

Amended Complaint Issued Against Rod Suhr Of Atlantic, Iowa

WASHINGTON (November 6, 2001) -- On September 14, 2001, a motion to amend an administrative complaint filed by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration against Rod Suhr was granted. Suhr operated as a dealer and market agency buying livestock on commission in Atlantic, Iowa. The original complaint issued on April 10, 2000, alleged that Suhr failed to maintain an adequate surety bond or bond equivalent. The amended complaint alleges that Suhr continued to engage in business as a dealer without maintaining an adequate bond, and also failed to pay \$156,785.42 for livestock he purchased.

Suhr filed an answer to the amended complaint on October 4, 2001, denying the material allegations of the complaint. An oral hearing on the matter has been set for February 20, 2002. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Suhr may be ordered to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and assessed a civil penalty. Suhr may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

Prior to GIPSA's filing of the amended complaint, Suhr filed a voluntary petition for chapter 7 Bankruptcy on September 10, 2001, in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa. Processing of the administrative complaint will proceed despite the bankruptcy filing.

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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GIPSA Release #59-01

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