

Miller Cattle Company of Dodge City to Pay United States \$20,000 to Settle Dispute over Annual Reports, Bond

WASHINGTON, June 1, 2009- Miller Cattle Company of Dodge City, Kansas, has agreed to pay the United States \$20,000 to settle allegations that it operated without an adequate bond and failed to file annual reports that federal law requires of livestock dealers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today.

All meat packers, live poultry dealers, market agencies and livestock dealers operating under the jurisdiction of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 are required by federal regulations to file reports annually. Regulators use the information to ensure farmers and ranchers are financially protected when they sell their livestock.

In a civil complaint filed November 2008 in U.S. District Court in Wichita, Kansas, the government alleged that Miller Cattle Company failed to file annual reports for calendar years 2004, 2006 and 2007, and operated at various times without an adequate bond. The complaint sought an injunction and recovery of penalties under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act.

In a consent judgment approved by U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten, Miller Cattle Company agrees to pay \$20,000 in four installments, to file timely annual reports and to maintain an adequate bond at all times. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Sheern.

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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GIPSA Release 33-09

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