

GIPSA Complaint Issued Against Valley Pride Pack, Inc., And Frederick R. Stewart

WASHINGTON, April 24, 2003 - On April 14, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Valley Pride Pack, Inc., (Valley Pride) of Norwalk, Wis. and Frederick R. Stewart (Stewart) of Tomah, Wis.

The complaint alleges that Valley Pride and Stewart violated the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) by issuing insufficient funds checks for livestock, failing to make timely payments for livestock, and failing to pay \$182,127.70 for livestock purchases. Valley Pride is a packer subject to the P&S Act by virtue of buying livestock in commerce for purposes of slaughter and manufacturing or preparing meats or meat food products for sale or shipment in commerce. The complaint further alleges that Stewart is the alter ego of Valley Pride because Stewart is the president and 100 percent owner of Valley Pride and is responsible for its direction, management, and control.

Valley Pride and Stewart have 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 will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Valley Pride and Stewart 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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