

GIPSA Charges Berry & Sons, Rababeh Islamic Slaughterhouse, Inc. with Operating without a Bond

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Berry & Sons, Rababeh Islamic Slaughterhouse, Inc. (Berry), Detroit, Michigan, is purchasing livestock for slaughter without maintaining a bond as required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On April 27, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint and notice of hearing against Berry. Berry had 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act and to date, has not done so. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. Berry potentially faces a cease and desist order for violating the P&S Act and assessment of a civil penalty.

Berry currently operates as a packer and is in the business of buying livestock in commerce for slaughter.

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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