard as he kneed a sow in her head to get her to back out of the crate. Immediately following that, Greg came over wheel-barrowing another one into a crate. He told me that he had to bring her up like that the whole way from the crate in iso, all the way through the hallway, across the width of the breeding barn, and down the aisle to the new crate. This would have been approximately 200-250 feet that Greg would have walked this gilt like this. She definitely seemed stressed, and was breathing very heavily.
- AI was abusive towards a few sows today. We were moving them from the breeding barn to the gestation barn. A few of them stopped in a doorway to the barn, and I tried to get them to move by tapping them. They would not, and as he came up behind me he hit them on the back and on the head pretty hard with his hand. He told me not to “pussyfoot” with them, because they need to be hit to move. He was also abusive towards a sow while he was breeding. I went to help him finish up his breeds towards the end, and there was one sow who laid down. He hit her hard in the head with his hand, and said that he “loved the ones who liked it rough”. She got up, and then he then inserted the AI rod into her.

Friday, August 22, 2008 (Video-no audio)

- Today was a wean day, and it was the first one that I have worked since the new company took over. They changed the process a little bit. Now, we have to give the piglets a shot, and then separate them by gender. I believe that the shot is called Circo, which I think is some sort of vaccine. Each person weaning has to pick the piglets up by a back leg, then give the shot behind the ear, and then put the males on one side and the females on the other. Each employee other than me would throw the piglets over the side of the crate walls and the pigs would crash down on the floor. I recorded Colleen showing me the process, and then I recorded intermittently as we

were weaning to show different people doing this. Greg was tossing the pigs over the sides of the crates very precariously and handling them very roughly. I caught Greg one time pulling a piglet through the bars in the crate in which he was stuck. There are a handful of piglets who hit the ground hard and flip over on it.

- I recorded Al as he used a gate rod to beat a gilt who we were trying to move from iso into the breeding barn. He hit her almost a dozen times on the top of her head and on her back.
- There was one heavily pregnant sow who laid down in the hallway on the way from the gestation barn into the farrowing barn. I recorded Guadalupe as he was very abusive towards her, pulling on her ears to get her up. She shakes her head in protest, and after he couldn't move her, he gave her a swift kick in the face. A little while later, I recorded Shelly as she tried to get this sow up by slapping her on the back and yanking her tail up. This was unsuccessful. Before the end of the day, Shelly told me that she would close both doors to the hallway and lock the sow in there. I asked her if she would die from the heat, and she said it was a possibility. Before we left, Shelly got two dishes, one each for food and water and put them in a gated side section of the hallway. She then was able to get her up and move her into that section, which was approximately 5 feet from where she was lying.
- There was another heavily-pregnant sow who would not move once she got up into the farrowing hallway. I recorded her as Shawn grabbed her ear and tried to pull her. He told me to grab her other one, but when I did not, he grabbed both ears and dragged her. He dragged her for approximately 10 feet or so. Guadalupe then grabbed her by the head and ran her into the room in a sort of head lock.

Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24, 2008

- I am off these days.

Monday, August 25, 2008 (Video-no audio)

- When I got in this morning, the sow who was left in the hallway on Friday was still in there. On Friday, she was left in a side part of the hallway, but this morning she was in the middle of the hall. Greg had said that she had moved out into the hallway at some point and farrowed. There were approximately four or five dead piglets, and a few live ones as well. I recorded her lying in the hallway, all covered in mud and feces. I am unsure as to when she got out into the hallway, and therefore had no access to food and water. I very highly doubt that whoever was working over the weekend would have refreshed the food and/or water.
- Shawn and Greg were moving the sows who were in heat, and there was one gilt who was not moving where Shawn wanted her to. I recorded him a little bit as he became very rough with her, hitting her on the back and poking her on the back with a clothespin. Richard then came over and kicked her in her

side, and tried to use a clothespin on her back to move her. She didn't move, and then Greg came over, picked her back legs up, and wheel-barrowed her through the turn in the aisleway.

- We had to move some heavily-pregnant sows from the breeding barn into the gestation barn. Carlos was catching them, and he was being very abusive towards them. He was kicking them very hard in their rear, and sometimes in their sides. He was also using a clothespin to jab them very hard in their backs.

