

Years of experience have shown that customers and meat companies alike respect the combination of science, measurability and practicality that characterize AMIF's animal handling recommendations and audit forms.

See for yourself.

Visit [www.animalhandling.org](http://www.animalhandling.org).

## Animal Care and Handling Audit Program

The following firms offer the  
AMI Foundation Audit:

- Food ProTech
- Food Safety Net Services Ltd.
- NSF - Cook & Thurber
- Process Management Consulting
- Siliker
- Voogd Consulting -  
Phone: (630) 293-9444

[www.animalhandling.org](http://www.animalhandling.org)

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 **AMI** Foundation  
AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE

American Meat Institute (AMI) members embraced the concept of animal welfare self-audits in 1997, when the association published *Good Management Practices (GMPs) for Animal Handling and Stunning*, written by leading animal welfare expert Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University.

These guidelines soon became the "gold standard" globally for measuring animal welfare because they limit subjectivity and instead rely upon objective criteria to 'score' welfare.

Depending upon the species, these criteria can include:

- livestock vocalizations
- stunning effectiveness
- incidence of
- slipping and falling
- amount of electric prod use
- access to water

In the late 1990s, restaurant customers also recognized their value and began using AMI's GMPs as the basis for their own animal welfare audits of meat suppliers. Retail grocery customers soon followed. Then, third party audit firms began offering animal welfare audits based upon AMI's guidelines and recognition of the guidelines grew.

Soon, products branded and certified for adhering to high welfare standards embraced the guidelines. In order to be certified under Certified Humane, processing plants must pass an AMI audit. The Free Farmed program's scientific advisory committee also supports the AMI guidelines.

In addition, the Animal Welfare Expert Advisory Committee of the Food Marketing Institute and National Council of Chain Restaurants also approved AMIF's guidelines.

### Audits Now Routine Are Business Practice

Today, both internal and third party animal welfare audits are a customary part of doing business in the meat industry and all animal welfare audits – whether done by plants themselves or by third parties – are based on the AMIF guidelines.

In 2005, AMIF, together with Dr. Grandin, updated its audit guide based upon new information from five years of extensive auditing. The guidelines were reviewed and approved by leading experts in industry and academia.

*"My career has taught me that you manage what you measure. AMI's guidelines work because they are built around critical, measurable core criteria that a plant must pass. If plants do not pass these core criteria, they fail the audit. There is no need for interpretation of results. The expectations are defined and there are two possible outcomes: you either pass or you fail."*

*-- Dr. Temple Grandin, Ph.D.*

The new AMI Foundation *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide* is available free from AMIF. The guidelines and official audit forms may be downloaded by visiting [www.animalhandling.org](http://www.animalhandling.org).

### Single Audit for More Than One Customer

Leading third party audit firms continue to rely upon the recently updated AMIF *Recommended Animal Handling and Audit Guide* (2005). The popular and well-regarded 'AMI audit' can be requested from audit firms listed on [www.animalhandling.org](http://www.animalhandling.org).

AMIF recommends that audit firms be selected carefully by looking for a combination of auditing and livestock experience and by interviewing audit firms carefully.

The widespread acceptance of the AMIF audit means that many retail and restaurant customers accept proof of a passing third party audit so long as the audits are current (typically less than a year old) and done using the AMIF audit form. This acceptance of third party AMIF audits helps avoid unnecessary and duplicative audits and reduces costs. Some customers supplement these efforts by asking their meat suppliers to provide proof of ongoing internal audits, which help maintain a high welfare standard year-round.