

Packers and Stockyards Program Deputy Administrator Chosen

Washington, D.C., May 24, 2006 - Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administrator (GIPSA) James E. Link today announced the selection of Alan Christian as Deputy Administrator of the Packers and Stockyards Program (P&SP).

"I'm thrilled to have Alan Christian join the GIPSA team. He is a committed public servant with an invaluable working knowledge of investigative processes, " said Link. "Alan's leadership and management experience within the Department will be a tremendous asset to GIPSA and the organizational changes the Agency will be undertaking in response to the recent OIG report. "

Christian currently serves as the Director of Investigative and Enforcement Services with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Formerly, Christian was a Regional Director for APHIS' Regulatory Enforcement Program and a Senior Investigator with APHIS Veterinary Services.

Christian earned a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from The University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, and a Master of Science in Biology from Worcester State College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

GIPSA's Packers and Stockyards Program protects the integrity of the livestock, meat, and poultry markets for the benefit of American Agriculture. P&SP administers the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act of 1921. In the words of the Congress, the purpose of the P&S Act is "to assure fair competition and fair trade practices, to safeguard farmers and ranchers. . .to protect consumers. . .and to protect members of the livestock, meat, and poultry industries from unfair, deceptive, unjustly discriminatory and monopolistic practices. . . ." P&SP's major enforcement areas are payment protection, unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices, and competition. Further information on the Packers and Stockyards Program is available at [the gipsa web site](#).

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