

GIPSA Alleges Otis Lewis Fortner II, dba Lewie Fortner Livestock Failed to Pay the Full Amount for Livestock Purchases

WASHINGTON, April 21, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Otis Lewis Fortner II (Fortner), doing business as Lewie Fortner Livestock, Kite, Georgia, failed to pay the full amount for livestock purchases.

On April 3, 2009, GIPSA filed a complaint against Fortner. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Fortner may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

Fortner is engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce as a dealer for his own account and is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce 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.

#

GIPSA Release 16-09

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov