

## **GIPSA COMPLAINT ISSUED AGAINST TOM "TOMMY" TUCKER**

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2003 - On March 19, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Tom (Tommy) Tucker (Tucker) of Fort Scott, Kansas. Tucker is alleged to be operating as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis (order buyer), in violation of the bonding requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

The complaint alleges that Tucker was served a letter of notice on April 14, 2000, informing him that his bond coverage had terminated. GIPSA informed Tucker that he needed to obtain an adequate bond or its equivalent before continuing his livestock operations, but Tucker continues to engage in the business of an order buyer without maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent.

Tucker has 20 days from receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations outlined in the complaint. Failure to file an answer within the time allowed or filing an answer admitting all of the material obligations will result in an oral hearing. If the allegations are proven in an oral hearing, Tucker may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, assessed a civil penalty, and suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

The P&S 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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