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 (Video-no audio)

- Today was a wean day. We did not give the Circo shots because it had not arrived by the time we had to wean. We did still separate the males from the females. I recorded some of the time while weaning because there was a lot of rough handling of the piglets. In particular, Greg, Carlos, Guadalupe, Richard, and Juan were being very rough. At one point, Juan and Guadalupe were talking about something, and Randy came in and screamed at the top of his lungs for them to stop talking and work faster. When the farm manager acts like this, it may make the employees be rougher with the pigs because they think the manager doesn't care about proper handling.
- While we were bringing the sows down from farrowing into the breeding barn, I saw Randy using a thick clipboard, which may have been metal and that opens, to hit the head of a sow who wouldn't move. He struck her about three times fairly hard. Shortly afterwards, I saw him having a cigarette in the gestation barn.
- There is a pen that has four boars in it who are fairly young. They were brought over from the GDU when the gilts were brought over. There were approximately nine boars altogether, and they were separated out because some of them would not stop mounting and humping the others. There is at least one, and possibly two boars in this pen who continuously mount, hump, and penetrate the anus of the other boars. Everybody at the farm knows about this, and just makes jokes about it. Sometimes there will be blood on the ground of the pen, because the boar's penis is so raw from rubbing on the back of the other boars. I filmed this happening a little bit today.
- The gilts who were brought in last week still hadn't been tagged. We had to put ear tags on most of them today. I recorded Richard as he tagged a large number of gilts in a pen. To put a tag on a sow's ear, you would use a staple gun like instrument with the tag on one side, and the back on the other side. You would then punch the tag through the ear, and it attaches to the backing. It was madness, the gilts were trying to run away from him, and a lot of times he tagged them while they were on the move. They all seemed to be in a great deal of pain and terror. Unfortunately, the audio was not working on the equipment, but most of the gilts were screaming in fright and pain. There was one gilt who became somewhat bloody on her right ear. At the end of the clip, I was able to record Richard urinating onto the ground where the bars are for a pen near iso. There were a lot of gilts in this pen, and his urine was

rolling to right where their faces were. Everybody urinates out in the barns, but I have seen Richard do it another time in the breeding barn at the head gates of the crates, while there were sows in the exact crates he was urinating on. His urine at that time rolled into the crates right where the sows' faces lie, and where their food drops.

- I recorded a sow whose piglets were weaned today who had extremely bad and bloody crate sores on both of her shoulders. Shortly after, I recorded Shelly as she sprayed Blu-Kote onto these sores.
- I recorded a gilt in iso who became extremely bloody from getting an ear tag. Shelly had tagged her, and possibly hit a vein, and there was a pool of blood. The gilt, and the one next to her, were licking up the blood.

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 (Video-no audio)

- I recorded the sow from yesterday, number 2398, whose shoulders are in very bad condition, with bleeding sores on both. She had Blu-Kote on them, and it looked as if there was some meat sticking out of the wounds.
- I spent the majority of the day breeding with Al. There was one time that I saw him from across the aisle hitting a sow in the head very hard with the plastic saddle to get her to stand up.
- We had to load two farrowing rooms today. Shawn was letting the sows out, and there was one time that a heavily pregnant sow would not walk out of the gestation barn and into the hallway. I recorded Shawn as he abused this sow in several different ways. He first hit her hard with a gate rod almost a dozen times on the back, and then she seemed to lose her footing and slide down to the floor. He attempted to get her up by poking her with a clothespin on her back for a long time, which didn't work. He then went around to the front of her and grabbed both of her ears with his hands, and attempted to pull her. When that didn't work, he went back around behind her and kicked her very hard in her rear until she moved out into the hallway.
- Al told me towards the end of the day that I need to start hitting the sows harder to get them to move. He made a joke about the "love-taps" I give the sows, and made a motion with his hand to demonstrate the way I lightly tap them. It seemed as if he was telling me to hit them harder with my hands.

Thursday, August 28, 2008

- I am off today.

Friday, August 29, 2008 (Video)

- While we were moving sows from farrowing into the breeding barn after their pigs were weaned, there was a mistake on the number of sows to be let out. They let out about a dozen too many for one of the rows, and Carlos was having trouble catching them. From a distance, I saw Guillermo hitting some sows in the face and head with his plastic board very hard. I also saw

Richard and Al hitting them on their backs fairly hard with their hands, and kicking them in the face to get them to move in a different direction.

