

## **GIPSA Announces Decision Against Steve M. Hand**

WASHINGTON, November 21, 2006 - On October 12, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a consent decision with Steve M. Hand (Hand), Ocilla, Georgia. Hand is registered and engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis and of a dealer buying and selling livestock for his own account in commerce.

The decision follows a complaint issued on March 2, 2006, in which GIPSA alleges that Hand failed to pay promptly for livestock purchases and issued checks in payment for livestock purchases with checks that were returned unpaid by the bank.

Under the terms of the decision, Hand was ordered to cease and desist from issuing insufficient funds checks, purchasing livestock and failing to pay, when due, for livestock purchases. Additionally, Hand is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$3,000.

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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