

Lonnie & Karen Martin Are Assessed a Civil Penalty in the Amount of \$15,000

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 2011- July 5, 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a default decision against Lonnie & Karen Martin (the Martins), of East Earl, Pa. The Martins were ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; and
- buying livestock in commerce for purposes of slaughter without maintaining an adequate bond or bond equivalent as required by the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and Regulations.

The Martins have also been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$15,000.

The default decision resolves charges that were filed on April 15, 2010, in which the Martins were alleged to have:

- failed to pay for livestock purchases within the time period required by the P&S Act;
- bought livestock in commerce without maintaining an adequate bond;
- issued checks in payment for livestock purchases without maintaining sufficient funds to cover payment; and
- as of the date of the filing of the complaint, owing payment to four livestock sellers in the amount of \$236,946.02.

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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