- There was a gilt in iso who would not get up when Greg and I were heat checking. I recorded him as he kicked her a few times in her rear, and then kneeled down on her, putting his full body weight on her, to try to get her to move. She would not get up, and then he said that her leg was broken, and he spray painted “kill” on her. He later told me that she had hip dysplasia, and not a broken leg.
- While heat checking, the boar who was outside the cart got his leg stuck in the pole that attaches to the boar cart. I recorded Greg as he came around to where the boar was, and kicked him two times directly in the face.
- I recorded Randy, farm manager, Colleen, farrowing lead, and Richard, breed lead, all having cigarettes inside the farrowing hallway. I also recorded Richard having a cigarette inside the gestation barn.

Saturday, August 30, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded the pen where the culls are kept because they are living in extremely overcrowded conditions. There are approximately two dozen of them in a pen that is approximately 25-30 feet X 25-30 feet.
- I was able to briefly tape a sow who has really bad shoulder sores.
- There was one time that Richard urinated in the aisle where the head gates of occupied crates are. His urine rolled into the front of the crates, where the sows’ food drops, and where their heads are. There were animals who were in these crates that he urinated next to. I attempted to tape him doing this, but as I was he turned his head and looked at me, so I turned away.
- I was catching a bunch of sows and gilts because we had to move a lot of them to make room for today’s breeds. I recorded Greg as he brought me a gilt one time because he was very abusive towards her. He at first was using his clothespin to stab at her back to get her to move. As he did this, he started head banging as if he was air guitaring every time he jabbed her. Apparently she did not like the song he was playing, and when this did not get her to move, he kicked her in the face. He then proceeded to punch her on the back very hard three times with a closed fist. He also used his full body weight to push her, and then used the clothespin again to scrape her back. After all of this abuse, she finally went into the crate. I recorded the markings on her back that he left with the clothespin.
- We had to load a farrowing room with sows from the gestation barn. There was one heavily pregnant sow who had jumped halfway over a crate into a crate that was already occupied. Richard got her off of the crate by pulling her ears while Greg pushed her from the other side. She was screaming out in pain and terror.

Sunday, August 31, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded a couple of sows this morning whom I found while scraping with their heads stuck under the front gate of the crate they were in. A short while later, I recorded a conversation with Greg about it. He said that that happens to him every time he scrapes in the mornings. He said that he, “steps on the back of their jaw and then slides their head underneath”. I asked him why he doesn’t just pull the gate rods out of the gate, and he said, “it takes too long”. When I come across a sow who has her head stuck underneath the gate door, I always take the gate rods out, and pick the door up. Based on this experience, it usually takes approximately 20 seconds to do this. I asked him again just to clarify that he steps on their head and then pushes them underneath the gate with his boot, and he said yes. (He stands in the aisle, in front of the sow whose head is caught under a door, steps on her jaws at the point where the jaws meet, presses down on that point and simultaneously pushes the animal away from him, toward the back of the crate. He said that even if you push your own jaw in, you can feel that it bends. I think he is gravely mistaken. He told me that the jaws of a skull are basically made out of cartilage. He said that a couple of months ago there was a gilt in iso who had her head stuck. He said that she broke her neck from flailing around while he tried to get the gate rods out. He said that the bigger sows can strangle themselves by cutting off the blood flow to the brain.
- The past couple of times that the culled animals were sent out, I knew that Greg had helped move them out. During the same conversation with him, I asked him this, and he said that he did help move them out to go to the truck. I asked him if there is anything that they have to do to separate out animals who are injured or have Blu-Kote on them. He said that they just push them out to the truck driver who pushes them onto the truck, and that they do this in any order.
- I recorded a sow who was doing a possibly stereotypic behavior, but which also showed signs of intelligent thought. She would use her nose to lift up the bottom rung of the gate on the front of her crate, and then immediately move her nose to the bottom of the gate rod, and try to lift that out. She did this for several minutes straight, in an apparent effort to escape.
- Greg was moving some gilts to be bred this afternoon. I saw him off in the distance using a hot shot to make them move in the right direction. I did not see exactly where he was applying the prod, but he was behind the gilts, and so I assume that he was using it on their anus and genitals.
- In the afternoon, we had to move some pregnant sows from the breeding barn to the gestation barn. There was one sow, number 390, who kept moving in the wrong direction. I saw Greg off in the distance punching her on her back with a closed fist, and kicking her in the face to get her to turn around. This did not work, and I went over and recorded the rest of the incident. Due to equipment difficulties, and the fact that I was running during part of the clip, I was only able to get parts of some of these things that happened. Greg kicked her in the face a few more times, and still was unable to get her to turn around. Richard then came over and was carrying with him a cane that was approximately 3 feet long, and was made out of hard plastic. It had a metal

