

## **Decision Reach in GIPSA's Case Against Larry K. Smeal d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms**

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2006 - On July 25, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) reached a decision without hearing with Larry K. Smeal (Smeal), d/b/a Fatted Calf Cattle Farms, Mabank, Texas. Smeal engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; is registered as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis; engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock on its own account; and is registered as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce.

The decision follows a complaint issued on October 24, 2005, in which GIPSA alleged in a letter to Smeal on June 21, 2000, that Smeal failed to file and maintain a reasonable bond based on the volume of business in Smeal's most recent annual report. Smeal failed to respond to that letter and subsequent certified letters on July 24, 2000 and July 11, 2002.

Under the terms of the decision, Smeal is ordered to cease and desist from engaging in the business of a market agency buying on a commission basis or a dealer buying or selling livestock in commerce without maintaining an adequate bond. In addition, Smeal is suspended as a registrant under the Packers and Stockyards Act for a period of one year.

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.

GIPSA Release #60-06

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