

GIPSA Charges Billy Mike Gentry with Violating 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 Billy Mike Gentry (Gentry), Houston, Mississippi, failed to maintain an adequate bond in spite of decisions and notices rendered from USDA. Gentry used the trade name B&M Farms in his business without submitting an amended application for registration and a trust fund agreement rider covering this trade name. Gentry also failed to accurately report all of his livestock volume in his 2006 Annual Report.

On June 25, 2007, GIPSA filed a complaint against Gentry. Gentry has 20 days to respond in accordance with the Packers and Stockyards (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, Gentry may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Gentry is currently registered as a dealer, buying and selling livestock for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on commission under the name Mike Gentry. Gentry is not registered to conduct business under any trade name.

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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