

GIPSA Alleges Empire Kosher Poultry, Inc. Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Empire Kosher Poultry, Inc. (Empire), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania:

- failed to pay within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act for turkeys purchased, received and accepted from Koch's Turkey Farm, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania;
- as of October 7, 2008, Empire had failed to pay Koch's Turkey Farm \$296,884 in connection with the turkey purchases;
- Empire rejected a proposal from Koch's Turkey Farm for a 14-day credit period for payment;
- on September 26, 2008, Empire negotiated an extended payment plan with Koch's Turkey Farm.

GIPSA filed a [complaint](#) against Empire on February 4, 2010. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, Empire may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

Empire engaged in the business of obtaining live poultry by purchase or under poultry growing arrangement for the purpose of slaughter, ships processed poultry products in commerce; and operates as a live poultry dealer subject to the provisions of the P&S Act.

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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