

USDA Suspends Pruitt And Assesses A \$1,000 Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 2004 - On, Aug. 16, 2004, USDA issued a default decision against Billy Pruitt of Richmond, Ky. Pruitt is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and buying and selling livestock on a commission basis. Pruitt is a registered dealer and market agency subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act.)

The default decision was issued because Pruitt failed to respond to GIPSA's complaint within the required time. The decision ordered Pruitt to stop engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the P&S Act without filing and maintaining an adequate bond. Pruitt has been suspended as a registrant until he meets the bonding requirements required by the P&S Act, and he has also been assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000.

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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