



PRESS RELEASE

Laura Krebsbach 402-770-7731

MAY 16, 2011

St Francis KS-Nebraska Environmental Action Coalition is proud to announce that their Mobile Meat Processing Unit has been given a grant of inspection by the USDA at Mike Callicrate's ranch in Kansas. "This is a huge step forward for us in the work to get these units out for small farmers and ranchers to use", said Laura Krebsbach, Project Manager for the unit. "This means we can finalize our USDA certification in the next ninety days and have a HACCP template to use for the next generation of trailers to be built."

The mobile slaughter unit can process from 10 to 20 head of cattle a day into hanging halves to be stored in a refrigeration section of the trailer. By being mobile it can service a group of producers, a coop or cut and wrap facility.

Jim Knopik NEAC MMPU team member and board Vice chair who is a producer in Nance County said, "I wanted to see us develop more infrastructure for small farms and ranches, we have lost many of our small meat plants in the state. Having more options also gives us more control of our product and opportunities to keep more of the profit in our pockets."

Another member of the team Lori Fisher has another take on the trailer, "I believe this is a much more humane way to harvest our meat and better for meat quality. Moving animals long distances can add stress to the animals and make the meat less tender."

Diane Schroeder another team member was quick to thank their builder, "Jerry Eisenmenger who owns Flat Water Corp. was more than just our builder. He took on this project having never built one before and not only did it for less than any other trailer out there, but with many new ideas to make the trailer more versatile. For instance, we used a refer trailer so our generator doesn't have to work so hard to cool the carcasses. He also added a three phase adapter so it can be plugged in at farm with power."

Ted Thieman Board Chair said, "This has been a very long and tedious process but we want to thank the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project for providing so much support and expertise to the project. We want to move forward and help others that want this type of trailer. We did the trial and error so now that work can benefit others at no cost."

"I also want to thank Mike Callicrate for seeing our vision and hosting the trailer at his beef operation so we could go through the USDA certification, as well as Secretary of Ag. Tom Vilsack for his interest and support through the USDA Know your farmer know your food campaign. We could not have gotten this far with out Mr. Vilsack's support, added Krebsbach.

For more information go to: www.MobileMeatProcessing.com www.neac.us

###