

2013 CDE

Agricultural Communications Editing Quiz

Contestant Name: _____ Score: _____

FFA Chapter: _____ Contestant Number: _____

Instructions: Twenty five words or phrases are underlined in the news story below. Some are correct and others contain errors. Indicate in the space to the right if the words or phrases are correct (**C**) or incorrect (**I**). If they are incorrect, correct them using standard editing marks in the sentence. You may find errors related to grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling and other Associated Press style issues.

USDA, McDonald's suspend purchases from California slaughterhouse

Written By: **TRACIE CONE**
Associated Press

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | FRESNO, Calif. (AP) – The federal government and <u>McDonalds Corp.</u> <u>suspended</u> purchases of meat Wednesday from a California slaughterhouse under investigation for animal cruelty and possible health issues. | 1. I – apostrophe in McDonald's |
| 2 | The fast food chain joined the United States Department of Agriculture in severing ties with Central Valley Meat Co. The suspensions occurred after the <u>Animal Welfare Group's</u> <u>covert</u> video showed cows that appeared to be sick or lame being beaten, kicked, shot and shocked in an attempt to get them to walk to slaughter. | 2. I – lowercase animal welfare group |
| 3 | “There are behaviors in the video which appear to be unacceptable and would not adhere to the standards we demand of <u>our suppliers</u> ”, <u>McDonald's</u> said in a release. Federal officials say nothing they have seen so far in the video shows meat from cows that may have been sick made it into the food supply, but interviews with <u>employees</u> were ongoing. | 3. I – comma before the quotations |
| 4 | Company officials said in a written statement that they understand why companies are severing ties: “While the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service says it has no indication that food safety has been compromised at our facility, we recognize that the decision by our customers is a standard business practice and understand their <u>concerns.</u> ” | 4. C |
| 5 | The statement said the company is working <u>with animal welfare experts</u> to improve practices and increase monitoring, including the use of video. | 5. C |
| 6 | The undercover video was shot in June and July by an undercover operative for the group Compassion Over Killing who worked at the plant and also gave a written statement to <u>the U.S.D.A.</u> <u>about</u> the events on tape. | 6. I – remove periods in USDA |
| 7 | “We do not know that workers were trying to make non-ambulatory cows not eligible for slaughter go to slaughter,” said <u>Erica Meier, Executive Director of the animal welfare organization.</u> “We believe red flags are raised for sure with our video, but it’s up to the USDA to decide.” | 7. I – lower case executive director |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------------|
| 8 | It's against the law to slaughter a <u>non-ambulatory animal</u> for food out of concern that it could be infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease. | 8. C |
| 9 | The Hanford slaughterhouse is in the same city where a dairy cow at a rendering plant was discovered in April to have mad cow disease. The USDA said earlier this month it was an isolated case and didn't pose a threat to the food supply. | 9. C |
| 10 | <p>Central Valley Meat Co. primarily slaughters dairy cows that have lost their value as milk producers.</p> <p>The <u>USDA bought twenty-one million pounds of beef</u> from the company in 2011 for the national school lunch and other federal food programs.</p> | 10. I- change to 21 |
| 11 | Records show the government <u>made 5 large-scale purchases</u> of ground and chunk beef, spending more than \$50 million of the total \$135 allocated by the government for such acquisitions that year. | 11. I- spell out 5 |
| 12 | <u>USDA spokesman Justin DeJong said</u> he did not know to which government food program the beef was allocated. The meat generally goes to the national school lunch program and food distribution on Indian reservations, and is available for discount purchases by community food banks. | 12. C |
| 13 | "The department works to ensure that product purchased for the federal feeding programs meet stringent food safety standards and that processors comply with humane handling <u>regulations.</u> " the <u>USDA</u> said in a statement. | 13. C |
| 14 | McDonald's also said it had suspended purchases of meat from the slaughterhouse. <u>The Company did not immediately</u> say how much meat it had been buying. But a spokesman for the chain said the percentage of meat purchased from the slaughterhouse was in the single digits. | 14. I – lowercase company |
| 15 | <p>Regional fast-food chain In-N-Out Burger previously suspended purchases after learning of the allegations of inhumane treatment.</p> <p>The <u>USDA acted quickly to shut down Central Valley Meat Co. on Monday</u> after the video documented the treatment of dairy cows.</p> | 15. C |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | <p>The video appears to show workers bungling the slaughter of cows struggling to walk and even stand. Clips show workers kicking and shocking cows to get them to stand and walk to slaughter.</p> <p>The video <u>prompted the national Cattlemen’s Beef Association</u> to issue a statement.</p> | 16. I – capitalize National |
| 17 | <p>“We firmly believe that those knowingly and willfully committing any abuse to animals should not be in business – period”, <u>Dave Daley, a professor at California State University, Chico</u>, said in the statement released by the marketing group. “The actions depicted in these videos are disgraceful and not representative of the cattle community.”</p> | 17. I – comma before end quotation |
| 18 | <p>Central Valley Meat Co. has referred all questions to a public relations firm that issued a statement saying Central Valley Meat is cooperating with investigators and developing a plan to remedy any potential <u>violations of the USDA guidelines</u>.</p> | 18. C |
| 19 | <p>“Based on our own investigation and 30 years of producing <u>safe, high quality US beef</u>, we are confident these concerns post no food safety issues,” the statement said.</p> | 19. I – hyphen in high-quality |
| 20 | <p>The video <u>shows 1 man</u> standing on the muzzle of a downed cow. Other footage depicts cows struggling after being repeatedly shot in the head with a pneumatic gun.</p> | 20. I – spell out 1 |
| 21 | <p>Federal regulations say slaughterhouses must be successful with a single shot.</p> <p>Other clips show cattle with udders so swollen they are unable to keep their legs under them <u>to walk and workers trying</u> to lift downed cattle using their tails.</p> | 21. C |
| 22 | <p>Compassion Over Killing also provided the video <u>to the District Attorney’s office</u> in Kings County, where the plant is located. The office is following the federal investigation before deciding whether to file state cruelty charges.</p> | 22. I – lowercase district attorney’s |
| 23 | <p>The case has attracted the attention of Temple Grandin, a professor of animal science at <u>Colorado state university</u> and <u>subject of a documentary</u> about her life working with livestock behavior issues while she struggled with autism.</p> | 23. I – Capitalize State & University |
| 24 | <p>In a release distributed by the American Meat Institute, <u>she said some video-clips of cows twitching</u> after being shot in the head with a pneumatic gun are normal reflexes, but she did note some problems.</p> | 24. I –hyphen between video clips |
| 25 | <p>“I did observe some overly aggressive and unacceptable use of electric prods with non-ambulatory cattle and in sensitive areas like the face,” she wrote. “I would classify this as egregious animal abuse.”</p> | 25. C |