

GIPSA Complaint Issued Against Chris Britten D/B/A Chris Britten Cattle

WASHINGTON, April 24, 2003 - On April 14, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Chris Britten d.b.a. Chris Britten Cattle (Britten) of Groom, Texas. Britten is alleged to be operating as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce, and 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 the \$95,000 surety bond Britten maintained to secure the performance of his livestock obligations under the P&S Act was terminated on September 7, 2001. The complaint further alleges Britten was informed that he needed to obtain a replacement bond or bond equivalent in the amount of \$95,000 to continue his livestock operations.

Britten has 20 days from receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations outlined in the complaint. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of those allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Britten may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty.

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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