

## **USDA Charges Douglas Clemens, d/b/a Monticello Livestock with Failure to Pay for Livestock Purchases Totaling \$320,017.80**

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2007 - On January 26, 2007, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) filed a complaint against Douglas Clemens (Clemens) doing business as Monticello Livestock Sales, Bernard, Iowa.

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

GIPSA has evidence that Clemens:

- issued checks that were returned unpaid by the bank upon which they were drawn because Clemens ordered the bank to stop payment of checks;
- purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- misused his Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds;
- failed to keep records that correctly disclosed all transactions in the business;
- did not maintain an adequate bond; and
- owed \$320,017.80 to livestock sellers as of the date of issuance of this complaint.

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, Clemens 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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