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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:)	P. & S. Docket No. D- 03 - 005
)	
Michael Claude Edwards)	
)	
Respondent)	Decision

This proceeding was instituted under the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.), by a complaint filed by the Deputy Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, alleging that the Respondent wilfully violated the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder (9 C.F.R. § 201.1 et seq.). This decision is entered pursuant to the consent decision provision of the Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes applicable to this proceeding (7 C.F.R. § 1.138 et seq.).

The Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in paragraph I of the complaint and specifically admits that the Secretary has jurisdiction in this matter, neither admits nor denies the remaining allegations, waives oral hearing and further procedure, and consents and agrees, for the purpose of settling this proceeding and for such purpose only, to the entry of this decision.

The Complainant agrees to the entry of this decision.

Findings of Fact

(1) Michael Claude Edwards, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, is an

individual whose business mailing address is 600 Imogene Road, Lamsburg, Virginia 24351.

(2) Respondent is, and at all times material herein was:

(a) Engaged in business as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and a market agency buying livestock on commission;

(b) Registered inactively with the Secretary of Agriculture as a dealer to buy and sell livestock in commerce for his own account, and a market agency buying on commission.

Conclusions

The Respondent having admitted the jurisdictional facts, and the parties having agreed to the entry of this decision, such decision will be entered.

Order

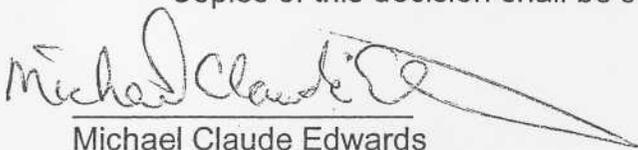
Respondent Michael Claude Edwards, his agents and employees, directly or indirectly through any corporate or other device, in connection with his operations subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, shall cease and desist from engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended and supplemented, and the regulations, without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent, as required by the Act and the regulations.

In accordance with section 312(b) of the Act (7 U.S.C. § 213(b)), Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand dollars

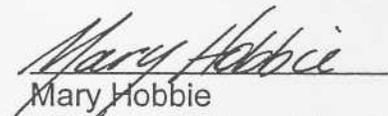
(\$1,000).

This order shall have the same force and effect as if entered after full hearing and shall become effective on the sixth day after service of this order on the Respondent.

Copies of this decision shall be served upon the parties.



Michael Claude Edwards
Respondent


Mary Hobbie
Attorney for Complainant

Issued this 29th day of May 2003


Administrative Law Judge