

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

STOP 3601
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Washington, D.C.
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GIPSA Release 306-12

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**GIPSA Alleges Piedmont Livestock, Inc., and Joseph Ray Jones
Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Piedmont Livestock, Inc. (Piedmont), and Joseph Ray Jones (Jones), Burlington, N.C. purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, the full amount of the livestock purchase price.

GIPSA filed a complaint against Piedmont and Jones on November 16, 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, Piedmont and Jones may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

Jones was responsible for the direction, management, and control of Piedmont, including responsibility for the violations of the P&S Act and regulations.

Piedmont and Jones were engaged in the business of a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce 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).