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FIRST PAACO-TRAINED AUDITOR GAINS CERTIFICATION

Jarrod Miller, MS, of Food Safety Net Services in San Antonio, TX, has become the first individual to complete all phases of training under the meat plant welfare auditor certification program sponsored by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) and is now a fully certified PAACO Meat Plant Animal Welfare Auditor. After attending a two-day PAACO-sponsored instruction course in February, passing an examination and completing three shadowed audits with a PAACO foundation auditor, Miller earned his certification and is now also qualified to assist with shadowing audits for other trainees.

In all, 38 individuals are currently in the process of obtaining certification, following PAACO's second successful Meat Plant Welfare Auditor Training in September. The two-day hands-on course, sponsored jointly by PAACO and the American Meat Institute (AMI), was held at meat plants in Fremont and Schuyler, NE. All 20 attendees at the sold-out course successfully passed an examination to gain provisional certification and will be granted full certification after at least three in-plant audits monitored by a PAACO certified meat plant welfare auditor are completed. A future training is planned to be held in the spring of 2007. Interested individuals should contact Mike Simpson through the website or mike@animalauditor.org.

PAACO is an organization of five animal industry organizations with extensive expertise on best management practices and current science in animal agriculture. The organization's purpose is to promote the humane treatment of animals through education and certification of animal auditors and to promote the profession of animal auditors. Founding and current organizations are the Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS), American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS), American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) and American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP). Website: www.animalauditor.org.

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