rod, or wiring, inside of it, which Richard later told me. Richard was using it to hit her in the face to back her up. When this did not work and she ran past us, we got her into the hallway in between the two barns. Richard then came over, and shoved the end of the cane inside her vagina. You can see the first time he does this briefly. From what I saw, it appeared as if at least a few inches of the cane went inside of her. He used the straight end of the cane to penetrate her, and this end is the end that would touch the ground as he walked. That means that this end had feces and urine on it from other animals. He then hits her on the back with the cane fairly hard approximately six times. She then turned around, and started going in the direction that he wanted her to. She was running, and he took off running after her. He took several swings with the cane, throwing his body into it, and hitting her very hard on the back. She was already running where he wanted her to, so this is nothing more than malicious frustration. She then turned down the aisle to the crate she was going to, and he continued to run after her, and threw his whole body into swinging the cane. He struck her extremely hard on her back several more times, even though she was going where he wanted her to. I was running after them, and trying to aim, but you can still see him swinging the cane, and using his whole body to take a swing. After she went into the crate, he said, "I think I pulled a hernia" from hitting her so hard. I took the cane from him and hit it against the wall to show how hard it would strike a sow. He told me that getting hit with that has to hurt, and then just to show me that it was true, he took a swing at a sow who was already in a crate. He then repeated that it had to hurt them. He then took me over to the sow who he had chased and repeatedly hit so hard, and pointed out the marks that he had left on her. He then told me that he hit her hard—it was as if he was bragging to me that he had beaten her. He then told me that he was mad at her because she had interrupted his "golfing session". By this, Richard meant he was using the cane to hit the feces on the floor. I later recorded a conversation in the lab with Richard about this incident. I said that he was really giving it to the sow with the cane, and he told me not to say it out loud. He said that he would get into trouble for it, because it was animal abuse. I asked him if he was shoving the end of the cane in her anus, and he said, "I was shoving it in her pussy". I asked him if that makes them move, and he said that he was "just fucking around".

Monday, September 1, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded another sow this morning who had her had caught under the gate door of the crate.
- I recorded a conversation with Rick and Shawn in the lab. Rick was talking about how one time Greg was trying to kill a sow, and he shot her in the head with the bolt gun seven times. I think that this is the same animal who Greg once told me that he had to shoot about eight times, since they both had told me it happened over a weekend. He said that Greg had said he wanted to shoot her in the neck. Rick ended up taking the gun and shooting her an

eighth time and killing her. I asked them who showed Greg how to shoot them, and they said that Greg had said he knew how. I asked them if Colleen, Richard, or Jordan would have given any sort of training on it, and they said no. They told me that if I wanted to, I could just pick up the gun and go shoot a sow without any sort of training on it. I believe them even more because Richard—with whom I've worked almost daily since starting and, as my supervisor, should know I have never been trained to use a bolt gun—asked me on August 20 to bolt a sow.

- Rick and Shawn were telling me that Al used to be in a biker gang called Sons of Silence.
- Towards the end of the day, Rick and I went over to help farrowing employees finish their work because it is the holiday today. He and I had to do scours, which is basically squirting the scour medication into the mouths of the piglets who have it. Rick went through the crates with the green tags on them, which indicates which litters have scours, and looked to see if they did. He picked them up, and looked at their anus. If they had a yellowish discharge, he assumed that they had scours, and then we treated them. We then had to mark them on their back with the chalk. During this process, Rick would occasionally toss the newborn piglets across the crate to me, and when he was handling them he was very rough with them. He would also rip them away from their mother's nipple if they were nursing, and then toss them around the crate. I recorded him doing this a couple of times.

