

GIPSA Settles Cases Resulting in \$22,450 in Civil Penalties

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15, 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 \$22,450 in civil penalties.

Forester's 4-F Cattle Company, LTD, Larue, Texas -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$5,800 after GIPSA found that they failed to pay for livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act and issued checks without having the funds to cover the checks.

Lampaert Meats, Inc., Duvall, Wash. -- waived their right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$1,650 after GIPSA found that they failed to use a tare that included only the weight of equipment.

John Morrell & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio -- waived his right to a hearing, entered into a stipulation agreement, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$15,000 after GIPSA found that they failed to include proper choice of law and venue and failed to disclose and provide an option to decline 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.

#

GIPSA Release 71-11

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).