

## **GIPSA Charges Lee Johnson with Violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, July 17, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lee Johnson (Johnson), Montalba, Texas, failed to pay sellers for his livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

On June 13, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Johnson. Johnson has 20 days to respond in accordance with the P&S Act. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's complaint within the time allowed is considered an admission of the allegations. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Johnson may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Johnson currently buys and sells livestock in commerce as a dealer and is registered as a dealer to buy and sell livestock for his own account.

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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