Tuesday, September 2, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded the gilt, number 15285, in iso who was marked to be killed four days ago because Greg said she has hip dysplasia. She has not been killed yet, and I have not heard them talk about when they will kill her.
- I recorded another gilt in iso who had her head stuck under the gate door of the crate she was in. You can see the bright red mark on her neck which would suggest that she was stuck under that gate for an extended period of time. I went in iso approximately 10 minutes after Richard and Carlos left iso after they heat checked. During the heat checking, they walk through every aisle in the back of the aisle, and touch each gilt to see if they are in heat. This strongly suggests that either Richard or Carlos saw this trapped gilt in this condition and left her like that. They left iso without freeing her head, and without knowing when she would be freed from this torturous position.
- We were moving some culled animals into the pens near iso. There were a lot who we put into these pens, they seemed extremely overcrowded. I recorded them briefly. Later on, I recorded a couple of conversations with Randy about the culled animals. I asked him where they all go to, and he said a packer somewhere, but he wasn't sure exactly which one. I asked him if that was a slaughter plant, and he said yes. I then asked him if they became bacon and ham, and he said that they usually make bacon and ham out of gilts, and that the sows would become sausage. A short while later, I had another conversation with him that I recorded because the first one was over a

lot of hog noises. I asked him if the sows who were culled become sausage and not ham and bacon, and he said yes, because the meat on the sows was more fatty.

- While at lunch, I heard Randy tell Colleen and Richard not to smoke tomorrow because the bosses from Suidae will be in. I started recording and asked Randy why we could not smoke tomorrow. He said again that while the boss (I think he said Jeff Kaiser) from Suidae will be there tomorrow, we cannot smoke. He said that John, the production guy from Suidae doesn't care if people smoke in the farm, as long as the smokers are smart about it. He said that they are just coming in to go over the handbook with everybody. Randy said that when the Suidae personnel talk about smoking to just nod your head, and he said to tell everybody else not to smoke tomorrow. He then said not to even keep your cigarettes in your top jumpsuit pocket, and Colleen added to keep them down in your bottom pocket.

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

- I am off today.

Thursday, September 4, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded a conversation today with Al, Shawn, Zack, and Greg. I mentioned how they had to sign something about PETA and reporting animal abuse. Al said that he would rather "suck an elephant's dick than rat on anyone for anything". He said that he didn't care if he saw someone gut one of the pigs, that he would not rat on the person. Greg then chimed in that you "gotta do what you gotta do to push those fuckin pigs". A short while later, Al started going off on the fact that the employees had to sign a paper that they would not be cruel and inhumane to the pigs, and he said that they should make the pigs sign a paper that they will not hurt the employees in a variety of ways. These ways included kicking him in the shin, running over him, slamming him into a gate, stomping on his feet, or trying to break his arm. I asked him if we were supposed to change the way we do things, and he said that we could, but he's not. He said, in reference to pigs and a herding cane, that if a "motherfucker hurts me that fucker gets a caning". He said that if he has a cane, he's going to give a beating. He kept going on about how it's okay to beat them, and then said that it is called either self defense, or revenge, and it didn't matter. He went on to say that he's been thinking about bringing in an ice pick to keep in his pocket to hurt the pigs.
- I recorded a sow in one of the pens who has "cull" written on her back. She was sitting up, and she looked as if she was in a great deal of discomfort and very sad. She may need to be euthanized, and yet they are waiting to send her out on the cull truck.
- I recorded the gilt, #15285, who is in iso with "Kill" marked on her. She remains in iso, and is still alive.
- I was able to briefly record the overcrowded conditions in the cull pens.

Friday, September 5, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded Al as he had to kill a sow today. He shot her the first time, and the gun didn't sound like it fired too well. The bolt which comes out did not come out very far, which I observed after Al showed me. He said that she wasn't dead right away, but that "she'll die". He was going to shoot her again because she hadn't died from the first shot, and he asked me to put the snare around her snout. I told him I wasn't sure how to do that, and he did it for me, and then handed me the snare to hold as he shot her again. He then proceeded to shoot her, and then said that the bolt should have come out a lot further than it did from the gun. He said that the gun should probably be cleaned, and he moved the bolt that comes out in and out of the gun. As we were getting ready to leave her in the crate, he said that, "she'll be dead when we get back." I asked if she was dead yet, and he said that she was pretty close. A short while later, I saw Greg using the dead cart to remove her from the crate. I believe he brought her into the dead room.
- I recorded a sow who was brought out into the 'hospital row' by farrowing. The hospital row is a row of crates in the gestation barn, and farrowing employees will walk these sows over to this row. This sow had a prolapse, which was possibly a rectal one.

Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7, 2008

- I was off these days.

