

**GIPSA  
Press  
Release**

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,  
Packers and  
Stockyards  
Administration

STOP 3601  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C.  
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GIPSA Release 122-11

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**GIPSA Alleges Whispering Oaks Farms, LLC, and Mike D. Esther  
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Whispering Oaks Farms, LLC, Mike D. Esther (the respondents), Lebanon, Mo., continued livestock operations without filing an adequate bond or bond equivalent after being notified by the Midwestern Regional Office that if he resumed operations, he must file a new bond and activate his registration.

GIPSA filed a [complaint](#) against the respondents on November 30, 2011. 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, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

Whispering Oaks Farms, LLC, was engaged in the business of a market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis and is not registered with the Secretary of Agriculture as a market agency to buy livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Mike D. Esther is not currently registered with the Secretary of Agriculture. He was previously registered as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce and as a market agency buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis. He is the sole member, 100% owner, and registered agent of Whispering Oaks Farms, LLC. He is responsible for the direction, management, and control of Whispering Oaks Farms, LLC.

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).