

## **Furr Held in Civil Contempt of Court Order**

Washington -GIPSA (July 10, 2000) Joseph E. Furr (Joseph E. Furr Livestock Inc.) has been held in civil contempt for violating a preliminary injunction that was issued on March 24, 2000. The preliminary injunction ordered Furr, a livestock dealer, to "cease and desist" from both purchasing and selling livestock. In a hearing held on June 7, 2000, it was found that Furr had ignored the preliminary injunction. He willfully and unlawfully continued to purchase and sell livestock as a dealer.

Furr is now permanently forbidden, under provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, from purchasing and selling livestock as a dealer. The Harrisonburg Division of the United States District Court for the Western Division of Virginia has directed Furr to fully comply with all provisions of the Secretary of Agriculture's order.

Furr has also been directed to make his records freely available for inspection by GIPSA, to refrain from hostile and threatening conduct, and from interfering with future investigations conducted to verify his compliance with this order and with the order of the Secretary.

Furr is allowed to purchase livestock for his own cattle grazing operation. He is, however, required to keep detailed records, tag all of his animals, and keep all animals on pasture for at least 90 days. These requirements will help ensure that any profit Furr derives is derived from grazing the cattle and not from trading as a dealer.

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