

## **Decision Reached in GIPSA's Case Against Harrington Cattle Co., L.L.C.**

WASHINGTON, April 19, 2006 - On April 12, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued a decision without hearing by reason of default against Harrington Cattle Co., L.L.C. (Harrington), Hickman, Nebraska. Harrington is engaged in the business of a market agency, buying on commission, and is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a market agency buying on commission, and as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for its own account.

The decision follows a complaint issued on May 25, 2005, alleging that Harrington willfully violated the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and regulations. The complaint, along with a copy of the Rules of Practice, were mailed by certified mail, and on June 14, 2005, the complaint came back as other than "unclaimed" or "refused." On January 5, 2006, an employee of the Department of Agriculture served Harrington on the Nebraska Secretary of State's Agent of Record for respondent, Robert William Chapin, Jr., by personal service as is permitted by the Rules of Practice.

Under the terms of the decision Harrington, its agents and employees, directly or indirectly through any corporate or other device, in connection with its operations subject to the P&S Act will cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the P&S Act and the regulations without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or equivalent. Harrington is suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act until it complies fully with the bonding requirements under the P&S Act and regulations. Provided, however, that upon application to GIPSA, a supplemental order will be issued in this proceeding terminating the suspension upon Harrington's demonstration that it is in full compliance with the bonding requirements. Additionally, Harrington was assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000.

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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