

Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company Pays \$24,000 Penalty to Settle USDA Charges

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 9, 1998) -- Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, Beresford, South Dakota, agreed to pay a \$24,000 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA administrator James R. Baker said that the firm was charged with causing the issuance of false official grain inspection certificates by loading economically superior grain on top of economically inferior grain so that the inferior grain would not be sampled or detected during the inspection. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act.

The complaint filed against Farmers Cooperative was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, which provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for an official inspection and weighing system for grain shipped in domestic and foreign commerce.

End GIPSA Release #60-98

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