

GIPSA Issues a Complaint Against Frey Cattle Company, Inc., and Alan Halfmann

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2006 - On December 23, 2005, the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration filed a complaint against Frey Cattle Company, Inc. and Alan Halfmann Ballinger, Texas. Frey Cattle is engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce on commission. Halfmann is engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for the account of Frey Cattle; is Secretary/Treasurer, forty-five percent owner of Frey Cattle; directed, managed, and controlled the operations of Frey Cattle; is a dealer and market agency within the meaning of these terms under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act; and is not registered with the Secretary of Agriculture in any capacity under the P&S Act.

GIPSA alleges that Frey Cattle and Halfmann purchased livestock at auction markets to fill orders taken from customers for a specified number of cattle of a particular weight range; arbitrarily increased weights from the original purchase weights, or from actual weights obtained upon a proper re-weighing supported by complete and accurate scale tickets; and prepared scale tickets with false weights to support these arbitrarily increased weights.

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, Frey Cattle and Halfmann may be ordered to cease and desist from the violations found to exist, to keep and maintain adequate records and suspended as registrants under the P&S Act.

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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