

**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 39-12

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**GIPSA Alleges Hatch Auction, Inc., dba Cow House Auction
And Raymond L. Hatch Violated the Packers and Stockyards Act**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has found evidence that Hatch Auction, Inc. (Hatch Auction), doing business as Cow House Auction and Raymond L. Hatch (Raymond Hatch), Fruitland, N.M.:

- failed to properly maintain and properly use their custodial account for shippers’ proceeds;
- operated with shortages in their custodial account;
- failed to deposit into the account an amount equal to the proceeds from the sale of consigned livestock within the time period prescribed in the regulations; and
- failed to keep and maintain records which fully and correctly disclosed all the transactions involved in its business as a market agency.

GIPSA filed a complaint against Hatch Auction and Raymond Hatch on January 26, 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, Hatch Auction and Raymond Hatch may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act, suspended, and assessed a civil penalty.

Hatch Auction also operates as Cow House Auction. Hatch Auction under the direction, management, and control of Raymond Hatch was engaged in the business of conducting and operating an auction market posted under and subject to the provisions of the P&S Act; engaged in the business of a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis; and is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture. Raymond Hatch is co-owner of Hatch Auction and is responsible for the day-to-day direction, management, and control of Hatch Auction including the acts and practices referred to in this complaint.

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).