

GIPSA Complaint Issued Against Noor Halal Meat Distributors, Inc., D/B/A Noor Halal Meats, And Hamdy Farag

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2003 - On July 2, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Noor Halal Meat Distributors, Inc., d/b/a/ Noor Halal Meats (Noor Halal) of Imler, Pa, and Hamdy Farag (Farag) of Claysburg, Pa. Noor Halal is a packer engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for purposes of slaughter and of marketing meats, meat food products, or livestock products as a wholesale broker, dealer, or distributor in commerce subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act). Farag allegedly is the general manager and part owner of Noor Halal.

The complaint alleges Noor Halal and Farag violated the P&S Act by failing to make full payments for livestock. As of May 2003, Noor Halal and Farag owed some \$72,000 for unpaid livestock purchases.

The complaint further alleges that Noor Halal and Farag continued to engage in the business of a packer without maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent.

Noor Halal and Farag 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, Noor Halal and Farag 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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