

Carl Stephens Subject of USDA Complaint

Washington, DC (July 28, 2000) -- The Department of Agriculture issued a complaint on July 19, 2000, against John Carl Stephens operating as Carl Stephens (Stephens), a livestock dealer, in Irwinville, Georgia. Stephens allegedly issued insufficient funds checks for livestock purchases, and failed to pay and provide timely payments for livestock purchases.

As of January 25, 2000, Stephens allegedly owed \$11,327 for unpaid livestock purchases.

Should Stephens fail to respond to this complaint, it will constitute an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint. If the complaint is answered, denying the allegations, a date will be set for an oral hearing.

USDA has requested that an order be issued requiring Stephens to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act, that he be suspended as a registrant, and that appropriate civil penalties be assessed.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that is designed to prevent unfair and deceptive practices in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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