

Donald W. Hallmark and Donald R. Hallmark, dba Hallmark Meat Packing Company are Assessed a Civil Penalty In the Amount of \$20,000

WASHINGTON, July 7, 2009 - On June 23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a decision without hearing by reason of consent with Donald W. Hallmark and Donald R. Hallmark, doing business as Hallmark Meat Packing Company, Chino, California.

Donald W. and Donald R. Hallmark have been ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act;
- improperly reporting hot carcass weights to livestock sellers;
- failing to maintain a printed record of accurate hot carcass weights; and
- paying livestock sellers on the basis of improperly recorded and reported hot carcass weights.

They have also been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$20,000 and ordered to keep accounts, records and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions involved in their business.

The decision resolves charges that were filed on April 15, 2008, in which GIPSA alleged that Donald W. and Donald R. Hallmark:

- failed to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act;
- reported inaccurate hot carcass weights to livestock sellers and paid livestock sellers on those inaccurate hot carcass weights;
- failed to properly issue scale tickets to livestock sellers;
- failed to maintain a printed record of accurate hot carcass weights; and

- failed to pay the full purchase price to livestock sellers for properly weighed, recorded, and reported hot carcasses.

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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