

## **GIPSA Complaint Issued Against Billy Pruitt**

WASHINGTON, July 9, 2003 - On July 2, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Billy Pruitt (Pruitt) of Richmond, Ky. Pruitt is engaged in the business of a market agency buying on commission and is registered as a market agency buying on commission and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce subject to the bonding requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

The complaint alleges that Pruitt was served a letter of notice on August 9, 2002, informing him that he was no longer named as a cleeree in a bond filed and maintained by another market agency. The complaint further alleges Pruitt was informed that he needed to obtain a \$10,000 surety bond or bond equivalent to secure his livestock obligations, but Pruitt continued to engage in the business of a market agency buying on commission without maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent.

Pruitt 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, Pruitt may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, be suspended as a registrant under 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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