

Strube Packing Company And Al Strube, III, Subject Of GIPSA Complaint

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18, 2004 - On April 1, 2004, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Strube Packing Company and Al Strube, III (Strube) of Rowena, Texas. Strube buys livestock for slaughter and is a packer subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

GIPSA alleges that Strube has engaged in a "deceptive and unfair trade practice" by back-dating, falsifying the date on checks, or holding the checks before mailing them. These practices indicate that Strube violated the P&S Act by failing to keep accounts, records, and memoranda that fully disclosed all transactions in its business as a slaughtering packer. GIPSA also alleges that Strube purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, for the purchases amounting to \$221,718.01.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint 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, Strube 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, meatpacking, and poultry industries.

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Leah Tahiry (202) 720-4998

Leah.P.Tahiry@usda.gov