

## **Decision Reached in GIPSA's Case Against John M. Gibbs, d/b/a John M. Gibbs Livestock**

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2006 - On February 16, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) reached a decision without hearing by reason of consent agreement with John M. Gibbs, d/b/a John M. Gibbs Livestock (Gibbs), Altoona, Alabama. Gibbs is engaged in the business of a dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account, and a market agency, to buy livestock on a commission basis.

The decision follows a complaint issued on July 12, 2005, in which GIPSA alleged that Gibbs failed to pay the full amount of the purchase price for livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act in the amount of \$77,675.64 and failed to keep records that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

Under the terms of the decision, Gibbs shall cease and desist from failing to pay the full amount of the purchase price for livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act. Additionally, Gibbs shall keep such accounts, records and memoranda which fully and correctly disclose all transactions conducted subject to the P&S Act. Gibbs is suspended as a registrant for a period of 28 days.

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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