

GIPSA Settles Five Cases Resulting in \$16,150 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, July 28, 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 settled five cases resulting in \$16,150 in civil penalties.

M2 P2, LLC dba Pork Technologies, L.C., Ames, Iowa -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$9,000 after GIPSA found that they failed to disclose, in the swine production contract, the growers right to cancel no later than three business days after the date the swine production contract is executed. They also failed to advise the grower that additional large capital investment may be required during the term of the swine production contract, and that any disputes that come from their contract must be settled in the Federal judicial district where the principle part of the performance takes place under the contract.

Craanen Livestock, LLC, Denmark, Wis. -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$625 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay when due for livestock.

Luther E. Spooner, Jr., President, Luke Spooner Cattle Co., Donalsonville, Ga. -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$1,700 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay when due for livestock purchases.

Gary W. Anderson, Hanley Falls, Minn. -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$1,225 after GIPSA found that he increased the price of cattle purchased on an order buying basis.

Farmers Livestock Market, doing business as Springlake Stockyard, Moneta, Va. -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$3,600 after GIPSA found that they had custodial account shortages and misused their 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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Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201 Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov