

AGRIPROCESSORS, INC., AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2002 - On March 7, 2002, Agriprocessors, Inc., Postville, Iowa, entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to settle an administrative complaint. Agriprocessors operates as a meat packer purchasing livestock in commerce for slaughter subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

Agriprocessors admitted to the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint, but neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. Agriprocessors has waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling the complaint, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Agriprocessors, in connection with the firm's operations subject to the P&S Act, agreed to make timely payment of the full purchase price of livestock purchases, and when authorized to make payment by mail, to mail checks in payment for livestock by the day after purchase as required by the P&S Act and its regulations.

Agriprocessors also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$37,500.

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.

#

GIPSA Release #26-02
Leah Akbar (202) 720-4998
Leah.L.Akbar@usda.gov