

\$35,000 USDA Civil Penalty Levied Against Larry F. Wooten And Roswell Livestock Auction Sales

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 2004 - On July 23, 2004, USDA issued a consent decision against Larry F. Wooten and Roswell Livestock Auction Sales Inc. of Roswell, N.M. (Wooten). Wooten 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. Wooten is a registered dealer and market agency subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act.)

The consent decision ordered Wooten to deposit required amounts in its custodial account; maintain the custodial account according to requirements under the P&S Act and regulations; to stop misusing the custodial account by depositing proceeds from the sale of livestock into the general account; stop using false names to purchase livestock out of consignment; and maintain records that fully and correctly disclose business transactions. Wooten was suspended for a period of 56 days and was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$35,000. However, the suspension and civil penalty will be held in abeyance for a period of three years.

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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