

GIPSA Issues Complaint Against Wayne W. Coblentz

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) - On September 26, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Wayne W. Coblentz, doing business as Coblentz & Sons Livestock, Sugarcreek, Ohio. Coblentz is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis.

The complaint alleges that Coblentz issued checks in payment for livestock purchases that were returned unpaid by the bank. When the checks were presented for payment, they were returned because of insufficient funds on deposit in the account on which they were drawn. The complaint also alleges that Coblentz purchased livestock and failed to pay for the full purchase price of the livestock. As of September 20, 2001, livestock purchases totaling \$281,970.90 remained unpaid by Coblentz.

Coblentz has 20 days, after receiving the complaint, to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Coblentz may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act and be assessed a civil penalty. Coblentz may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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