

Livestock Dealer Agrees to \$50,000 Civil Penalty

Washington, DC (September 1, 2000) -- Mark V. Porter, operating as MVP Farms Inc. (MVP) in Sunnyside, Washington, agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$50,000 in a mediation hearing on July 25, 2000.

On September 24, 1999, the United States Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a civil action in the United States District Court against Porter and MVP for a failure to file annual business reports. The Packers and Stockyards Act requires that livestock dealers file annual business reports. Porter failed to file in 1996, 1997, and 1998.

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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