

Complaint And Consent Decision Issued Against Joseph Alder

WASHINGTON, Nov.9, 2004 - On Aug. 27, 2004, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Joseph M. Alder (Alder) of Blackstone, Va. Alder buys and sells livestock for his own account and for the accounts of others, and is a dealer subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

GIPSA alleges that Alder violated the P&S Act and regulations by failing to pay, when due, for livestock purchases totaling \$68,102.18, and for issuing insufficient funds checks in payment for livestock purchases. Alder also failed to keep and maintain complete records of his business transactions.

On Sept. 24, 2004, USDA issued a consent decision against Alder. Alder was ordered to stop issuing checks with insufficient funds in the account on which they were drawn, to pay, when due for the full purchase price of livestock, and to pay the full purchase price for livestock. He was also ordered to keep accounts, records and memoranda that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions. Additionally he was suspended for a period of five years, unless after 120 days and upon application to Packers and Stockyards Programs, he is able to demonstrate that termination of the suspension is warranted.

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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