

Aplington Sales Commission, Inc. is Assessed a Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Aplington Sales Commission, Inc., Aplington, Iowa on March 21, 2007. Aplington has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- Failing to properly maintain its custodial account for shippers proceeds which caused shortages in its account endangering payment to livestock sellers; and
- Failing to deposit in its account, in a timely fashion, an amount equal to the proceeds received from the sale of consigned livestock.

Aplington is suspended as a registrant for a period of 14 days beginning on April 23, 2007, and is assessed a civil penalty of \$3,000.

The consent decision resolves charges that were filed on June 12, 2006, in which GIPSA alleged that Aplington:

- Failed to properly maintain its Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds causing shortages in its custodial account endangering payment to livestock sellers;
- Failed to deposit in its custodial account, in a timely fashion, an amount equal to the proceeds received from the sale of consigned livestock; and
- Allowed its bank to directly withdraw funds from its custodial account for repayment on a previously-issued loan.

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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