

GIPSA Press Release

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
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GIPSA Alleges United Producers, Inc. Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that United Producers, Inc. (United), Columbus, Ohio:

- generated additional purchase invoices after the sale with false information in that:
 - they listed purchase prices for livestock that were higher than the actual sale purchase prices;
 - in some instances, weights of livestock listed on the invoices were unsupported because the loads of livestock were sorted, but not reweighed before the livestock were transferred to their customers, and the weights listed on the invoices were not otherwise supported by a scale ticket; and
- failed to keep and maintain accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in its business as a market agency.

GIPSA filed a complaint against United on September 14, 2012. 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, United may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

United was engaged in the business of operating a posted stockyard; and engaged in the business of buying and selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture.

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 and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Office of Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).