

## **GIPSA Alleges Lonnie & Karen Martin Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Apr. 29, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lonnie and Karen Martin (the Martins), East Earl, Pennsylvania:

- failed to pay for livestock purchases within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act;
- bought livestock in commerce without maintaining an adequate bond;
- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases without maintaining sufficient funds to cover payment; and
- as of the date of the filing of this complaint, owes payment to four sellers in the amount of \$236,946.02.

GIPSA filed a [complaint](#) against the Martins on April 15, 2010. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, they may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty.

The Martins engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purpose of slaughter, slaughtering hogs and manufacturing or preparing meat or meat products for sale or shipment in commerce; and a packer subject to the P&S Act.

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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