

GIPSA Settles Three Cases Resulting in \$5,500 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) enforcement rules provide a mechanism to quickly resolve violations of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. GIPSA may offer an alleged violator the option of waiving their right to a hearing and entering into a stipulation agreement to quickly resolve alleged violations.

GIPSA recently settled three cases resulting in \$5,500 in civil penalties.

Windy Ridge Pork, LLC, Pipestone, Minnesota, waived its right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$1,500 after GIPSA found that it failed to disclose right to cancel and additional capital investment, and failed to include proper choice of law and venue in production contract.

North Star Family Farms, LLP, Pipestone, Minnesota, waived its right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$1,500 after GIPSA found that two swine production contracts did not clearly disclose the grower/finisher's right to cancel; the method by which the grower may cancel the contract; the deadline for cancelling the contract; and an 'Additional Capital Investments Disclosure Statement. '

Gene Isom, waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,500 after GIPSA found that he operated as a livestock dealer without filing the required bond coverage.

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 10-10

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