

Tucker Subject Of USDA Default Decision And Fined \$1,000

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 2004 - On Dec. 3, 2004, USDA issued a default decision against Tom "Tommy" Tucker (Tucker) of Fort Scott, Kan. Tucker is registered as a market agency buying livestock on commission and as a dealer subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The default decision was issued after Tucker failed to respond to and answer the allegations in a complaint issued by USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) on April 8, 2003. The failure to answer the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegations.

Tucker has been ordered to stop operating in any capacity where bonding is required under the P&S Act. He has been suspended as a market agency and dealer until he is able to demonstrate that he is in full compliance with the bonding requirements of the P&S Act and regulations. Additionally, Tucker was 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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