

GIPSA Issues a Complaint Against Steve M. Hand

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2006 - On March 2, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Steve M. Hand (Hand), Ocilla, Georgia. Hand is engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock for his own account in commerce; and is registered as a market agency to buy livestock on commission and as a dealer buying and selling livestock for his own account in commerce.

The complaint alleges that Hand failed to pay promptly for livestock purchases; issued checks in payment for livestock purchases with checks that were returned unpaid by the bank; and failed to pay, when due, for livestock purchases.

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, Hand may be ordered to cease and desist from the violations found to exist; suspended as a registrant under the Packers and Stockyards (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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Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov