

GIPSA Settles Cases Resulting in \$10,600 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Mar. 10, 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 \$10,600 in civil penalties.

Jack McGuinness, Quarter Circle Cattle Co, Billings, Montana, waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$6,600 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay when due and did not maintain adequate records.

Maxwell Farms of Indiana, Inc., and Maxwell Foods, LLC, Goldsboro, North Carolina (Maxwell), waived its right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$4,000 after GIPSA found that Maxwell failed to: 1) disclose growers rights to cancel the contract; 2) include ?Additional Capital Investments Disclosure Statement? on contract; 3) and include a provision allowing growers to refuse to be bound by arbitration.

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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