

GIPSA Issues A Complaint Against Michael Claude Edwards, d/b/a Michael Claude Edwards Livestock

WASHINGTON, June 14, 2006 - On June 12, 2006, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Michael Claude Edwards, d/b/a Michael Claude Edwards Livestock (Edwards), Jefferson, North Carolina. GIPSA alleges that Edwards 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; failed to keep records that disclosed all transactions involved in his business; did not maintain a checking account; and did not retain copies of the third-party checks he used to pay for his 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, Edwards may be ordered to cease and desist from the violations found to exist; suspended; and assessed civil penalties as are authorized under the P&S Act.

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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