

GIPSA Press Release

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and
Stockyards
Administration

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Washington, D.C.
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Livestock Industry Alert: Unregistered Dealer Wanted in Connection with Unpaid Livestock Transactions

WASHINGTON, Apr. 6, 2012 -- USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has received reports that livestock sellers have not received payment in livestock transactions involving, either directly or indirectly, a buyer named Ron Shepard. GIPSA is seeking information from livestock sellers who may have been involved in livestock transactions involving Ron Shepard in recent weeks and have not been paid.

Shepard is wanted in several states, including Arkansas and Kentucky, where arrest warrants have been issued. Also known as Ronald Ryan Shepard, Jr., and Ronald Ryan Sheppard, Jr., Shepard was convicted in 2004 on charges of wire fraud involving cattle transactions and served time in prison. He was released from prison in February 2009, on supervised release.

Shepard is believed to be associated with, or done business with several livestock dealer operations and livestock auctions in Illinois, Florida and Arkansas. He may have purchased cattle, either directly or indirectly in Texas, Kentucky, and possibly other states as well. Livestock sellers who believe they may have sold livestock to Shepard and have not been paid, and livestock buyers or feeding operations that may have acquired livestock from or through Shepard are asked to contact the GIPSA regional office in Des Moines, Iowa at 515-323-2579.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Ron Shepard should contact Christopher Origliosso, Sr., U.S. Probation Officer, Southern District of Illinois at (618) 439-7903 or Kevin Castleman, Deputy United States Marshall, Benton, IL, at (618) 439-7703.

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).