

GIPSA Settles Cases Resulting in \$2,875 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 2011 - 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 \$2,875 civil penalties.

Michael Taylor, doing business as Taylor Livestock, Roseville, Illinois, waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$875 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay for livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act.

Seaboard Foods, LLC, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, waived its right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,000 after GIPSA found that it failed to provide an option of arbitration and instead bound the producer to arbitration proceedings in Kansas City, Missouri, which is not the location where the principal part of the performance of the contract was to take place.

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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