Monday, September 8, 2008 (Video)

- Today was the day that I assisted when the farm sent out the culled animals on the truck. When the truck came, Randy came and got Shawn and me to help him load them on. I recorded the entire process of loading them. While moving the sows, Randy had a hot shot in his hand the entire time. He was constantly shocking them to get them to move, mostly in their faces. At one point after Randy walked a bunch of animals to the truck by shocking them in their faces, I asked him if it was okay to hot shot them in the face. He told me that it was because they are culls. I said that I didn't know if we were allowed to, and he said that we were and culls didn't matter. I asked him if culls were pretty much fair game, and he said yes, and because they were just going to slaughter. After we had the majority of the sows out of the pens near iso, we walked up to the pen in the breeding barn to see how many culls were there. When we got back to the pens near iso, there was one sow, number 6767, lying in a pen who was not able to get up when the pen she was in was unloaded. As we walked by her, Randy pushed her with his foot and then asked us if she wouldn't get up. I said no, and he went over to pick up the hot shot. She tried to stand up as he walked over, but both of her back legs were in very bad condition. In my opinion, she had a possible broken pelvis, hip,

or legs, although nobody suggested this to me. Both of her legs were underneath the left side of her body. Randy continuously stomped on and kicked her bad legs and shocked her the whole time he was doing this. He was trying to get her up in order to sell her as a cull, instead of just killing her. This went on for a considerable length of time, and finally she was able to stumble to her feet. As she did, she fell across a large distance in the pen, and was trying to walk, but her back legs would not support her. As she did this, Randy said, "I ain't gonna send her", implying that he wasn't going to send her onto the truck. There were approximately five other sows who were not sent out with the culled animals due to their being injured so badly that they could not get up and walk. When the last culled animals were brought onto the truck, I asked the driver where he takes them to. It sounded as if he said they go to Westside to get sorted, and then they wind up somewhere else.

- I recorded the gilt, #15285, who is in iso on whose back Greg painted "Kill" on August 29. She is still lying in the same crate she has been in, and has not been killed yet.

Tuesday, September 9, 2008 (Video)

- The six sows who were unable to get up and therefore weren't culled yesterday were not killed today. I recorded them as they laid in the pens they were in. Richard said this morning that he was going to kill them, but he had to leave earlier than everyone else, and did not want to spend the time doing it. The sow who Randy was abusing yesterday, #6767, was lying in the same spot all day today. I taped her because it looked as if her toe had come off somehow. There was a bloody hole in her foot where it appeared as though a toe would go, and there was what appeared to be a toe lying a few feet from her.
- Neither Greg nor Al has been in the past couple of days. Al supposedly got hurt while working over the weekend, and Greg hasn't been showing up so he may have been fired. There was a student from a vet school at the farm today as an intern. There was one named Brady a few months ago from Iowa State who left after an incident with Marvin, and now there is another intern.

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 (Video)

- Cory started working today. He is Randy's son, and is now in charge of the breeding side. Effective today, Cory, and not Richard, is my immediate supervisor. I have no reason to believe that Richard is no longer the breed lead on account of the manner in which he handles and treats pigs on the farm.
- Today I assisted as Richard and Shawn killed four of the six sows who would not get up when the cull truck came on Monday. Two of the sows ended up getting up when Cory and Shawn heat checked, and so Cory decided to leave them until the next time the cull truck comes. Richard said that he is unsure when the truck is coming next, possibly in a couple of weeks. I recorded

Richard as he shot the other four sows, including #6767 with the injured hoof. The bolt got stuck in their heads, and there was one who he was going to shoot a second time, but did not when she started to shake. Shawn put the snare around the sows' mouths and tried to hold them still as Richard shot them. Before shooting the animals, Richard tried to get a few of them up to walk over to the door where we were going to have to bring them once dead. He kicked one of them, and used the hot shot as well. Richard also told us a story about one time when he shot a sow and then hooked her up to the dead cart, and after he had her down the aisle way he saw that she was still alive. After we killed the four sows, we brought them over to the door near iso and left them outside.

Thursday, September 11, 2008 (Video)

- I recorded a conversation with Randy this morning when I told him I was leaving. I said that I was a hard worker, and that I wasn't late and have never called in sick, and he acknowledged that. He said that I could use him as a reference, and to just give his name and the farm number. I asked him if he thought I was doing alright with the job, and he said, "Oh yea". He said to give him a call if I get back to the area, and then if he's hiring he would re-hire me.
- I recorded the gilt, number 15285, who has been sitting in a crate in iso for almost 2 weeks with "Kill" written on her. She remains in the crate, and nobody has killed her as of yet.