

HOLMES LIVESTOCK SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 13, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Fred Holmes, doing business as Holmes Livestock (Holmes) of Brookfield, Mo. Holmes, as a livestock dealer and market agency buying livestock on a commission basis, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

Holmes allegedly issued insufficient funds checks in payment of livestock purchases. As of January 28, 2002, Holmes had failed to pay for livestock in the amount of \$505,648.16, and all of the livestock-related purchase amounts owed by Holmes as of January 28, 2002, were more than 325 days overdue.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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Leah Akbar (202) 720-4998
Leah.L.Akbar@usda.gov