

USDA Assesses Leroy Keaton and Todd Keaton, D/B/A Keaton Cattle Co. a Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Leroy Keaton (L. Keaton) and Todd Keaton (T. Keaton) doing business as Keaton Cattle Company, Sealy, Texas, on April 5, 2007. L. Keaton and T. Keaton have been ordered to cease and desist from:

- Failing to pay when due the full amount owed to livestock sellers; and
- Failing to keep records involved in their business as livestock dealers.

They are also ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$7,000.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed November 21, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that L. Keaton and T. Keaton:

- Failed to pay when due the full amount owed to livestock sellers; and
- Failed to keep records involved in their business as livestock dealers.

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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