

USDA Charges Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, d/b/a Keaton Cattle Co. with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On November 21, 2006, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Leroy Keaton (L. Keaton) and Todd Keaton (T. Keaton) doing business as Keaton Cattle Company, Sealy, Texas.

L. Keaton and T. Keaton are engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for their own account and are registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for their own account.

GIPSA has evidence that L. Keaton and T. Keaton:

- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock; and
- failed to keep and maintain records which fully and correctly disclosed all the transactions involved in their business as a livestock dealer.

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, L. Keaton and T. Keaton may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and be assessed a civil penalty.

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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