

GIPSA Complaint Issued Against Joshua Martin D.B.A. Martins Livestock

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21, 2003 - On August 12, 2003, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Joshua L. Martin, d.b.a. Martins Livestock of Hagerstown, Md. Martin is engaged in the business of dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and as a market agency buying and selling livestock on a commission basis, and is subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The complaint alleges that Martin violated the P&S Act and regulations by issuing checks in payment for livestock that were returned unpaid by the bank because he did not have sufficient funds available in the account. The complaint further alleges that Martin failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock. As of August 12, 2003, a total of \$85,401.70 remained unpaid.

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