

USDA Suspends Philip O. Mattes, Jr. d/b/a R or M Cattle Company Registration for 5 Years

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On October 6, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a decision without hearing by reason of default against Philip O. Mattes, Jr. (Mattes), a livestock dealer doing business as R or M Cattle Company, Thorp, Wisconsin. The decision was not appealed and became final on December 19, 2006. The decision suspends Mattes' registration for five years and requires that he cease and desist from:

- failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and
- issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without maintaining sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account in which the checks were drawn to pay the checks when presented.

The decision results from an investigation that culminated in a complaint filed on June 12, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged Mattes doing business as R or M Cattle:

- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases which were returned unpaid by the bank from which they were drawn; and
- failed to pay the full purchase price of livestock.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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