

**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 299-12

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Mason Georges Has Been Assessed a \$22,000 Civil Penalty

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 2012 – On November 1, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Mason Georges of N.M.

Mason Georges has been ordered to cease and desist from:

- failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- issuing checks in payment for livestock without having and maintaining funds on deposit and available in the account upon which they are drawn to pay the checks when presented;
- buying and selling livestock in commerce without being properly registered with GIPSA; and
- buying and selling livestock in commerce without maintaining and an adequate bond or bond equivalent.

Mason Georges has been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$22,000. Seventeen thousand dollars of the civil penalty will be held in abeyance in accordance with and pending compliance with the terms of the “Understanding Regarding Consent Decision.”

Mason Georges is prohibited from being registered and from engaging in any activities for which registration is required under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act for a period of 15 days from the effective date of this order until such time that he demonstrates to the satisfaction of GIPSA that he has an adequate bond or bond equivalent and that he is in full compliance with the P&S Act.

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).