

## **GIPSA Alleges McLaughlin Livestock, Inc., Mitchell Livestock Auction, Inc., and Watertown Sales Barn, Inc. Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, DC (Sept. 10, 2009) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that McLaughlin Livestock, Inc. (McLaughlin), McLaughlin, South Dakota; Mitchell Livestock Auction, Inc. (Mitchell), Mitchell, South Dakota; and Watertown Sales Barn, Inc. (Watertown), Watertown, South Dakota, are insolvent. Each of the respondents' current liabilities exceeds its current assets.

GIPSA filed a complaint against McLaughlin, Mitchell, and Watertown on August 28, 2009. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, McLaughlin, Mitchell, and Watertown may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended and assessed a civil penalty.

McLaughlin is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a market agency to sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Mitchell is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for its own account and as a market agency to sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Watertown is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a market agency to sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

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 #63-09

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201  
[Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov)