

GIPSA Alleges Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Inc. & LaVerne Lettinga Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Inc. (Lake Odessa) and LaVerne Lettinga (Lettinga), Lake Odessa, Michigan:

- operated with a Custodial Account for Shippers' Proceeds shortage;
- failed to timely reimburse the custodial account;
- deposited custodial account funds proceeds into its general account;
- issued check to consignors or shippers of livestock which were returned unpaid;
- failed to remit, when due, the net proceeds due to consignors from the sale of livestock on a commission basis; and
- allowed bank charges to be withdrawn from the custodial account.

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

Lake Odessa engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis. Lake Odessa is also 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 buy and sell livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Lettinga was president, general manager, director and 50% owner of Lake Odessa. Lettinga was also responsible for the management, direction, and control of Lake Odessa.

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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