

## **Furr Indicted By Federal Grand Jury**

Washington DC (June 25, 2001) -- Joseph E. Furr (Furr), a suspended livestock dealer and market agency in Staunton, Virginia was indicted by a federal Grand Jury on June 20, 2001. Furr was charged with "willful disobedience or resistance to the court's lawful order entered June 15, 2000 and filed June 21, 2000."

The charge arose from an investigation conducted by the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Furr was charged in a one count indictment with criminal contempt of the court. Furr, if convicted, faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000.

Furr was found in civil contempt of court for "willfully violating the U.S. District Court's March 24, 2000 order." By order of the U.S. District Court entered on June 15, 2000 and filed on June 21, 2000, Furr was prohibited from purchasing and selling livestock as a dealer or market agency under the Packers and Stockyards Act. He was required to comply with all provisions of the Secretary of Agriculture's consent order. However, he was allowed to purchase and sell livestock in connection with his farming operation. Furr was ordered to keep accurate and complete records for purchases of livestock and resale, directed to hold the animals for a reasonable period of time, and obtain approval from the Court for any sales where livestock had not been held for 90 days.

The Grand Jury in the one count indictment alleged that Furr had "willfully disobeyed or resisted a lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree or command of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia." The Grand Jury was convinced Furr had continued to operate in violation of the June 21, 2000 order.

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