

## **GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST DAVID H. HARRIS**

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2002 - On March 27, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against David H. Harris who is doing business as Harris Livestock, of Ashland, Ohio. Harris is registered under the Packers & Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The complaint alleges that Harris failed to make timely payments for livestock purchases. Proceeds from a \$40,000 surety bond maintained by Harris were distributed to unpaid livestock sellers on a pro-rata basis in January 2001. As of February 15, 2002, Harris allegedly owed \$92,793.91 for unpaid livestock purchases.

The complaint also alleges that Harris weighed livestock for purchase and issued scale tickets that were not serially numbered, and did not include the name, initials or number of the weigher, as required by the regulations issued under the P&S Act.

Harris has 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, Harris may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, be suspended as a registrant, and be assessed a civil penalty.

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 #29-02  
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