

**GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST RALPH B. WAITE, SR., RALPH WAITE, JR AND WAITE & WAITE COMPANY, L.L.C.**

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2002 - On March 1, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Waite & Waite Company, L.L.C., (Waite L.L.C.) located in Tulsa, Okla., Ralph B. Waite, Sr. of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Ralph Waite, Jr. of McAlester, Okla. Waite L.L.C. is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce. Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. each own 50 percent of the stock of Waite L.L.C.

The complaint alleges that Waite L.L.C., under the direction, management, and control of Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr., issued checks in payment for livestock purchases, and that the checks were returned unpaid, because there was a lack of sufficient funds in the account. Waite L.L.C. is also alleged to have failed to make timely payments for the full purchase price of livestock purchases. At the time the complaint was issued, Waite L.L.C. owed \$69,681.09 for livestock purchases.

Waite L.L.C. and Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. have 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 against Waite L.L.C. and Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. they may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, and be suspended as registrants.

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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