

**WEINMEISTER AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION AND PAYS CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE BOND**

WASHINGTON (January 15, 2002) - On November 27, 2001, Wayne W. Weinmeister of Mitchell, Nebraska entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Weinmeister is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a market agency buying livestock on commission, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

Weinmeister admitted the jurisdictional allegations of an administrative complaint issued on January 10, 2001. Weinmeister neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations, waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Weinmeister agreed to stop engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the P&S Act and its regulations without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. Weinmeister's bond is required under the P&S Act to secure the performance of his livestock payment obligations. Weinmeister agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00.

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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