

John Morrell & Co. Are Assessed A Civil Penalty in the Amount of \$162,500

WASHINGTON, July 21, 2011- On July 6, 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with John Morrell & Co. (Morrell), Cincinnati, Ohio.

Morrell has been ordered to cease and desist from:

Failing to disclose when missing data has prevented Morrell from calculating the lean percent of a particular carcass or carcasses in a seller's lot; and

Substituting an undisclosed lean value for carcasses with missing data when calculating carcass-merit payments for hogs delivered to Morrell's processing plants.

Morrell has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$162,500 of which \$37,500 will be held in abeyance until Morrell identifies underpaid sellers and makes restitution.

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.

#

GIPSA Release 48-11

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201 Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272(voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).