

Broken Needles

Broken needles are classified as an emergency event. Broken needles can migrate very quickly and are considered an adulterant of the beef product. A broken needle found in a beef product could cause serious repercussions for the feedyard and the beef industry. **The most common cause of broken needles is improper animal restraint.** Proper animal handling is necessary to ensure the safety of beef products.

Protocol for Broken Needles

1. As soon as a needle breaks off in an animal STOP everything and attempt to locate and remove the needle.
 - A. Firmly, but carefully, rub your hand over the injection area to locate the needle. If it is found remove it ensuring that the entire needle is retrieved.
2. If the needle is not able to be immediately located, immediately mark and record the area where the injection was given with paint or by clipping the hair in that area, sort the animal off by itself, and contact veterinary services immediately. The contact information is:
Dr. Joe Smith 555-123-9999
3. If veterinary services cannot remove the needle surgically then the animal will be identified by a red eartag in both ears and placed in Pen 13 and will not be allowed to be marketed with the rest of the lot.
4. At the time of harvest this animal should be processed by a small processor that has been made aware of the presence of a needle and where it is located and is able to trim a large area of that meat to ensure the needle is retrieved.

REMEMBER

1. Restrain Animals Properly
2. A Bent Needle is a Broken Needle
3. Replace Bent or Damaged Needles Immediately