

USDA Charges Edward M. Baker, d/b/a Baker & Baker Livestock 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 Edward M. Baker (Baker), doing business as Baker & Baker Livestock, Sabillasville, Maryland.

Baker is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account or the account of others; buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce and as a market agency to buy livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

GIPSA has evidence that Baker:

- issued non sufficient funds checks;
- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- owed \$149,772 as of the date of this complaint; and
- failed to keep records that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

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, Baker may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) 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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