

## **USDA ISSUES DEFAULT DECISION AGAINST WAYNE COBLENTZ**

WASHINGTON, (April 25, 2002) - On April 12, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) issued a default decision against Wayne W. Coblentz who is doing business as Coblentz & Sons Livestock of Sugarcreek, Ohio. Coblentz is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis.

The default decision was issued after Coblentz failed to file a response to an administrative complaint issued on September 26, 2001. Failure to answer the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint.

Under the terms of the default decision, Coblentz was ordered to stop issuing checks for livestock on an account that lacked sufficient funds. The decision also ordered Coblentz to make full and timely payment for livestock purchases as required by the P&S Act.

The order suspends Coblentz as a registrant under the P&S Act for five years. If Coblentz makes full payment to the unpaid livestock sellers identified in the complaint, a supplemental order may be issued terminating the suspension after 150 days. Further, the order may be modified after 150 days of the suspension is served, allowing Coblentz to be employed by another registrant or packer, if he demonstrates circumstances warranting modification, such as a reasonable and current schedule of restitution to the unpaid livestock sellers. The default decision will become final and effective 35 days after Coblentz receives a copy of the decision, unless he files an appeal.

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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