

### **USDA Dismisses Charges Against Arizona Action Market**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 11, 1997)--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has dismissed a complaint against Arizona Livestock Auction, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, which had been brought under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act concerning the care and handling of a disabled cow.

On January 13, 1997, William J. Jenson, Judicial Officer for USDA, vacated the administrative order and dismissed the complaint on the basis that the facts alleged in the original complaint did not constitute a violation of the P&S Act. The Judicial Officer ruled that the facts alleged in the complaint did not establish that Arizona Livestock engaged in an unfair and unreasonable practice, did not establish that its conduct resulted in or could result in the type of injury the P&S Act is designed to prevent, and did not establish that the Secretary has jurisdiction over the matter.

The P&S Act is an antitrust, fair trade practice, and payment protection law. It is designed to assure free and open competition and to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat, and poultry.

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