

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C.
20250-3601

GIPSA Release 117-11

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**GIPSA Alleges North American Bison Cooperative and
North Dakota Natural Beef, LLC
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that North American Bison Cooperative and North Dakota Natural Beef, LLC, (the respondents), Fargo, N.D.:

- failed to pay, when due, the full purchase price for livestock; and
- to date, owe approximately \$421,132.52 to livestock sellers.

GIPSA filed a complaint against the respondents on November 4, 2011. The complaint can be found on the GIPSA website: <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/psp/enforcement.html>. If the allegations are admitted, or proven in an oral hearing, the respondents may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and assessed a civil penalty.

North American Bison Cooperative at all times operated as North Dakota Natural Beef, LLC and the respondents possessed common ownership and management. The respondents also operated as and are known as Dakota Farms. The respondents engaged in the business of buying livestock in commerce for the purposes of slaughter; manufactured or prepared meat and meat food products for sale or shipment in commerce; had average annual purchases of livestock exceeding \$500,000; and operated as packers.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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).