

GIPSA Alleges James Masters Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, April 21, 2009 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that James Masters (Masters), Wheeler, Texas, engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce without maintaining an adequate bond. Masters did not keep accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

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

Masters buys and sells livestock in commerce on a commission basis and for the account of others; is not registered as a dealer or market agency with the Secretary of Agriculture; and at all times relative to this complaint, operated as a dealer or market agency within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

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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