

## **Minot Farmers Elevator, Inc., Pays \$1,500 Penalty to Settle USDA Charges**

Washington, DC (May 21, 2001) - Minot Farmers Elevator, Inc., Drake, North Dakota, agreed to pay a \$1,500 civil monetary penalty to settle an enforcement action brought by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

GIPSA Acting Administrator David R. Shipman said that the firm was charged with deceptive loading and grain handling which caused the issuance of a false official grain inspection certificate. This is a violation of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

The complaint filed against Minot Farmers Elevator was the result of an investigation conducted by GIPSA under the authority of the USGSA.

The USGSA provides for the establishment of U.S. grain standards, and for the official inspection and weighing of grain shipped in domestic and international commerce.

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