

USDA Charges Connecticut Packer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 12, 1997)--Prindle Leasing Co., Inc., doing business as Joseph Latella & Sons and Peter A. Latella, Sr., of West Haven, Connecticut, have been charged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with issuing insufficient funds checks in purported payment for livestock purchases; and failing to pay, and failing to pay promptly, for livestock purchases. The charges were filed by the USDA under the authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Prindle Leasing Co., Inc., and Peter A. Latella, Sr., have a right to a hearing on the federal administrative charges. If the charges are proven, they could be placed under a cease and desist order similar to a permanent injunction and assessed a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is an antitrust, fair 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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