

**Vermilion Ranch Company, dba Billings Livestock Commission Company is Assessed a Civil Penalty in the Amount of \$31,000**

WASHINGTON, October 8, 2009 - On September 23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Vermilion Ranch Company (Vermilion), doing business as Billings Livestock Commission Company, Billings, Montana.

Vermilion has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to deposit into their custodial account, in a timely fashion, an amount equal to the outstanding proceeds receivable from the sale of consigned livestock;
- failing to maintain their custodial account in strict conformity with section 201.42 of the regulations (9 C.F.R. § 201.42);
- permitting its auctioneer to directly or indirectly purchase livestock out of consignment for his own account; and
- failing to otherwise operate in compliance with section 201.56(c) of the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 201.56(c)).

Vermilion has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$31,000.

The Packers and Stockyards 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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