

GIPSA Settles Eight Cases Resulting in \$28,575 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4, 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 eight cases resulting in \$28,575 in civil penalties.

Tim Heck, Neilsville, Wis. - waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,500 after GIPSA found that he was operating without a bond.

Lynch Livestock, Inc., Waucoma, Iowa - waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,500 after GIPSA found that they failed to disclose the right to cancel production contracts and additional capital investments.

Bruce Hild, Neligh, Neb. - waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$5,275 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay when due for livestock purchases.

Galen D. Miller, Crystal Valley Farms, LLC, doing business as Miller Poultry, Orland, Ind. - waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$3,000 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay for poultry within the time period required by the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Travis Witt and T&M Cattle, Inc., Falls City, Neb. - waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,075 after GIPSA found that he failed to pay for livestock when due and did not maintain adequate records.

Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., Springdale, Ark. - waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$7,850 after GIPSA found that they had used an inaccurate scale to purchase livestock for slaughter.

Clint Smith and MCCS Livestock, Inc., doing business as Leflore County Livestock Auction, Wister, Okla. - waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,875 after GIPSA found that they had shortages in their custodial account for shippers' proceeds.

Cascade Livestock Auction, Cascade, Iowa - waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and paid a penalty of \$2,500 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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