

## **KENNETH KOOPS AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2002 - On Jan. 28, 2002, Kenneth Koops of Gettysburg, S.D. entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Koops is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

Koops admitted the jurisdictional allegations in an administrative complaint issued on Feb. 13, 2001, but has neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. He has waived an oral hearing and further procedures. Additionally, he has consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision Koops, in connection with his operation subject to the P&S Act, agreed to stop: (1) failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; (2) failing to make timely payment of the full purchase price of livestock; and (3) issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds on deposit.

Koops agreed to the suspension of his registration under the P&S Act for a period of five years. The order may be modified after 150 days of the suspension to permit Koop's employment by another registrant, or packer if Koops demonstrates circumstances that warrant modification.

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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