

Decision Reached in GIPSA's Case Against Beken Livestock, Inc. and Bradley S. Beken

WASHINGTON, April 5, 2006 - On March 31, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration reached a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Beken Livestock, Inc. and Bradley S. Beken, Weimar, Texas. Beken Livestock is engaged in the business of a dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account and is a registered dealer, buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account. Beken is President, one-hundred percent holder of the stock of Beken Livestock, and is responsible for the direction, management and control of Beken Livestock.

The decision follows a complaint issued on February 8, 2006, in which GIPSA alleges that Beken Livestock, under the direction, management, and control of Beken, 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.

Under the terms of the decision Beken Livestock and Beken agreed to 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, Beken Livestock and Beken were assessed a civil penalty of \$7,000.

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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