

**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 33-12

Catherine M. Grasso 202-720-7201
Catherine.M.Grasso@usda.gov

**American Beef Company, LLC and Vincent J. Paletta
Have Been Assessed a Civil Penalty In the Amount of \$36,000**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 2012 – On January 20, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with American Beef Company, LLC (American Beef) and Vincent J. Paletta (Paletta), Rockville, Mo.

American Beef and Paletta have been ordered to cease and desist from:

- engaging in operations subject to Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act without maintaining an adequate bond; and
- failing to pay the full purchase price for livestock within the time period required by the P&S Act.

American Beef and Paletta have been assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$36,000, \$1,000 which will be paid immediately, and \$35,000 which will be held in abeyance for 5 years from the date of this consent decision.

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).