

GIPSA Settles Cases Resulting in \$11,125 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1, 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 cases resulting in \$11,125 in civil penalties.

4-M Incorporated, Enterprise, Ala. -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$3,500 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay when due for livestock.

Joy Bretz and Hill City Livestock Commission Co., Inc., Hill City, Kan. -- waived her right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$2,750 after GIPSA found that she had custodial shortages.

Richard Hall, Larry Bussert, BEF Foods, Inc., Columbus, Ohio -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$3,500 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay when on actual weights for livestock.

Schwartz Farms, Inc., Sleepy Eye, Minn. -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$1,125 after GIPSA found that they failed to comply with contractual requirements.

Myron Haug, Pine City, Minn. -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$250 after GIPSA found that he purchased cattle on estimated weights.

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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