

GIPSA Issues a Complaint Against Larry K. Smeal d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2006 - On October 24, 2005, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Larry K. Smeal (Smeal), d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms, Mabank, Texas. Smeal engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; is registered as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock on its own account; and is registered as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce.

GIPSA alleged in a letter to Smeal on June 21, 2000, that Smeal failed to file and maintain a reasonable bond based on the volume of business in Smeal's most recent annual report. Smeal failed to respond to that letter and subsequent certified letters on July 24, 2000 and July 11, 2002.

Smeal was notified that unless a hearing is waived, either expressly or by failure to answer and request a hearing, a hearing will be held in accordance with the Rules of Practice, at a place and time to be designed later. At the hearing, Smeal will have the right to appear and show cause why an appropriate Order should not be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards (P&SP) Act which would require that Smeal cease and desist from violating the P&S Act with respect to the allegation 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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