SYNOPSIS

Violator(s)

Information:  

Violator 1: Leroy Baker Jr. is a slaughter horse buyer\(^1\) and the owner/operator of Sugarcreek Livestock Market located in Sugarcreek, Ohio. He has been in business for approximately 20 years.

Violator 2: Shawn Snair is a truck driver. At the time of the violation he had been employed as a truck driver for Leroy H. Baker for approximately three months.

Previous History:

Violator 1 - A review of the IES Tracking System shows Leroy Baker has been named as a violator in eight previous IES cases as follows: TX04178- VS, TX04246- VS, TX05035- VS, TX05036- VS, TX05050- VS, TX05170- VS, TX05082- VS & TX05236- VS.

Violator 2 - A review of the IES Tracking System shows no previous violations for truck driver Shawn Snair.

Violation Events:

On October 24, 2005 Leroy Baker Jr. commercially shipped and truck driver Shawn Snair transported 43 equine from Sugarcreek Livestock Auction in Ohio to Dallas Crown slaughter plant in Kaufman, TX for the purpose of slaughter. One horse within the load was dead in the trailer when it arrived at Dallas Crown. Neither owner nor transporter contacted the nearest APHIS office to notify and allow an APHIS veterinarian to examine the dead equine.

Also Messrs. Baker and Snair failed to fully complete the Owner/Shipper Fitness to Travel Certificate (VS 10-13). Specifically the date the horses were loaded on the conveyance and the truck drivers name were not recorded on the certificate.

---

\(^1\) Mr. Baker is a commercial slaughter horse buyer who ships in commerce more than 20 slaughter equine per year.
He verified that he was responsible transporting 42 head of horses (he wasn’t sure if there were 43 head or not) from Sugarcreek Livestock Auction; Sugarcreek, OH to Dallas Crown; Kaufman, TX.

He said that he stops every 50 to 100 miles to physically check on the horses during his transports. He said that he looks at them individually from inside and outside the trailer.

He told me that when he stopped at the TA Truck Stop near Texarkana, TX at 0300 on Monday, October 24, 2005, which was 4 to 5 hours before getting to the kill plant, he noticed that there were some other Thoroughbreds that were kicking a Bay Thoroughbred Mare on the upper level near the nose of the trailer. He tried to stop them but was unsuccessful. He said that they kicked her in the ribs.

He said that he helped Leroy Baker load this shipment of horses at 1100 on Sunday, October 23, 2005 and delivered them at Dallas Crown at 0800 on Monday, October 24, 2005 and that’s why there were two different times on the VS Form 10-13.

He said that it takes about 18 to 22 hours to get from OH to TX. He said that he goes from OH to KY to TN to AR to TX. 28 hour rule: NA.

He told me that when he got to the plant, he talked to the inspector (an African-American male) that works there.

He said that the horse was DOA and had to be dragged off the trailer. He said that it appeared that her ribs were kicked into her lungs and that she was bleeding from her nose with a bubble. #5832

He said that he has been a truck driver for 14 years and has been driving for Leroy Baker for 3 months. He told me that he picks up a check from Leroy Baker every 2 weeks for his pay.

He said that he read the ‘Big Book’ in the truck on Horse Transportation. He said that there is also a list of Veterinarians to call in there.

NOTE: Leroy Baker has instructed all of his drivers not to give me any written statements.