

GIPSA Settles Two Cases Resulting in \$23,000 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 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 two cases resulting in \$23,000 in civil penalties.

Sarah Hirsch, Agri Star Meat & Poultry LLC, Postville, Iowa, waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$12,000 after GIPSA found that they were operating without a financial instrument and failed to furnish written contracts to poultry growers.

T. J. Russell, President, Cloverdale Foods Company, Minot, North Dakota, waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$10,000 after GIPSA found that they used an inaccurate scale.

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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