

## **Illinois Livestock Dealer Agrees to USDA Order**

WASHINGTON, D.C., (May 1, 1997)--Becherer Feeder Pig Company and its president and owner, Larreen Susan Becherer, both of Waterman, Illinois, have agreed to a cease and desist order issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Becherer Feeder Pig Company and Larreen Becherer agreed to cease and desist from engaging in any capacity for which registration and bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act without registering with the Department and filing an adequate bond or its equivalent. Under the P&S Act, those involved in buying livestock are required to file a bond as a measure of protection for livestock sellers. The respondents also agreed to cease and desist from failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock.

Becherer Feeder Pig Company and Larreen Becherer are prohibited from registering to engage in any capacity subject to the P&S Act for 5 years and thereafter until properly registered and bonded. The respondents may apply to the Department for modifications of the order to register and obtain an adequate bond or its equivalent after 120 days upon demonstration that all unpaid livestock sellers have been paid in full; and to permit Larreen Becherer's employment by another registrant or packer after the initial 120 days.

In agreeing to the penalties, Becherer Feeder Pig Company and Larreen Becherer neither admitted nor denied the charges filed by USDA under the authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

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

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