

## **GIPSA Issues a Complaint Against James T. Harmon, d/b/a, J.H. Cattle Company**

WASHINGTON, March 2, 2006 - On February 10, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against James T. Harmon (Harmon), d/b/a J.H. Cattle Company of Clovis, New Mexico. Harmon is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, buying livestock on a commission basis for others, and is a registered livestock dealer subject to the requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act.)

GIPSA alleges that Harmon has continued to engage in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and buying livestock on a commission basis for others without maintaining an active registration or adequate bond coverage, or bond equivalent, as required by the P&S Act and Regulations.

Additionally, Harmon allegedly violated the P&S Act by failing to pay the full amount of the livestock purchase price within the time period required by the P&S Act. Harmon did not have and maintain sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account upon which checks were drawn to pay the checks when presented. Harmon also failed to keep livestock purchases and sales invoices, contracts, credit agreements, journals, load make-up sheets, scale tickets and trucking or freight records.

Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed constitutes an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Harmon may be ordered to cease and desist from the violations found to exist, suspended as a registrant under 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, meat, and poultry industries.

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