

## **GIPSA Settles Three Cases Resulting in \$8,450 in Civil Penalties**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4, 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 \$8,450 in civil penalties.

Jerry Stokes, Garrison, Texas, waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,700 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay when due and was operating without a financial instrument.

Bryan T. Smith, Bar S Cattle Company, LLC, Direct Cattle Company, LLC, Rigby, Idaho, waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$5,000 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay when due for livestock.

R&K Real Estate, Inc., doing business as Gallatin Livestock Auction, Gallatin, Missouri, waived its right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$750 after GIPSA found that it was operating with custodial account shortages and misused its custodial account.

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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