

## **Suspended Virginia Dealer Furr Sentenced To Jail**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 - The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that Joseph E. Furr, a suspended livestock dealer and market agency in Staunton, Va., was sentenced to 45 days in jail for violation of probation. The sentence was imposed in U.S. District Court, Roanoke, Va., on August 11, 2003, after Furr was found to have continued operating as a livestock dealer in violation of orders issued by the Court and the Secretary of Agriculture enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act.

On June 21, 2000, a United States District Court Order prohibited Furr from purchasing and selling livestock as a dealer or market agency under the Packers and Stockyards Act, and required that he comply with all provisions of a Consent Decision filed with the Secretary of Agriculture on May 18, 2000. In the Consent Decision, Furr agreed to, among other items, cease and desist from failing to pay, and failure to pay when due, the full purchase price of livestock, and from issuing checks in payment for livestock without sufficient funds on deposit and available for payment. The Consent Decision also suspended Furr as a dealer and market agency for five years, and thereafter unless he was able to demonstrate solvency as required by the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations.

This was the latest in a series of United States District Court Orders entered against Furr. On June 21, 2001, Furr was indicted by a federal Grand Jury, charged with willful disobedience or resistance to the court's lawful order entered June 15, 2000 and filed June 21, 2000. The indictment alleged that Furr had willfully disobeyed or resisted a lawful writ, process, order, rule, decree, or command of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. Furr pleaded guilty on November 28, 2001 and was placed on three years' probation.

Furr remains suspended as a dealer and market agency. He was given 60 days to get his personal affairs in order before beginning his jail sentence. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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GIPSA Release # 52-03  
Gregory J. Hawkins 202-720-3553